

SPANISH TRACES



Volume 10

Spring 2004

No. 2

OSTA's 10th Anniversary — A Decade of Leadership —



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Pres. 1994-1998



Dr. Charles Querfeld
Pres. 1998-2000



Col. Harold Steiner
Pres. 2000



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Pres. 2003-2004

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A Dedication to Education Interpretation Identification Preservation

Since 1940, at different times and places, small groups of people with a vision have gathered together to formulate a plan to save a part of the Old Spanish Trail. As your editors collected OSTA historical information for this issue from literally over fifty people, we realized ours is a dedicated group of Trail enthusiasts bound together by common interests. It was an interesting experience delving into the true beginnings of OSTA, and the activities that have made it grow and achieve National Historic Trail status for the Old Spanish Trail. Read on and enjoy; we hope you find some fond memories, learn more about the work that others are doing, and get a feel for the bigger picture that is now involving the association. *Editors.*

— You **MUST** Visit the OSTA Website —

<http://www.oldspanishtrail.org>

The upgrade is now on-line and you will see some marvelous changes, thanks to our new webmaster, Claude Warren. There is still more to come, but even so we will appreciate your comments and suggestions toward further refinements, and especially about what else **you** want included. S-mail or e-mail to website manager Carol Corbett whose addresses are in the side-bar at the right.

All matters relating to *Spanish Traces* should be directed to the Co-Editors and Publisher:

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Spanish Traces is the official publication of the Old Spanish Trail Association, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Colorado. *ST* welcomes submission of letters, articles, book reviews, and OST related news. Inquire for guidelines. The next deadline for submissions is Aug. 2, 2004.

The OST, one of America's great long distance trade routes, is now our country's most recent National Historic Trail. We encourage you to join OSTA and help in its preservation, and increase appreciation of our SW's multicultural heritage.

Membership Dues:

Regular (single or couple)	\$20/year
Student (under 18)	\$12/year
Institutional	\$25/year
Sustaining (single or couple)	\$30/year
Life (single or couple)	\$250
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President's Corner

by Steve Heath

Buried but not Forgotten- Crossing of the Fathers

With the establishment of the Old Spanish Trail as a national historic trail, many are looking at significant historic sites and historic traces along its traces. One such place is the famous 1776 crossing of the Colorado River by Spanish fathers Dominguez and Escalante. Antonio Armijo, founder of the Spanish Trail trade between New Mexico and California, used the crossing on his pioneering trip to California and back in 1829 and 1830. The crossing, which now lies beneath the waters of Lake Powell, was established by Indians centuries ago. In fact, Dominguez and Escalante were told of the crossing by Paiutes living near the Virgin River in southern Utah, and Armijo had a Navajo guide to lead him to the crossing in 1829. As anyone who has spent any time in the canyon country of the Colorado Plateau can tell you, reaching the Colorado River is often a significant task in and of itself, but it does not guarantee passage across its roaring rapids and swift and dangerous currents. At Crossing of the Fathers, during non-flood times, one could actually walk or ride a horse across the dangerous river without fear or having to swim.

The Paiutes had settlements on both sides of the river and were probable discoverers of the crossing. They used the ford for trade, hunting, and exchange of marriage partners between tribal bands. The Navajo and Ute also used the crossing in similar ways. The historic crossing may have

even been discovered by the ancient Anasazi, who inhabited the region a thousand years ago. There is ample evidence that they also lived on both sides of the river near the crossing.

Even though we can no longer visit the river ford, it has a rich and well documented history. In addition to the Church Fathers and Armijo's party, the crossing was used by Mormons as early as 1858. Mormon scout, Jacob Hamblin's knowledge of "El Vado", as he called the crossing, aided John Wesley Powell in his exploration of the Colorado River and its regions from 1869 into the mid-1870s.

Powell gives us a detailed description of the great bend in the river. After acknowledging his debt to the Spanish he wrote:

From the description which we read, we are enabled to determine the place. A little stream comes down through a very narrow side canyon from the west. It was down this that he came, and our boats are lying at the point where the ford crosses. A well-beaten Indian trail is seen here yet. Between the cliff and the river there is a little meadow. The ashes of many camp fires are seen, and the bones of numbers of cattle are bleaching on the grass. For years the Navajos have raided on the Mormons that dwell in the valleys to the west, and doubtless cross frequently at



this ford with their stolen cattle.

In addition to men from the Powell Survey, the scientists and artists of the George M. Wheeler 100th Meridian Survey worked at Crossing of the Fathers. The first published sketch of the ford was in 1889 in one of the publications of the Wheeler Survey. Howard Carpenter, U.S. Surveyor, used the crossing to get men and equipment to the east side of the Colorado River in 1901. His survey party formally marked the boundary between the State of Utah and the Territory of Arizona. Beginning in 1916, government parties spent a decade searching for the ideal location to place a dam in the Glen Canyon. John A. Widstoe, a Utah representative on the Colorado River Commission of 1921, wrote of his experience at the crossing while on one of these dam site survey's:

A mile or two below our lunch camp is crossing of the Fathers. There is some dispute as to the exact place. On the west side is a broad bench sloping down to the River, and 1/8 mile lower is a cliff in the rock which slopes up to the table land. It is very probable that the latter is the place of the Crossing by Escalante. On the east side for a half mile the country slopes down to the River with several places of ascent. Opposite the cliff above mentioned is a rock spit in the River, which probably made fording possible at the late date of the Fathers' Crossing. It was with very serious thoughts that I passed this historic spot, and reviewed the hardships of the long trail of Escalante and Dominguez. The beginning of things always cause emotions to arise. >>>

The controversy surrounding the exact location of the ford, due to a mapping error of the USGS, led Dr. Russell G. Frazier to finance an expedition to the area of the crossing in 1937. Using the Escalante journal, he located the steps that their party had cut on the rock path to the river. The next year a copper plaque was set at the historic crossing to mark the site for future visitors. When the Armijo journal was discovered in 1947, readers found that the Mexican traders of his expedition had “upgraded” the steps of Escalante and Dominguez. Reading Armijo’s journal makes it clear that he was completely aware of the Dominguez-Escalante expedition from fifty-three years before. Frazier’s discovery was indeed confirmed. During the two decades following the Frazier expedition hundreds, mostly river runners, visited the historic site with its carved steps. Most took the time to walk up the historic walkway and many may have taken the time to walk across the river ford. They would be the last to do so.

With the passage of the Colorado River Storage Act of 1956, historians were given one last chance to examine the historic remains and artifacts along the Colorado River in Glen Canyon. Professor Gregory C. Crampton from the University of Utah headed the team which made the final study of the Crossing of the Fathers. Some of his photographs were published after Lake Powell was filled, in his *Ghosts of Glen Canyon - History Beneath Lake Powell*. Crampton’s work gave future historians and interested parties a comprehensive account of this historic site on the southern route of the Old Spanish Trail. Before the waters of the Colorado River were stopped at Glen Canyon Dam in 1963, the copper plaque was removed and placed in the Utah State Historical Society Library in Salt Lake City. A few months after the closure of the dam, the historic crossing was hidden by the waters of Lake Powell. The Crossing of the Fathers is buried, but it will not be forgotten. >>>

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**Dominguez-Escalante
Route of 1776**

OSTA Archives History

The intent to archive OSTA history was first mentioned in minutes of the June 4, 1994 board meeting when an “Archivist/Historian Committee” was formed. The committee was to “initiate the development of historical files/database to be housed at the Rio Grande County Museum and develop and fill the position of an Historian for OSTA.” Some items did get to the Museum, including an issue of the Hafens’ book, but apparently those items have all been misplaced or lost. [If anyone has more info, we would like to hear from you. Editors.]

Also, all of the early copies of *Spanish Traces* were some time ago given to Adams State College. Recently the BLM has given them a large number of survey maps showing the location of the West Fork of the North Branch of the OST. The extent of “archives” at the college is not presently known.

In 2001 we found out that in our very midst we had a board member

with professional archival experience, Carol Corbett, our Director for Nevada. Carol agreed to be our Archives Manager, and proceeded to write a complete archival plan establishing a records retention schedule and the means of collection.

Then in 2002 came the invitation to



Carol Corbett
OSTA Archive Manager

photo by Doug Knudson



photo by C. W. Querfeld

The Denver Public Library where OSTA archives are preserved.

have our archives managed and preserved at the prestigious Denver Public Library’s Central Library, Western History Division. Because of Carol’s preparation work we were ready for it, and her plan started rolling and continues. All archives go first to Carol for in-house documentation, and then via Carol they are forwarded to the Denver Library.

For the full story and photographs of the Denver Library and their archives access system see the Winter 2003 edition of *Spanish Traces*, V9#1 pages 22–23. ■

Index to *Spanish Traces* Available

An 8-page Index to all 27 issues of *Spanish Traces* and Conference Reports is available from the Editors as a PDF file to your e-mail address. Hard copy is available s-mail postpaid for \$2 in USA. Includes following 5 lists:

- *Spanish Traces* and Conference Reports
- Articles by Title
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- Books Reviewed by Title
- Authors of Books Reviewed

Know Your Historians –

Dr. Dorothy Parker

by Pat Kuhlhoff, Salida del Sol Chapter

Let me introduce you to Dorothy Parker!

Dorothy is a history buff and as such is a docent at the Palace of the Governors, the state history museum of New Mexico. This is where I met her a number of years ago and began an acquaintance that is turning into a delightful friendship. Dorothy is a remarkable woman and I'd like to tell you something about her and how an easterner gets to Santa Fe. This is always an interesting story, no matter who tells it.

Dorothy was born in New Jersey; you can't get much further east than that. Her father worked for Dupont Chemical Company, and shortly after Dorothy was born the family moved to Buffalo, New York, where they lived until she was fourteen years old. At that time a tragedy struck and Dorothy's father died. Her mother took the family to Southern California in the early 1940s, where Dorothy graduated from Glendale High School. It turns out that her mother's family had settled in California before WWI and that was the connection with the move west.

Parker married when she was eighteen and had three children, all boys. Then she decided to further her education. By this time, she and her family lived in the San Francisco Bay area, and she attended a community college for three years before

transferring to the University of California at Berkley, where she earned a Bachelors degree in European History. Having been bitten by the history bug, she wanted a Masters degree and so commuted to California State University – Hayward. At Hayward, however, there was no European History graduate program, so she changed to a major in US History. She is very grateful for the background that her courses in European history gave her, but she really loves American history! While in California she began teaching Southwest History at St. Mary's College in Moraga, and it just so happened that a couple of her students were members of the Bode family. Those of you who are familiar with Abiquiu area know of the Bode store. If you are not familiar with it, the next time you're through there, stop in; it is truly a general store, and as close as one can get nowadays to the old fashioned general stores of yesteryear. And it has a fabulous deli.

Having visited in New Mexico previously, Parker decided that in 1979 she wanted to live there. She put everything she owned into her car and headed out. When she arrived in Santa Fe, she found a small apartment on the hill above Rosario Cemetery where she lived for three years. Parker had a neighbor who wanted



photo used with permission

Dr. Dorothy Parker *Historian*

to go back to school and so did she, so the two of them moved to Albuquerque. It was at the University of New Mexico that Parker wrote her dissertation, "Singing an Indian Song, A Biography of D'Arcy McNickle." D'Arcy McNickle was a Flathead Indian who was an author and an anthropologist. What an adventure that was, she says. In 1986 she attended an NEH seminar led by LaVonne Ruoff of the University of Illinois, and Ruoff passed the word of her research along to the folks at University of Nebraska Press, so Parker had a publisher for her dissertation even before it was finished. The University of Nebraska Press published the dissertation in 1992.

In 1990 Parker wrote a brief history of the Phoenix Indian School from 1935 to 1990, and the University of

Arizona Press published this history in 1993. Parker began teaching at Eastern New Mexico University at Portales in 1992. She retired as an associate professor emeritus of history and moved back to Santa Fe in 1996. She immediately became a docent at the Palace of the Governors and served as a representative to the Docent Council, which she chaired for two years. She was a member of the board of directors for the New Mexico Historical Society for eight years. She is a member of the Old Spanish Trail Association and presented a paper at the June 2000 OSTA conference in Taos titled "Four Legs Over and Four Legs Back on the Trails to California." The paper was then published in *Spanish Traces*, Fall 2000 issue, Vol.6, No.3, as a 6-page article. Dorothy is also a member of Senior Toastmasters and continues to lead docent tours.

Today Parker is the proud grandmother of six grandchildren and one great grandchild, who is part Navajo. She is enjoying her active retirement with fond memories of "being a life-long student and living in one of the world's most beautiful places." ■



Book Reviews

Forgotten Pathfinders along the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail, 1650-1850, by Jack William Nelson (privately published), 2003, 114 pp.

Everyone can broaden and deepen their knowledge of the Old Spanish Trail by talking with Jack Nelson and by reading his latest, concise, very readable book.

It extends us in time from the Spanish Colonial era to the Hayden Survey crew of 1876. It extends us in geographic space. Its richest information describes early travel of trappers and traders between Taos and the Uintah area of northeast Utah. By 1822, mountain men used this regularly and called it the Old Spanish Trail, according to Nelson's sources.

You'll learn about: Antoine Robidoux's Fort Uintah, Kit Carson's opinion of the Old Spanish Trail, Antoine Leroux, trailside rock inscriptions, the difficulties of wagon travel over the North Branch, and various attempts at cut-offs and offshoots of the route.

The North Branch frustrates the longing for exact numbers of travelers, their journals, and archaeological evidence. This "trail of change" may never produce enough evidence to satisfy rigorous numerical minds. Nevertheless, Nelson's compilation helps greatly by providing evidence and opinion in a scholarly manner.

Mr. Nelson consulted historic maps

plus many USGS maps in his analysis of the difficulties of travel. He also used legal documents, letters, and reports/journals of travelers. His annotated bibliography and rich end notes open doors to many paths of study as well as adding brief insights and explanations.

In the 1940s, Jack Nelson started studying the western end of the OST. When he moved to Grand Junction, Colorado, he studied the eastern end (North Branch). The latter work comes together in this book. Nelson has been an OSTA member since it started in 1994, and has led the Grand Junction group (North Branch Chapter) since its inception in 1990. He shared some of the information in this book at the 2003 National Symposium of OSTA in Durango.

This compact book contains a wealth of insights and details. If you have an interest in the OST, read this book. If you live along the route in New Mexico, Colorado, or Utah, buy it and hold it as part of your literary heritage. This book is most welcome and helps us understand the Trail's early establishment and rich heritage.

The book can be purchased at the Museum of Western Colorado in Grand Junction, Colorado, and at the 2004 OSTA Annual Conference in Page, Arizona, in early June.

Reviewed by
Douglas M. Knudson
South Fork, Colorado ■

A decade of successes mark OSTA's 10th Anniversary

*An historical summary
by Patricia Joy Richmond*

History and Background

Just ten years ago in January of 1994, about a dozen people assembled at the Rio Grande County Museum in Del Norte, Colorado, to discuss a 19th century trade route that passed through the San Luis Valley—the Old Spanish Trail. Ron Kessler, a Monte Vista rancher and writer, had organized the meeting. Kessler had become familiar with remnants of the trail through the research of Del Norte historian Ruth Marie Colville and his own personal experiences. For several years, Kessler had served as wagon master for a modern-day wagon train that followed the trail as part of Del Norte's annual Covered Wagon Days celebration.

The Old Spanish Trail followed two routes through the San Luis Valley. The East Fork trail, which led from Santa Fe to Taos, New Mexico, and then northward along the western edge of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, had the older historic legacy as the route taken in part by Don Diego de Vargas during his 1694 entrada into the San Luis Valley. Vargas' journal indicated that

members of his expedition knew this trail from hunting excursions into La Tierra de los Indios prior to the 1680 Pueblo revolt that drove Spanish colonists from Nuevo Mexico. During the fur trade era, the East Fork trail became known in part as the Kiowa Trail, the Trappers' Trail, or Kit Carson's Trail.

The West Fork trail proceeded through the early Spanish settlement of Ojo Caliente toward San Antonio Mountain on the New Mexico-Colorado border and then skirted the lower terraces of the Conejos and La Garita mountains. Upon reaching the Saguache River, the two forks converged to ascend towards the Cochetopa country and a complex of low passes or "gateways" leading to the Western Slope tributaries of the Colorado River. Documentation and mapping of the West Fork trail dates to 1779 when Governor General

Juan Bautista de Anza led Spanish settlers and 2,000 Ute and Apache allies in a campaign against Cuerno Verde's Comanche marauders. Centuries of

use had worn a trace so visible that Anza was able to traverse the trail by

moonlight. Glyphs, especially at significant locations along the West Fork, demonstrate the importance of that route to native peoples who followed buffalo and other large game migrations into and through the San Luis Valley.

Ruth Marie Colville began documenting the existence and locations of the ancient trails in the 1960s when she and Taos historian Helen Blumenschein collaborated on the route of Vargas' expedition. Colville identified the San Luis Valley trail as the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail in records she submitted to the National Historic Register. Colorado historian Leroy R. Hafen, who had met with Colville to discuss her wealth of information about San Luis Valley topics, also used that name for this mountainous leg within the web of trails that linked Santa Fe to Los Angeles, California. In their book, *The Old Spanish Trail*, the Hafens extended the reach of the North Branch beyond the San Luis Valley through Grand Junction to the Green River crossing in Utah. At the Green River it junctured with the Northern Route that passed from the Chama Valley northwest to Mancos, Colorado, and then through Moab, Utah.

Birth of a National Organization

The historic relevance of the Old Spanish Trail was reason enough for the January 1994 meeting, but Kessler had a more urgent agenda. A proposed access road into a new landfill between Del Norte and Monte Vista threatened well-worn ruts that marked the path of the old Conejos-Saguache Wagon Road and its predecessor, the West Fork of the Old Spanish Trail. The group agreed



photo by Phil Carson

1994 field trip to Vargas' crossing of the Rio Grande

that the ruts should be protected, as should any other artifacts and evidence related to the old trade route. Kessler proposed establishing an organization to work towards the immediate objective of saving the endangered wagon ruts, and with help from the BLM the county was convinced to reroute the landfill road. Additionally Kessler proposed long-term goals of education, identification, and preservation for the Old Spanish Trail not only within the San Luis Valley but also throughout the six western states linked by its use—Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.



photo by Phil Carson

Ruts that were in jeopardy - 1994

In February 1994, the first official session of the Old Spanish Trail Association convened at the Rio Grande County Museum. Kessler, working with fellow historian Phil Carson from Colorado Springs, had devised an organizational plan that reached beyond the San Luis Valley to link communities and states through which the trade network had passed. That day brought an immediate commitment to Kessler's concept. Draft by-laws set the organization into motion. Several life memberships provided the cash reserves needed to launch such a project. Ron Kessler was elected president; Pat Richmond, vice-president; John Koshak, secretary;

and Suzanne Off, treasurer. Phil Carson would serve as the first editor of a newsletter to be named *Spanish Traces*. Through the guidance of Don Weed of Center, Colorado, who had served on the Santa Fe Trail's bylaws committee, the official By-laws for the Old Spanish Trail Association were ready for approval at the first Annual Conference held in Del Norte in May 1994.

Once Set in Motion, Trail Interests Grow

Initially, OSTA members set up a San Luis Valley Chapter, but by the May meeting it became clear that the best way to implement the established mission statement was through local chapters that had a direct, and thereby more personal, interest in the trail. The first active chapter that subscribed to OSTA's By-laws was the Saguache Chapter, which included members not only from Saguache County but also from several neighboring communities. The convergence of the two San Luis Valley forks of the North Branch just west of the town of Saguache gave the Saguache Chapter special impetus to document and mark remnants of the trail. Through the leadership of President Yvonne Halburian, the Saguache Chapter secured a Great Colorado Outdoors (GOCO) Grant for \$10,000 to construct a trail marker along the trail south of Saguache, Colorado.

OSTA's founding members were diligent towards fulfilling their mission. Kessler and other officers attended meetings in Colorado and neighboring states to talk about the Old Spanish Trail and the fledgling association. Halburian, an artist and cartographer, created a detailed map depicting the

trail. She also designed an official logo for the association (see top of page 1). Another more frivolous logo was Halburian's response to a college professor's off-hand comment about trail enthusiasts. The "Trail Fanatics" logo (see page 11) adorned scarves, caps, and shirts to raise money for national and local chapter projects. Using modern GIS technology, Kessler and J.R. Hancock, president of the Rio Grande County Chapter, began pinpointing traces and landmarks associated with the West Fork of the OST.

Documentation of the Old Spanish Trail became a significant undertaking. Carson's legacy of educational and meaningful articles in *Spanish Traces* made the biannual publication a primary factor in attracting new members. In November 1994, Richmond approached Colville and Kessler about preparing a program for the joint session of the Arizona and New Mexico historical societies to be held in Tucson the following April. The program topic, "Two Spanish Governors and the Old Spanish Trail," combined Colville's work on Vargas' route, Kessler's research on the Anza expedition, and Richmond's timeline of trail use through the Cochetopa country from pre-historic times until the end of the 19th Century. The presentation was an inspiring success and expanded the scope of interest in OSTA among history buffs throughout the Southwest.

A spin-off from the Tucson conference came with Kessler and other OSTA members traveling with Don Garrate, interpretive ranger at the Tumacacori National Monument, to Arizpe, Mexico. This small, rural >>>

village in the Sonoran Desert was the birthplace of Juan Bautista de Anza. After meeting with local and provincial officials, Kessler and Garrate organized the first annual Anza Conference. This international conference attracted guest lecturers and participants from the United States, Mexico, and Europe. Some had interest in Anza through direct lineage to Anza or the colonists he led across the desert to establish the presidio at San Francisco, California. Many of the conferees came to Arizpe through their connections with the Old Spanish Trail Association. After a few years, the Anza Conference changed its venue and has convened in other locations connected to Anza's legacy. [See page 23 for info on this year's conference.]

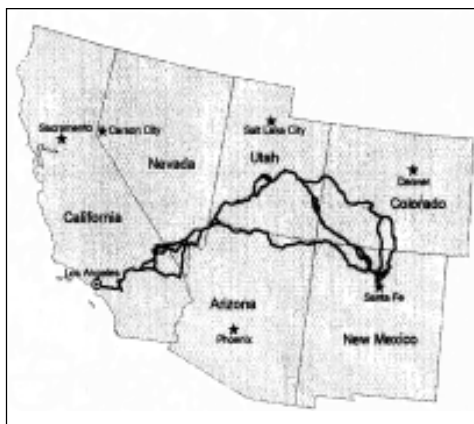
New Members and New Chapters Support Continuing Growth

Within five years OSTA's roster grew to over 300 members. Historians Jack and Katherine Nelson, Judge James Robb, and Mesa County members of the North Branch Chapter were very active in documenting and marking the trail near Grand Junction. Willard Lewis, who had attended the Tucson conference, worked with Richard and Marie Greene and others to establish New Mexico's Salida del Sol Chapter. OSTA not only deserved its reputation as a national organization, but also gained international status when descendants of William Workman established a chapter in England. Workman and John Rowland led the first colonists from the eastern United States across the trail into California in 1841.

With the encouragement and support of local chapter members and officers,

Kessler, Lewis, the Nelsons, and the association's new president, Charles Querfeld, launched the campaign to designate the Old Spanish Trail as a National Historic Trail. While the process seemed arduous and sometimes appeared to flounder, within half a decade the association members, under the leadership of OSTA President Liz Warren, accomplished their goal. President George W. Bush signed legislation declaring the Old Spanish Trail a National Historic Trail on December 4, 2002.

The work of the Old Spanish Trail Association and its chapters is not finished. At the 2003 Conference, Doug Knudson, Colorado's representative on OSTA's Board of Directors, outlined what needs to happen during the next decade. The National Parks Service and the Bureau of Land Management will oversee identification and marking of the trail throughout the six western states. It shall fall to knowledgeable and dedicated local OSTA chapter members to assure that the various segments of the trail receive the recognition that National Historic Trail status signifies.



NPS Map

Growing interest among old and new members, representing all six Old Spanish Trail states, makes it clear

that the Old Spanish Trail Association was destined to be more than a local history club and that the appeal of historic trails and our nation's Western heritage extends beyond local agendas, beyond provincial interests, beyond state boundaries, and even beyond national borders.

As OSTA members stay true to their mission within the next decade, that single pack mule logo designed by Yvonne Halburian will be recognized by historians and trail fanatics alike as they travel along any route or trace of the Old Spanish Trail.

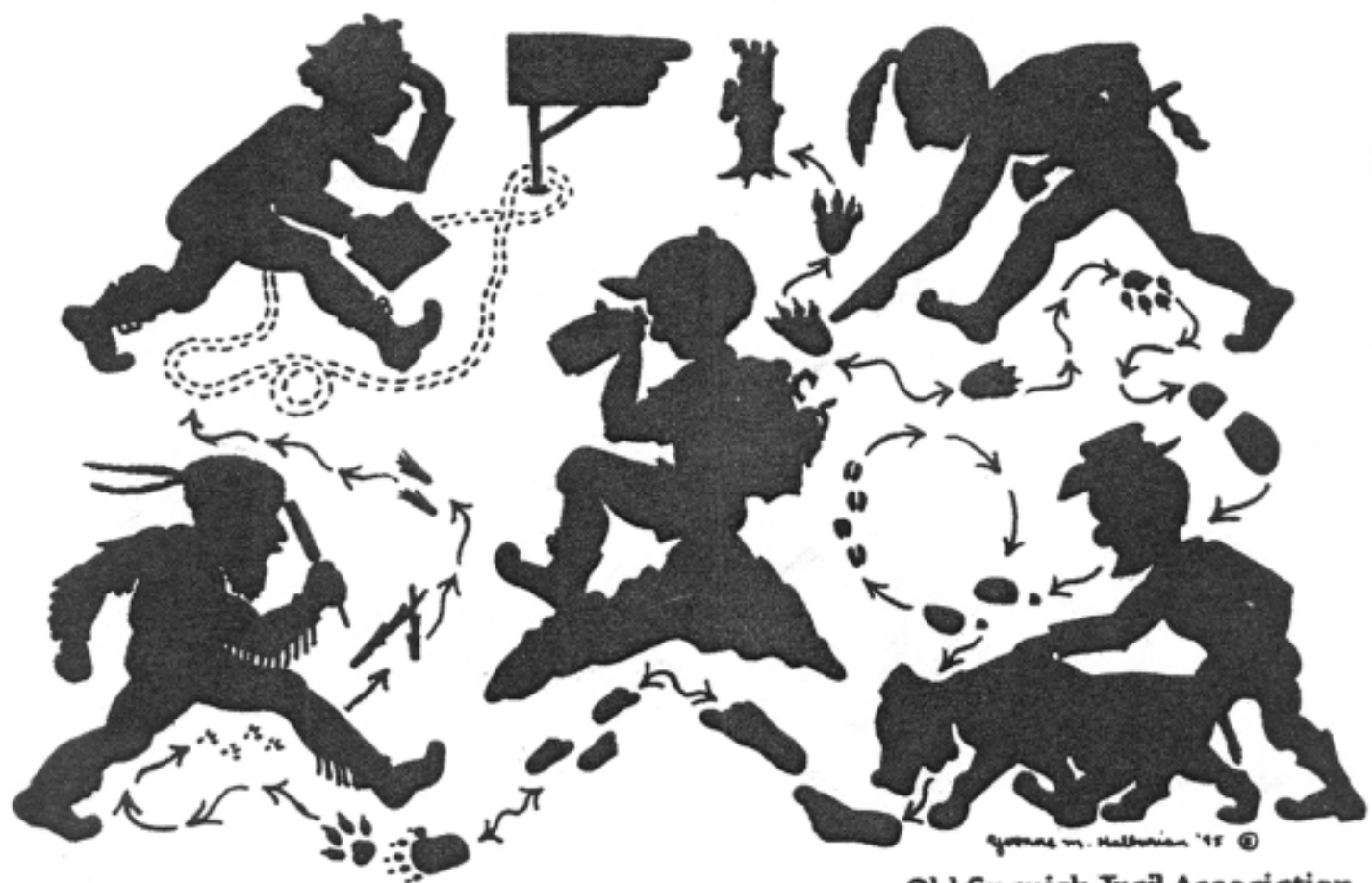


Legislative History of the OSNHT

The full story of the road traveled from OST to a National Historic Trail is fully documented in three great articles in *Spanish Traces* V9#1, and the interested reader is encouraged to review them. There are still a few copies of that issue available from the editors at \$4.00 postpaid in USA. Specific articles are available as reprints. See page 5 for info on the Index to *Spanish Traces* and on reprints of articles.



TRAIL



Old Spanish Trail Association

FANATIC

Reawakening the Old Spanish Trail

by Phil Carson

[Phil Carson was the first editor of "Spanish Traces." Starting on a "shoe string," he continually developed it over a period of three years, 1995–98. As time passed, he gradually left the OSTA and travelled other paths. Several months ago when laying plans for this anniversary issue, we decided to find him. We tried many dead end routes, finally got a possible phone number from the internet white pages, called and left a message, and waited. Soon a very surprised and amazed Phil Carson called; he was not aware that OSTA still existed, but he did still have his old files. After great conversation, Phil offered to write his remembrances of the OSTA early days, and this is his story. Editors]

In July 1994 I had the good fortune to join an intriguing collection of individuals gathered at a seemingly desolate site on the Rio Grande in the sprawling San Luis Valley in southern Colorado. The gathering came at the instigation of a local woman named Ruth Marie Colville – soon to become one of my mentors and companions in my own historical quest – who was documenting a journey by the 17th century Spanish governor of the Province of New Mexico, don Diego de Vargas.

Three hundred years to the day prior to our gathering – on July 10, 1694 – Governor Vargas had forded the river here in a successful attempt to bring his Spanish colonists, huddled in

Santa Fe, vital corn to sustain them in their beleaguered attempt to resettle New Mexico. This effort, naturally, was resisted by the myriad Pueblo peoples who recalled the pious cruelties of the preceding century of Spanish rule. Their successful revolt only 14 years earlier, in 1680, had driven the Spaniards from the upper river.

After arriving back in Santa Fe in 1694, Governor Vargas had traveled far north from the capital across his northern frontier, along a trail long known to local natives, to avoid ambush after sacking Taos Pueblo. Ultimately, he reached this traditional ford on the Rio Grande and made a great loop back south along another traditional trail to his capital to succor his people. His wise use of local guides and his management of this journey were the linchpin to his successful reconquest of New Mexico and spelled misfortune for the Pueblo peoples of the region, desperate to forestall further European influence and subjugation.

In July 1994, our group bristled with an energy born of curiosity, historical knowledge, and hunger for understanding the past. Ten years ago, as today, Vargas' route was largely forgotten; the trails he used had once been trod by bison and native hunters for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. And Vargas had used just a short segment of these trails, which extended from the San Luis Valley over nearby mountain

passes and off into the Great Plains to the east and the Great Basin to the west – to hazy horizons, where fact and myth mingled.

My own interest in this event – indeed, my fascination with all aspects of this momentous clash between the New World and the Old – had compelled me to pursue writing a book on the period of Spanish exploration and colonization that stretched from Columbus' landfall in the Caribbean to Mexican Independence in 1821 and the dawn of the American westward movement. Quite a stretch for a kid born in New York City in the late 1950s!

By the 1990s, however, I'd spent two decades traveling the West and had been long settled in Colorado. After absorbing the great books on the American westward movement and tracking down the primary documents on the earliest American explorers of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, I had continued to "peel the onion." I delved deeper into the earlier Spanish colonial period and its dream of hegemony over the region north of Mexico. I had begun visiting with individuals who traced their heritage to the region's many fascinating native cultures, and I wanted to grasp the spirit-rending clash between those two worlds.

As it turned out, I was far from alone. Unbeknownst to me, prior to that July day in 1994, like-minded souls – eminent historians as well as well-versed, intrepid lay persons – were also plumbing the depths of the Spanish colonial period. As we gathered at the ford on the Rio Grande, perhaps 50 in number, we

could look south to the San Luis Valley's narrowing mountain boundaries in the direction of Santa Fe. We could look northwest and imagine, if not directly view, the low saddle over the Continental Divide known as Cochetopa Pass, threaded by an extension of the trail we were tracing.

Well, you cannot contain the enthusiasms and curiosities of a group such as the one gathered at the ford site. In the years to come, several books emerged by authors present that July day. These included Ruth Marie Colville's *La Vereda: A Trail Through Time*, my own *Across the Northern Frontier: Spanish Explorations in Colorado*, and Ron Kessler's *Retracing the Old Spanish Trail*. Ron, a lifelong Valley resident and avocational historian, had been fascinated since childhood with, among other signs of the past, the wagon ruts carved in rock along the Valley's trails.

A core group emerged that day that wanted to gather, preserve, and understand the legacy of that period. We plumbed the archives and traveled the trails, humbled by the distances. It quickly became apparent that one outgrowth of this fascination would be the formation of the Old Spanish Trail Association, dedicated to the recognition of the Spaniards' daring, hubris, and drive for exploration that led them to trace a trail from the northern Sonoran desert to the depths of the Great Basin and, ultimately, to the shores of the unimaginably distant Pacific Ocean.

Under Ron Kessler's apparently unstoppable dedication to this task,

we soon organized the OSTA. We held meetings to share our insights, mark our progress and chart our course. We began a newsletter, *Spanish Traces*, which reported on our efforts, featured bona fide scholarship, and provided a forum for the sometimes contentious discussions that kept everyone honest and driving towards our mutual goals. Those goals included making our fellow denizens of the region aware of our shared heritage. We were joined by Hispanic descendants of the earliest Spanish settlers, by Pueblo, Ute, and Apache Native Americans, by professional historians, and by myriad folks such as myself, trained in other fields, but adamant that we had a legitimate contribution to make. Eventually we launched what turned out to be a decade-long effort to have the Old Spanish Trail declared a National Historic Trail. As our personal efforts reached fruition and our books were published, we went our separate ways, on new trails to new places. I learned only recently that the OST had achieved its deserved recognition as a National Historic Trail, the fruits of Ron Kessler's original vision and the labors of those who carried the torch forward for the OSTA's pioneers.

That July day in 1994 seems so long ago, at least a few lifetimes ago in the path of a peripatetic writer. I had other trails to travel and other books to write. Yet that day at the ford, listening to Ruth Marie Colville read from Vargas' three centuries-old journal, remains fresh in my mind, because it spawned deep friendships and the promise of discovery. One day, several years later, Ron and I had the pleasure – as we often did in those days – of escorting Ruth Marie,

then in her 90s, on a field trip to one site or another in our beloved San Luis Valley. (These denizens of the Valley had instantly embraced the kid from New York City. It mattered not where I'd come from; what mattered was, would I join them on the trail to that hazy horizon beckoning us onward?)

As we rumbled across a remote four-wheel drive road, far from signs of humanity, we gazed across the Valley, shimmering that day with heat, dust, and distance. Alone together, we silently became aware of the mystery of time and place. The Valley we traveled tasted of trail dust, just as it had for a long procession of creatures and cultures before us. The Pacific, so distant, shimmered somewhere on the outer edge of perception. Without prompting, Ruth Marie broke the shared silence. "We're just like little boats on the river of time," she said, quietly. Ron and I exchanged a glance. We shared a moment of mutual realization. This trail was a good trail, the quest was worthy, and it would lead to a richness of spirit largely unknown in our mundane daily lives.

Yes, those were the days. ■



First Marking of the Old Spanish Trail

by Janet B. Seegmiller
Special Collections Librarian
Southern Utah University

The creation of the Old Spanish Trail as a National Historic Trail comes just two years shy of the one hundredth anniversary of the first effort to memorialize an American pioneer trail. The invention of the automobile and development of modern roads in the early days of the 20th Century prompted Oregon Trail pioneer Ezra Meeker to begin the trails movement in 1906. Meeker, who came West in 1852, was afraid the trails would be “plowed under and concreted over and generally forgotten.” Using a covered wagon and a team of oxen, Meeker went backwards along the trail in 1906 and 1907, telling the story and awakening a spirit of preservation in communities along the trail. The first trail markers were erected by communities stirred by Meeker’s stories.

In 1926, Meeker formed the Oregon Trail Memorial Association. Howard R. Driggs, a native Utahn, English professor, and frontier historian, was an enthusiastic charter member of the OTMA, and became its president when Meeker died in 1928. OTMA members gathered somewhere in the West each summer to dedicate markers, first on the Oregon Trail in the 1930s, then on the Pony Express Route in 1935, and later on the California Trail. This led to the association becoming the American Pioneer Trails Association with Driggs as its president and a widening of its mission to preserve and mark all the

great western trails, including the Santa Fe, Lewis and Clark, and Old Spanish trails.

Marking the Old Spanish Trail began in the early 1940s. One marker was on the road between Santa Fe and Taos. It read:

*Old Spanish Trail 1830–1860
In 1830 the Old Spanish Trail was opened as a commercial route between Santa Fe and Los Angeles, California. Although Frey Silvestre Vélaz de Escalante had attempted to establish the trail 54 years before, it did not become operative until the trade routes from Missouri began to feed a rich commerce into New Mexico.*



Boy Scouts from the Cedar Breaks District also put up several monuments along the trail in Southern Utah in the early 1940s. The markers had a distinctive stone arrowhead and plaques that read “OLD SPANISH TRAIL. A TRIBUTE FROM THE SCOUTS OF TODAY TO THE SCOUTS OF THE EARLY WEST.”



Spearheading these Scout monuments was a prominent Cedar City public servant and amateur historian, William R. Palmer. He just happened to be a friend of Howard R. Driggs from the years 1897–1903 when Driggs taught at the Branch Normal School in Cedar City. Palmer was also an early member of the Oregon Trail association.

In 1946, Driggs came to Cedar City to organize the Spanish Trail Association with Palmer as its leader. Members of the STA were all from the local communities of Parowan and Cedar City. Yet, they set out to mark the entire trail from Santa Fe to Los Angeles and to do it all on one day, September 29, 1950.

An affordable marker was created and 100 ordered to be distributed to towns, cities and hamlets along the generally accepted route of the trail. Letters went to each community, suggesting that appropriate ceremonies be planned to include the public officials, the school children, chambers of commerce, and other social or civic club members. Eight men from the Spanish Trail Association later drove to all the communities to make the arrangements for placing the markers on the 29th of September. Their expenses and the 100 markers were paid for by the Iron County Commission, although it recouped some dollars from communities willing to buy their marker. Newspaper articles both before and after the event drew positive publicity to the communities.

As planned, some 43 communities participated on the chosen day; some posted more than one marker. Sixteen were placed in Iron County, and one

of these is now on display at the Iron Mission State Park Museum, 635 N. Main, Cedar City. Las Vegas placed one at the Old Fort on Main Street, one at the Union Pacific Depot, and a third at the Hotel Last Frontier Western Village.



Unveiling at the Old Fort in Las Vegas

William R. Palmer was quoted in many newspapers: "In one day the historic Old Spanish Trail will be lifted out of oblivion back into public consciousness. It will open another scenic and historic route to our tradition-loving tourists, and its legendary and story will enrich the traditions of the Old West."

After the 19th of September 1950, the Spanish Trail Association and the American Pioneer Trails Association seem to have disappeared. Eighty-year old Driggs, seventy-five-year-old Palmer, and possibly others who had supported their movement were unable to gather each year to keep up the tradition. Thirty years later, a modern movement began with the founding of the Oregon-California Trail Association and later other trails associations.

Surely Dr. Driggs and Palmer would approve of the recognition of the Old Spanish Trail as a National Historic Trail, an event that is a tribute to their monumental early efforts to preserve the early American trails. ■



The Palmer OST Sign of 1950

Mormon Mesa Again

photos by Dan Dugan

On March 21, the day after the board meeting at Overton NV, the board and visiting folk from BLM and NPS all took a field trip across Mormon Mesa. The purpose was to



We soon ran out of tires.



review conditions on the mesa and up Virgin Hill. For fun we added flat tires, and eventually abandoned Hal Steiner's vehicle overnight.



Carol Corbett
our leader

Now listen up!
This is what we're gonna do.



The Survivors

OSTA Chapter History – Saguache County, CO

Excited by the formation of the Old Spanish Trail National Association in Del Norte CO, a group of enthusiastic history buffs in Saguache CO decided to organize a regional chapter for Saguache County. Our purpose was to research about 110 miles of the West and East Fork components of the OST's North Branch. These two forks separated near Espanola and rejoined near the town of Saguache, then proceeded northwest to the Green River ford where as the North Branch it joined the Northern Route, and then continued to Los Angeles.

A meeting, sponsored by the Saguache County Museum, Saguache County Library, and Saguache Recreation Board was held July 28, 1994 with a program presented by Ron Kessler, president of the national OSTA.

This was followed by an organizing meeting on September 7, 1994, at which time the Saguache County Chapter OSTA was launched under the rules of the OSTA. Election of officers was held, resulting in: President, Yvonne Halburian; Vice President, Mugs Batchelder; and Secretary/Treasurer, Sam Halburian.

Charter members were Mugs Batchelder, Earl and Connie Casteel, George and Mickey Douglas, Don and Janet Evans, Sam and Yvonne Halburian, Cecil and Sally Hall, Barbara Morgan, Pat Richmond (also Vice President of the National Association), Barbara Rudolph, Viola Sorrell, John and Elaine Woodard, and Delores and Jimmy Worley.

The By-Laws Committee – Earl and Connie Casteel and Yvonne Halburian – presented the new By-Laws to the membership, and they were approved and adopted at the May 10, 1995 meeting.

Nine standing committees were proposed with each member selecting the committees they were interested in serving on to compile information on the many aspects of trail research and preservation, and various duties required for the Chapter.

In 1996, Sam Halburian succeeded in obtaining the Chapter's IRS non-profit status. With the legal and organizational business taken care of we were now ready to have fun exploring and learning about our portion of the North Branch on the Old Spanish Trail. We scheduled monthly field trips and invited speakers to our regular and annual meetings. Pat Richmond, our own historian, was a valuable resource, and always willingly increased our knowledge and understanding of how, when, where, and why the trail followed a certain path.

Yvonne Halburian designed the OSTA logo, which is used on the Spanish Traces newsletter, on letterheads, and has been incorporated on interpretive signs by other chapters. The logo on t-shirts, sweatshirts, denim shirts and caps were sold at our fundraisers, along with a "Trail Fanatic" design on bandanas and t-shirts. Yvonne also produced a map of the complete OST, and map for the OST North Branch in Colorado, which proved

to be popular items.

Saguache County chapter members supported the OSTA in recruitment efforts in other counties for the purpose of forming new chapters. We met with groups representing Alamosa County, Costillo County, and Gunnison County. The interest was there, but the leadership to unite and sustain a local organization was lacking.

During the Third Annual OSTA Conference in Grand Junction CO in 1996, our chapter volunteered to sponsor the Fourth Annual OSTA Conference in June 1997 in Saguache. We also decided to concurrently dedicate our first interpretive sign here, and initiated plans for what would be a climactic civic experience in our little town of Saguache, population 600 plus a couple.

We successfully competed for a \$10,000 mini-grant from GOCO (Great Outdoors Colorado) to defray the cost of the interpretive sign.

The Town of Saguache donated the northwest corner of Otto Mears Park as a site for this sign. The Saguache County Road and Bridge Department donated heavy equipment, labor, and materials to transport the boulder on which we would affix the interpretive sign. We conducted several field trips searching around our area for just the right boulder. We finally found the perfect boulder, which reposed only four miles east of Saguache, and the Rio Grande National Forest Service and the BLM donated it to us. The County Road and Bridge crew loaded the boulder and placed it on our special corner of the Park.

We received encouraging letters from many San Luis Valley business leaders, Clubs, and even from U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, and Colorado Representative Scott McInnis.

We canvassed many fabricators before we opted to have our 20"x30" horizontal, dark bronze and silver, micro-image panel interpretive sign manufactured by Interpretive Graphic, Nova Color Inc. in Ogden, UT.

Yvonne Halburian designed the drawings and maps, and Sam Halburian composed the legend. Jim Peters from Interpretive Graphics in Salt Lake City handled the graphic format, and fabricated the sign. A completion and delivery date of April 1997 was promised (but there were delays).

The Fourth Annual OSTA Conference was convened in Saguache on June 21 and 22 of 1997, at the Mountain Valley School Gym, the largest building we had in Saguache. Guest speakers were Steve Madsen, co-author with G. Crampton of *In Search of the Spanish Trail*, and Ruth Marie Colville, author of *La Vereda, A trail Through Time*, presenting programs on different aspects of the Old Spanish Trail; John Conoboy of the National Park Service, and Dr. Joseph Sanchez, directing the research phase of the National Historic Trail feasibility study, briefed us on the study parameters.

Sixty-one delegates attended the '97 Conference. The enthusiasm and excitement was high in the belief that we were surely building momentum for the inclusion of the OST into the National Historic Trail system. Our June 22 "New Interpretive Sign" dedication had to be "finessed" by

handouts – paper replicas of what the plaque would look like when mounted on our impressive but now **empty** boulder. Coincidentally, the State of Utah was celebrating the Mormons' 150th anniversary of settling in Salt Lake City in 1847. As a result the signage fabricators were deluged by requests for signs and plaques. Our panel was finally delivered in August, and the County Road & Bridge crew installed it on the boulder. Many travelers stop to read and learn about the Old Spanish Trail from our attractive sign, which stands conspicuously along US Hwy 285.



photo by Yvonne Halburian
Marker at Otto Mears Park
in Saguache on Highway US-285

In February 1998, TV Channel 4 of Denver sent photographer Angie Varella to film a half-hour documentary on the Saguache County Chapter's research of the Old Spanish Trail for their weekly program, "Colorado Getaways", hosted by Bill Stuart. It was a cold, dreary winter day, but Ms. Varella braved the weather and shot wonderful pictures of trail locations, subsequently narrated by Pat Richmond and Yvonne Halburian. The program was titled "A Trail in Time," and did justice to the magnificent mountains, terrain and description of the route of the North Branch OST in the San Luis Valley.

The Marker and Certification Committee identified and selected three sites on the East Fork, five sites on the West Fork, six sites from the Town of Saguache where the trail converges and continues over Cochetopa Pass to the Gunnison County line, and one site going north over Poncha Pass to the Chaffee County line for possible signage sites. This research will be offered to the National Historic Trail Marking Dept.

By 2000, membership in the Saguache County chapter was falling off because of the vagaries of the human conditions and its afflictions. Office holders up to this point were President Yvonne Halburian, 1994-'96, and '96-'99; Vice President was Mugs Batchelder, '94-'96 and Charlotte McKee '96-'99; Sam Halburian devotedly remained Secretary/Treasurer from '94-'99.

The officers elected in 2000, President Charlotte McKee, Vice President Ruth Mead, and Secretary/Treasurer Connie Casteel, tried to enlarge the reach of the Saguache County chapter, but with no success. Then in 2002 the OSTA Colorado Director, Doug Knudson, made numerous contacts and successfully organized a chapter covering a broader geographic area in Southern Colorado. In January 2003 the Saguache County chapter OST became the "La Vereda del Norte Chapter" with Max Lara as President.

The research, preservation and interpretation of the Old Spanish Trail goes on!

Contributed by

Yvonne Halburian
Saguache, Colorado

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OSTA Chapter History – La Vereda del Norte, CO

The June 2002 Saguache Chapter meeting had a small turnout, and following discussion it was determined that the chapter needed revitalization. Encouraged by the results of Colorado Director Doug Knudson's mail survey of OSTA members in southern Colorado, a meeting was scheduled for January 2003 in Alamosa.

At the Alamosa meeting, the Saguache Chapter bylaws were revised to reflect the new chapter name, La Vereda del Norte, and also included other minor changes. None of these changes required getting a new EIN number from IRS, and so the EIN number of the original Saguache Chapter was carried forward to the La Vereda del Norte Chapter, and they continue their 5012(c)(3) exemption under the umbrella of the OSTA national.

Also at the Alamosa meeting Max Lara was elected chapter president; Pat Richmond, secretary; and Suzie Off, treasurer. Both Pat and Suzie are founding members of OSTA. That summer was full of activities: a May reception honored New Mexico State Historian Dr. Estévan Rael-Gálvez; a National Trails Day event was sponsored on June 7; and Willard Forman's July wagon trip along part of the OST went well with several chapter members involved. In mid-July chapter members attended a memorial service celebrating the life and contributions of historian Ruth Marie Colville who passed away just a few months short of her 100th birthday. Activities in 2004 are continuing, and consensus is that the chapter has revived! ■



photo used with permission

Yvonne Halburian

A founding member of OSTA, and first president of Saguache Chapter



photo by Doug Knudson

Max Lara

President of the revived, and new, La Vereda del Norte Chapter

Sculpture

“TRAIL THROUGH TIME” An OST Monument

In the silence of the foothills southwest of Del Norte, I fell in love with the huge slabs of scraps of stone piled on the slopes of the old stone quarry. I was fascinated by the amount of work it had taken to quarry the rock and haul it out down a track that challenges 4x4 vehicles today. The stone is a welded tuff, white-gray in color. You can see the little shiny pieces of silica and the rock wants to splinter like glass when you carve it.

I stood in the sun on the top of the pile of huge stones dumped haphazardly at the edge of the deep quarry. I thrilled to the challenge of moving the stones. I saw them standing on end, saw how they would create spaces within and around, saw them on top of square base stones standing 15 feet off of the flat floor of the San Luis Valley. The native stones of the Monument appear as ageless as the surrounding landscape. The Monument doesn't stick out, but rather blends into the scenery to surprise travelers who see a good place to pull off and take a break, or to park their vehicles to begin backcountry recreation. On that day at the quarry, I saw that the Monument would be a timeless work, primitive and representative of those who traveled on the trail and of the history surrounding us.

We moved the stones about five miles from the quarry to the site just off Highway 160 in between Del Norte and Monte Vista. We used funds that had originally come from the Rio Grande County Tourism Board to



photo by Mettje Swift

The Monument

the local chapter of the Old Spanish Trail Association. The Gates family, local heavy equipment contractors, moved the stones using a flatbed semi trailer, a caterpillar and a dump truck. Steve Gates set the three huge shards of stones upright with the tooth of an hydraulic bucket as gently as a lover.

In the summer of 1999, without funding, we started carving. I was joined by a stone carver from La Garita, Ross Martin. We worked early mornings until noon, five days a week. We used hand and pneumatic chisels and a rotary saw with a diamond blade. In 2000, the project was on hold while I found funding from the Forest Service and from the Colorado Council on the Arts. In 2001, we hired three high school students to help us, Shane Atencio, Micheal Richardson and Blaine Dodgion. With their help we finished the main carvings and created a stone retaining wall to hold up the wheel chair accessible path around the back side and up to *La Conquistadora*. The entire site covers about 40 feet in diameter.

Most of the carvings are deep relief and the subjects include a wheel (or a clock to represent "Trail through Time"), a coretta wagon, an ox, and reproductions of pictographs and petroglyphs found locally and arranged to tell a story from top to bottom of storms and lighting, hands of people, the earth, a crane and running horses. On the inside back of the largest of the three carving stones is a map of the trail as it goes through the states of the four corners. Most of the imagery came out of conversations with people and with archeologist Ken Frye. For the carving I wanted to create, I chose "*La Conquistadora*," thus becoming a *Santera*, a carver of saints. The depiction of *La Conquistadora* that was my inspiration, is a little wooden Santa in a decorative, pressed metal box with glass. Her clothing is forest green and burgundy, colors that come from native dyes. She remains in the collection of Roger Silva, a descendant of one our oldest families and one of the first to establish La Loma de San Jose, close to modern day Del Norte, area when settlers came north again after being chased

back to Santa Fe during the Pueblan revolution. My *Conquistadora* is huge and of rough carved stone, but she has the wings and the halo, the cape and hood, the praying hands and enigmatic look of the original. She stands about ten feet high, five feet across and two and one-half feet thick.

At this point in time, there are two peripheral stones that need finishing and we are waiting for the drought to let up so that we can reseed the area with native grasses and do some other landscaping. The Forest Service has prepared a sign describing the Old Spanish Trail that will go up soon.

Funding sources have been difficult. If anyone wishes to make a donation to help finish the Old Spanish Trail Monument, funds may be sent to La Vereda Foundation [501(c)(3)], PO Box 11, Del Norte, CO 81132 and earmarked for the Friends of the Monument account.

Contributed by

Mettje Swift
719-657-2967
www.stonemonoliths.com



Mettje Swift
Santera, carver of saints ■

OSTA Chapter History –

North Branch (Mesa County) (Grand Junction)

Those first years – The town of Grand Junction CO is arguably where the drive for National Historic Trail status of the Old Spanish Trail first began back in 1992, even before the formation of the Old Spanish Trail Association in 1994. An ad-hoc group, formed in Mesa County as a committee of the Mesa County/Grand Junction Riverfront Commission, had been organizing and working for National Historic Trail designation for the Old Spanish Trail and its North Branch. That group was comprised of Bill Chenoweth, Judge James M. Robb and others. As soon as the OSTA formed in 1994, an unofficial chapter of OSTA formed in Grand Junction consisting of Jack Nelson as President, Katherine Nelson, and others. The two groups merged their efforts toward National Historic Trail designation and were joined by Bob Moston, Earl Heusser, Bill Cleary, Ken Henry, and the local staff members for U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, U.S. Senator Wayne Allard, and Congressman Scott McInnis.

December 1994 – OSTA was “officially” organized in January 1994 with Ronald Kessler being elected President. In a December 7, 1994 letter Kessler advised Jack Nelson’s group that the OSTA executive committee had met November 29 and was pleased to include the Mesa County Chapter as one of the chapters along the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail. Thus we were the Mesa County Chapter of OSTA. It should be noted that the January issue of Spanish Traces, V1#1, page 12, continued to

list us (in error) as the Grand Junction Chapter.

Summer 1995 – An historical marker on “Historic Trails” was installed along US-50 between Delta and Grand Junction, Colorado. This was a joint effort between Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), BLM and OSTA.

June, 1996 – The Chapter hosted OSTA’s Third Annual Conference in Grand Junction, CO, on June 8 and 9. The conference included talks and field trips, and the dedication of the trailhead marker on Orchard Mesa in Grand Junction. The trailhead marker was established by the BLM and OSTA to mark a section of the North Branch from Whitewater, CO, to Orchard Mesa. Other field trips of the weekend were to the “Crossing of the Grand” and Fort Uncompahgre in Delta, CO.

Summer 1998 – The Chapter held several meetings with National Park Service personnel regarding the North Branch of the OST. Included in a September meeting was a field trip with regional NPS personnel from Denver.

May 8, 1999 – Dedication of the “Spirit of Pioneer Women” statue. The keynote speaker for this ceremony was U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. The statue was placed in Eagle Rim Park in Grand Junction, overlooking the route of the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail. This statue was made possible by a coalition of local groups that included

the OSTA.

March 2001 – Using the name North Branch Chapter, we applied for and received our EIN number from IRS.

Fall 2001 – Historical marker installed on Unawep Avenue in Grand Junction, marking an arroyo that leads down to the “Crossing of the Grand.” This was made possible by a group of local organizations including the OSTA.

Fall 2002 – The Chapter adopted a two-mile section of US 6 and 50 near Mack, CO, for highway cleanup twice each year, on the route of the North Branch of the OST.



April 19, 2003 – The North Branch Chapter hosted a celebration in Grand Junction at Eagle Rim Park marking the designation of the Old Spanish Trail (and its North Branch) as a National Historic Trail, which resulted from the signing of legislation by President Bush on December 4, 2002. The keynote speaker was U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. President-elect Steve Heath and Colorado Director Doug Knudson of OSTA were in attendance. This celebration was well attended and was organized by Katherine Nelson of the North Branch Chapter, who



April 19, 2003. OST celebration at Eagle Rim Park in Grand Junction CO, looking toward the speakers rostrum.

photos used with permission



The community participated fully in the celebration.

also organized a dinner for visiting dignitaries during the evening of April 18th at the Holiday Inn in Grand Junction. The activities of that weekend produced a great deal of interest in OSTA and we obtained several new members from the area.

In addition to the events highlighted above, chapter leaders held frequent meetings from 1995 through 2003 with our state and federal legislators and their staffs regarding the significance of the OST and its North Branch and its designation as a

National Historic Trail. During these years, Jack Nelson served as chapter president for 10 years.

April 17, 2004 – The North Branch Chapter held a membership meeting for the purpose of adopting bylaws and electing new officers. The new chapter officers are Robert Moston, President; William Chenoweth, Secretary-Treasurer; and board members Jack Nelson, Katherine Nelson, and Earl Heusser.

This chapter from its beginning has

operated in the best interest of OSTA, and we were a leader in many facets of getting the National Historic Trail designation accomplished, as well as producing many trail signs, public recognitions, and dozens of educational programs in local schools and public fairs. The North Branch Chapter is dedicated to continued promotion of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.

Contributed by

*William Chenoweth
Grand Junction, Colorado* ■

OSTA Chapter History – Rio Grande County, CO

The Rio Grande County Chapter was among the very first chapters of OSTA, with the minutes of the May 1995 annual meeting and its agenda indicating three chapters at that time: Rio Grande County, Saguache County, and Mesa County.

Life member JR Hancock was the only president of the Rio Grande

County Chapter, which disbanded about 1998. Although a somewhat informal group, this was a very active and effective group during its time, with great coordination with the county. Monies were requested from, and granted by, the Rio Grande County tourism board for signage, and that project went to completion. ■

OSTA Chapter History – Salida del Sol, NM

The Salida del Sol Chapter is one of OSTA's oldest chapters, and continues to be very active. In the Spring of 1996 the Founding President of OSTA, Ron Kessler of Monte Vista CO, contacted Richard and Marie Greene of Angel Fire NM about the possibility of organizing a chapter or chapters of OSTA in New Mexico.

Greene contacted all New Mexico members regarding their interest. Response was sufficiently encouraging that an organizational meeting was held at the Community Room of the Santa Fe Public Library on April 27, 1996. Meeting the ten-member minimum membership requirement of the OSTA by-laws, the group adopted the name "Salida del Sol" (Sunrise) Chapter, as suggested by Richard Greene. Willard Lewis was elected Chapter President for a two-year term, and Richard Greene was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Subsequent chapter presidents after several Lewis terms have been Richard Greene, Peter Mackaness, and currently Pat Kuhlhoff.

Following the April '96 meeting, Secretary Greene submitted the request for OSTA recognition of the chapter. The petitioners and first chapter members listed in the request were: John Bloom of Las Cruces; Dorothy Brylinski of Albuquerque; Virginia Ebinger, Los Alamos; Tonia and Alan Gould, Santa Fe; Richard and Marie Greene, Angel Fire; Terry Koenig, Artesia; Willard and Kay Lewis, Santa Fe; Thomas and Lucille Phelan, Albuquerque; Dr. Lorn Shields,

Albuquerque; Marc Simmons, Cerrillos; and Janice Sunshine of Aragon. Subsequently, the chapter adopted by-laws that became the model for other OSTA chapters. Provided in the by-laws was a mechanism for local chapter membership of people not wishing to belong to the national organization (although the chapter certainly encourages its members to belong to national OSTA). Currently the chapter maintains a mailing list of about 50 names, and has around 30 to 35 dues-paying members.

The chapter adopted a program meeting pattern that continues to the present: a series of two to four Fall-early Winter program meetings, and a series of two to four late Winter-Spring program meetings. The group does not meet in the summer nor the "dead of winter." However, the chapter frequently schedules field trips during the summer period.

The first chapter program meeting was October 26, 1996 at the Meem Library Auditorium of the Laboratory of Anthropology in Santa Fe. The speaker was Dr. Joseph Sanchez, Superintendent, NPS Spanish Colonial Research Center, Albuquerque. Dr. Sanchez had just published his book, *Explorers, Traders, and Slavers: Forging the Old Spanish Trail, 1678–1850*. Jack Barnes, then President of the End of the Trail Chapter, Santa Fe Trail Association, attended and reported on activities planned to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail. This began a continuing collaboration between

OSTA's Salida del Sol Chapter and SFTA's End of the Trail Chapter. In recent years, the two chapters, along with the Docents of the Palace of the Governors State History Museum, have held a joint March program meeting with speakers focusing on the contribution of historic trails to New Mexico's history.

Since that first October '96 program meeting, the SDS Chapter has presented numerous speakers covering trails and other Western history subjects. Chapter meetings are open to the public, and Palace of the Governors docents are invited to all meetings. While most chapter meetings have been held in Santa Fe, the chapter has met in the Espanola Valley and in Abiquiu.

In April 1997, the chapter provided an extensive training session to Palace of the Governors docents. The Palace docents had never previously had training about the Old Spanish Trail.

Other educational outreach programs were presented to the New Mexico Guides Association, the Corazon de Los Caminos Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association, Westerners history meetings in both Albuquerque and Santa Fe, and the Palace of the Governors Mountain Man Trade Fair. As a result, the Old Spanish Trail began to show up on the radar screen of New Mexico groups interested in Western history.

Early in 1998, Secretary Richard Greene and his wife, Marie, began the publication of chapter newsletter *Salida Del Sol News*, which ultimately became a publication containing color photography, and the envy of other history groups. The Fray Anglico

Chavez History Library at the Palace of the Governors has become a repository for chapter newsletters, along with the OSTA archives in the Western History Collection at the Denver Public Library. While the Greens have “retired” from newsletter production, the newsletter is continuing.

The Salida del Sol Chapter has hosted two national OSTA conferences, the May 1998 conference in Santa Fe, and the June 2000 conference in Taos. The chapter is also proud of its contributions to national OSTA leadership. Dr. Charles Querfeld and Willard Lewis served as national president and acting national president respectively (while Charles and Judy Querfeld are Colorado residents, they have been steadfast Salida del Sol Chapter members). Richard Greene and Willard Lewis have both served as OSTA vice presidents, and the Greens were national secretary and treasurer for several years. John Coffman and Dr. Pablo Vigil have also served as national directors. Willard Lewis was recipient of the first Crampton Award from the national organization, and subsequently, chapter members the Querfelds and the Greens have received the award.

In 2000 the chapter conducted a drive to provide the Abiquiu Public Library with books about New Mexico and Western history, with emphasis on items dealing with the Old Spanish Trail. Abiquiu is an important location in OST history and the library had almost no OST holdings until this drive. In 2002, the chapter honored its member, Dr. Tom Chavez, who retired after 20 plus years as Director of the Palace of the Governors State History Museum (he now directs the

National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, and continues to support OST efforts). The chapter contributed a number of OST items to the Fray Angelico Chavez History Library in Tom’s honor, and continues to supplement those holdings.

The chapter is currently working on placement of a wayside exhibit in Abiquiu. Future plans include an exhibit in Santa Fe, more documentation of alternative trail routes in northern New Mexico, and a proposed publication dealing with trail variants in northern New Mexico. The chapter is also exploring formation of a “Historic Trails Consortium” for New Mexico, based on a successful model in Utah. Because of proximity, the chapter will maintain liaison on trail issues with the Long Distance Trails Office of the National Park Service in Santa Fe, and with the New Mexico Bureau of Land Management Office, also in Santa Fe. Cooperative activities with New Mexico state government agencies continue to be explored.

Contributed by
Willard Lewis
Santa Fe, NM

Anza is Coming

Anza World Conference
Aug. 26–29, 2004
Salida, Colorado

He has been called the greatest frontiersmen this continent ever produced. **Juan Bautista de Anza**—governor and commander of the Province of New Mexico—will be the conference subject Aug. 26–29, 2004 in Salida, Colorado. Scholars, history buffs and anyone interested in Colorado history and Anza are encouraged to attend.

The veil of time continues to lift on the exploits of this remarkable man who was the first European to leave an account of his travels through the upper Arkansas River valley when Mexico and the Southwestern United States, including Colorado, were part of the Spanish Empire.

More information can be found by logging on to touraz4fun@cox.net or calling 602-993-1162. Local contact in Salida, Colorado, is Earle Kittleman, 719-539-6153, kittleman@amigo.net.



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OSTA Chapter History – Rancho, CA

The California chapter was born on October 27, 1998, when seven OSTA members met for dinner at the historic Mission Inn in Riverside. John Robinson, a noted author of California history, called the OSTA members together for this momentous occasion and he was chosen to be chairman. The national president of OSTA, Charles Querfeld, had urged this meeting, and so he and his wife Judy were there from Colorado. The enterprising members were Tom Patterson, Nick Cataldo, Steve Born, Paul Spitzzeri and John Robinson. They chose to call themselves the Southern California Chapter. At this time there were only twenty-seven OSTA members located in the state.

The chapter's first year was a resounding success. One of the first activities was to encourage, along with other groups, the placement of a plaque honoring the end of the Old Spanish Trail at El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historical Monument (the Plaza). Three of OSTA's members instigated this procedure. When Kenn and Lorraine Carpenter arrived at the Plaza ending their 1997 bicycle tour of the Trail, they were surprised to find that there was no recognition of the Trail anywhere near the Plaza. They consulted with the Plaza's Historic Museum Director (and now an OSTA member), Jean Bruce Poole, and she latched on to the plaque idea and guided the process along to the plaque dedication on January 14, 1999. Most visitors did not know of the trail's importance to Southern California, but now the location of the plaque is

shown on the map in the Plaza's visitor brochure.

The chapter's first program drew a standing room only crowd of more than ninety people. Paul Spitzzeri presented "Emigrants on the Old Spanish Trail" at the Homestead Museum. Nick Cataldo led the second program, an all-day tour of the Trail and later roads which came through the historic Cajon Pass into fertile Southern California.

The first year of the chapter ended with a visit to the remains of the first New Mexican colony, the settlements at Politana and Agua Mansa. Dr. Bruce Harley led the group to the site of these forgotten hamlets on the outskirts of the present day city of Riverside. It was here that many emigrants from New Mexico established their new homes nearby the Santa Ana River, close to the Old Spanish Trail.

The second year of the chapter featured a successful field trip into the Mojave Desert in October of 1999, organized by Jane Stewart. It had its base at Shoshone, near Death Valley for the California members. The next day this group met the Nevada members at Mountain Springs in Nevada for lunch. Harold Steiner, author of *The Old Spanish Trail Across the Mojave Desert*, led the larger group westward as closely as possible along the OST, halting at Emigrant Pass. Resting Springs was a welcome oasis stop. It was formerly known as Archilette Spring and later as Agua de Hernandez. Here the two groups parted. The Nevada members went home, and the Californians returned to Shoshone for the night. On Sunday some of our members visited the China Ranch in a

lush canyon oasis. Later some of the hardy walked down to the Amargosa River to follow the Old Spanish Trail. This was a very successful joint-chapter excursion, and we should find means to have more joint chapter activities

The second trip of '99, a one-day outing in November, also drew a large group. Cliff Walker, a noted Mojave Desert authority, guided us to Forks in the Road, Spanish Canyon and Impassable Pass. The day concluded with Bitter Springs on the Fort Irwin Military Reservation.

John Robinson, our very able leader who initiated such a very good beginning for this chapter, resigned as chapter president in January 2000, but continued with his other duties as California Director on the national board. He had guided the chapter through 1998 and 1999 to a very good start.

Rick Whitaker picked up the staff to lead us for another couple of years. In December of 2000 he led the members to the re-enactment of the famous Battle of San Pasqual during the War with Mexico in 1846. Twenty horsemen on each side recreated this short battle in which the Californio Lancers were successful in causing a number of deaths and injuries upon the invading American Dragoons under General Stephen Kearny.

During the year 2001 there were three field trips. The first was to visit the Workman, Temple, and Rowland homes in the City of Industry. Both Workman and Rowland left their residences in Taos, New Mexico and traveled west on the OST. At a later

time there was a tour of the Mission San Gabriel Arcangel that is located on the OST. This was the first settlement that weary travelers reached on their way to Los Angeles. Another successful field trip was made again to El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historical Monument, and by this time the new plaque was installed for us to see.

Rick Whitaker's large commitment was to prepare and host the OSTA Conference in Redlands, CA in June of 2001. This he did with the able help of Ann Deegan who became the next California Director. A large number of members and guests from many states gathered to hear talks by notable historians. Speakers included California OSTA members James Santos, Clifford Walker, Paul Spitzzeri, Bruce Harley and Ann Deegan, who presented various aspects of California history associated with the Trail.

As part of that conference we had both Sunday morning and afternoon field trips, but it was the all-day field trip that was the overwhelming favorite. This was the OST through the Cajon Pass, conducted by Nick Cataldo. There were nearly forty people who learned that this busy pass was overlain by Indian trails, the Old Spanish Trail, then the Mormon Road, later with various toll roads, US Route 66 and now the very busy I-15. We learned that three railroad tracks also go through the Pass. In fact one long length of freight cars had "stopped for the day" on the tracks and blocked our downward route by automobile. This provided the biggest excitement of the day!

Regrettably Rick Whitaker resigned as chapter president due to his

father's failing health. The chapter had not yet written their by-laws, nor had formal elections, and so fell dormant for a year or so with very few activities. Subsequently Ann Deegan, Jane Stewart and other members brought the chapter back to life in 2003. Four trips were planned. Three of these were jaunts to various landmarks related to the Trail. The best attended was another field trip like the one of '99, again led by Cliff Walker and Jane Stewart to Forks in the Road, Spanish Canyon and Impassable Pass, concluding with Bitter Springs on a showery day.

Ann Deegan and then Jane Stewart served short terms as CA Director in 2002 and 2003, and in late 2003 Joanne Hinchliff was appointed CA Director by the national board.

In October of 2003 there was an organizational meeting to elect officers, and select names for the CA Chapter and the newsletter. Rancho Chapter became the chapter, and Los Osos y Los Toros the name for the newsletter. Joanne Hinchliff was elected president and Pat Young secretary-treasurer. A committee was appointed to draft bylaws.

In November of '03 a large group of members met at Zzyzx, near Baker. From these rustic accommodations was held a successful two-day field trip under the leadership of Neal Johns. The group followed the Old Spanish Trail from Red Pass Canyon, Salt Springs, and Kingston Springs, to the Amargosa River in the Mojave Desert northeast of Baker.

In February '04 members visited the renovated Pio Pico Mansion that had

been damaged in recent earthquakes. This was the home of the last Californio governor who lived to be over ninety years old. At one time he became the richest man in California based upon his large land holdings. The State has spent more than a million dollars rehabilitating this two-story adobe building with twenty-two rooms. The Victorian façade looked very nice with its new coat of paint. The group enjoyed their picnic lunch in the large landscaped garden. Both food plants, including wheat, and ornamentals grown in the nineteenth century had been planted by the State. In the afternoon the group drove a few miles away to view the Juan Sanchez adobe. It was built about the same time as the Pico house. This one story adobe home had a porch on all sides of the house thus fitting the stereotypical type of an early California ranch house.

In March 2004 there was a field trip to map traces of the Old Spanish Trail and the later wagon tracks made by the Mormons just east of the Fort Irwin Military Reservation from Red Pass to SR-127. Cliff Walker and Leo Lyman, who both have experience in marking this trail, were our leaders. Twenty-three volunteers, including two OST members from Nevada and Brad Mastin for the BLM, found various traces, including a portion of the Arrowhead Highway.

In May the Rancho Chapter met and accepted the bylaws. Everyone wants to be involved in encouraging friends and others to become OSTA members. There are now over seventy California members.

Contributed by
Joanne Hinchliff, San Jacinto, CA ■

OSTA Chapter History – William Workman, UK

BACKGROUND – In the mid 1980s David Fallowfield and John Sharpe, both Police Officers at Police HQ in Penrith, Cumbria, ENGLAND, heard stories from a colleague, Doug Workman, about a 19th century U.S. pioneer William Workman. These stories fell on fertile ears. Fallowfield had family connections in California and had visited there in 1983. Sharpe lived in the village of Clifton, near Penrith, which had been William Workman's home village. In 1987 and 1995 Fallowfield and friend Bill Ramsay, who also had historical links to CA, made visits to California and not only pursued the Workman story further but also followed sections of the OST in California and Nevada.

In the 1990's Fallowfield and Sharpe, both now retired from the Police Service, were still in regular contact and the Workman story was frequently discussed. As a result of correspondence from Judge David Workman of Los Angeles to Sharpe, Fallowfield realized he was related to the 19th c. pioneering brothers David and William Workman. After reading the Hafens' book Fallowfield and Sharpe decided it would be an adventure to drive from Santa Fe to Los Angeles on highways following or close to the Old Spanish Trail and this they did in November 1997, accompanied by Sharpe's wife, Lorna, and Bill Ramsay. While in the bookshop of the Kit Carson Museum in Taos, Fallowfield purchased Ron Kessler's book, *Retracing The Old Spanish Trail – North Branch*. The group arrived in Los Angeles 5th November, which was the same day

that Workman had arrived in 1841. They then visited the Workman and Temple Homestead Museum. On returning home to England, Fallowfield wrote to Kessler about this English interest in the OST. Kessler replied, encouraging OSTA membership and formation of the first International Chapter.

CHAPTER HISTORY –

Following the Kessler/Fallowfield correspondence an Inaugural Meeting was held on 13 December 1997 in Penrith attended by John Sharpe, David Fallowfield, Lorna Sharpe and Bill Ramsay when it was decided to join OSTA and form a Chapter with David's wife, Alva, as the 5th member. Thus in January 1998 the first International Chapter of OSTA came into existence to be known, appropriately, as the William Workman Chapter with John Sharpe as President and David Fallowfield as Secretary/Treasurer. Incidentally, the UK involvement in OSTA also helped in getting a chapter started in California. In his correspondence to Fallowfield in December, Ron Kessler had asked if he knew of anyone in California who might help to form a chapter there. Fallowfield supplied the name of Paul Spitzerri of the Workman and Temple Homestead Museum in City of Industry, and the rest of that story belongs to the California folk.

The Chapter holds Annual General Meetings and has responded over the years to U.S. National Park Service questionnaires and submitted responses on NHT significance, and maintains links and contacts with National

Officers in the US. Highlights since founding are as follows:

In November 1998, Kenneth Bruce Alderson, a frequent visitor to the US, became the first new recruit to the Chapter, and in January 1999 he and friend Donald Harrison were on the OST in the vicinity of Las Vegas, NV. In March 1999 David Fallowfield and Bill Ramsay on a trip to the US visited with Arizona Director, Dr. Reba Grandrud, at the Arizona Historical Museum in Tempe. They also made a field trip to the OST in the Tecopa area of California.

In October 1999 Richard and Marie Greene, at that time national treasurer and secretary respectively, were in England and made contact with John and Lorna Sharpe and with David Fallowfield. We also added a new member, Donald Harrison, not only a frequent visitor to the US but also a former resident when employed by the Boeing Corp. In November the same year President John Sharpe and Fallowfield attended the William Workman Bicentenary celebrations at the Homestead Museum, City of Industry, CA and also visited the Armagosa and Mojave River sections of the OST. In March 2000, Alderson and Harrison were once more on the Trail in southern Utah. At the national conference in Taos, June 2000, Chapter President John Sharpe gave a presentation on William Workman (see *Spanish Traces*, V6#3, Fall 2000).

Later that year Sharpe stood down as President and resigned from the Chapter. In December 2000, new members, Gary and Jennifer McIntosh (UK ex-patriots) of Las Vegas, joined the Chapter.

In May 2001 Alderson and Harrison again headed west and were on the OST in California.

At the AGM held May 2001, Director Bill Ramsay was elected President of the Chapter. In August that year he and Secretary David Fallowfield again traveled to the U.S. on their most ambitious excursion to date. They visited sections of the OST in CO, NM and UT and visited Richard and Marie Greene in Angel Fire NM and with Ron Kessler in Monte Vista CO. In addition they traveled sections of the Oregon Trail in NE and the Santa Fe Trail in NM, CO and KS. (see *Spanish Traces*, V8#1, Winter 2002).

In 2002, Nick Swinscoe (another frequent visitor to the U.S.) was welcomed into the Chapter. In May 2003, Ramsay and Fallowfield were on another US trip and during their travels had a rendezvous at Yakima, WA with Kenn and Lorraine Carpenter (National Treasurer and Secretary).

At the AGM in June 2003, Bill Ramsay was re-elected as President and D.Fallowfield as Sec/Treasurer with K.B.Alderson, D.Harrison and N.Swinscoe as Directors.

The William Workman Chapter is only a small component of OSTA, but now approaching the 7th anniversary of its founding is still active and able to participate in the national. Being so far removed from the site of the OST makes recruitment of new members difficult; it is therefore satisfying to have actually survived as a chapter.

Contributed by

*David Fallowfield
Penrith, ENGLAND*

Chronology of the Board

President

Ronald Kessler	Jan 94–May 98
Charles Querfeld	May 98–Jun 00
Harold Steiner	Jun 00–Nov 00
Willard Lewis (Acting)	Nov 00–Jun 01
Elizabeth Warren	Jun 01–Jun 03
Steve Heath	Jun 03–June 04

Vice President

Pat Richmond	Jan 94–May 98
Ronald Kessler	May 98–June 99
Willard Lewis	Jun 99–Jun 01
Richard Greene	Jun 01–Jun 03
Kenn Carpenter	Jun 03–Present

Secretary

John Koshak	Jan 94–May 95
Janet Evans	May 95–Jun 96
J. R. Hancock	Jun 96–May 98
Marie Greene	Jun 98–Jun 00
Lorraine Carpenter	Jun 00–Jun 03
Joanne Hinchliff	Jun 03–Sep 03
Judy Knudson	Nov 03–Present

Treasurer

Suzanne Off	Jan 94–Unknown
Barb Carpenter	Unknown–May 95
Janet Evans	May 95–Jun 96
J. R. Hancock	Jun 96–Jun 98
Richard Greene	Jun 98–Jun 00
Kenn Carpenter	Jun 00–Jun 03
Ronald Archibald	Jun 03–Present

Arizona Director

Reba Grandrud	May 98–Present
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California Director

John Robinson	May 98–Jun 02
Ann Deegan	Jun 02–Jun 02
Jane Stewart	Jul 02–Aug 03
Joanne Hinchliff	Sep 03–Present

Colorado Director

Earl Casteel	May 95–May 98
Bill Chenoweth	May 98–Jun 00
Pat Richmond	Jun 00–Nov 01
Doug Knudson	Jan 02–Present

New Mexico Director

Willard Lewis	May 98–Jun 99
John Coffman	Jun 99–Jun 00
Richard Greene	Jun 00–Jun 01
Willard Lewis	Jun 01–Jun 03
Pablo Vigil	Jun 03–Present

Nevada Director

Elizabeth Warren	Jun 99–Jun 01
Carol Corbett	Jun 01–Present

Utah Director

Ronald Jewkes	Jun 98–Jun 02
Walter Hayward	Jun 02 – Present

Spanish Traces Editors

Phil Carson	Jan 95–Apr 98
Judy Querfeld	May 98–Jun 01
KnL Carpenter	Jun 01–Present

The above list is available with references and other notations as a PDF file to your e-mail address. E-mail your request to the editors. Verified corrections will be accepted. ■



**OSNHT Logo
Proposed by OSTA**

OSTA Chapter History – Las Vegas, NV

Las Vegas, the location of perennial springs in the Mojave Desert, was an important stop on the Old Spanish Trail. In June of 1999 OSTA held the 6th National Conference in Las Vegas, at which Liz Warren, Hal Steiner and others gave papers and led field trips. Nick Saines attended the meeting, and, when he asked if there was a local chapter, he was encouraged to start one. Word was sent out to all national members in Las Vegas and an organizational meeting was held at Nick's house on September 11, 1999, attended by Liz Warren, Hal Steiner, Helen Mortenson of the Archaeo-Nevada Society, Chris Macek of the Old Mormon Fort, and others. At about the same time, an article appeared in the local newspaper about the OST through Las Vegas, the new Las Vegas Chapter, and about our first field trip which was coming up. With the publicity from the article, the field trip, led by Stan Rolf of the USBLM and Hal Steiner, was a big success, with over 40 participants, many of whom became members of the chapter. The charter meeting was held on Thursday night November 18, 1999 at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Charles Querfeld, the national president, was there to give us his blessing and to talk about the objectives and program of OSTA.

One of our first projects in 2000 was to try to save one of the last stretches of the Old Spanish Trail in the greater Las Vegas metropolitan area. It was slated for a parking lot of a shopping mall on the west side. After meetings with Hal and Nick the developer

agreed to preserve a small stretch of the trail in the parking lot and mark it with a plaque. The main effort of the Las Vegas Chapter, and, indeed of the Association, was a response to the National Park Service "Draft National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment of the Old Spanish Trail," which was published on July 17 of 2000. The NPS had decided that the OST did not qualify to be added to the roster of National Historic Trails. Liz Warren and Hal Steiner of the Las Vegas Chapter spearheaded the official response of OSTA, which was published on September 21 of 2000. OSTA's effort resulted in the OST achieving National Historical Trail status. Also in 2000 the chapter worked with the USBLM and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office in documenting the OST near Las Vegas. In the summer of 2000 Hal Steiner served as President of the national OSTA.

In February 2001 Nick Saines and Gary Beckman discovered a ten acre site on the west side of Las Vegas, surrounded by housing developments, that had the OST running through it. Nick began an effort to get the property into the hands of Clark County Parks and Community Services to build an Old Spanish Trail Park. In April of 2001 the State Historic Preservation Office presented Liz Warren, Hal Steiner, and Nick Saines with awards for their OSTA efforts in historic preservation. This was done during Historic Preservation Week when a field trip along the Armijo route from Las Vegas concluded in Goodsprings. Also that day a stone marker at Good's Spring was dedicated by Liz Warren and others.

Since April of 2001, for two years now, the chapter has been relatively quiet, although not dormant. We have participated in annual community events such as National Trails Day and the Cultural Heritage Day fair, and have had occasional meetings. The most important work currently being done by the chapter is to work closely with Stan Rolf and Suzanne Rowe of the BLM in marking the OST through Clark County. Our Marker Advisory Committee consists of chapter members Hal Steiner, Liz Warren, and Carol Corbett. Additionally, Nick continues to work with Clark County Parks and Community Services (Jeff Harris) regarding developing the ten-acre site at Cimarron and Tara as the Old Spanish Trail Park. Project has county approval, but is awaiting both funding and BLM approval of the land lease.

A meeting was held on April 22 to plan for coming events and elect officers. Tentative plans for future events include joint field trips with California chapter members, and participating in the 2005 centennial celebration of the City of Las Vegas. The Las Vegas Chapter will most likely be re-named, to reflect broader than urban membership, and we hope to be able to rendezvous with OSTA's northern Nevada members from time to time. In 2005, OSTA will host a meeting of the Partnership for the National Trails System, which we hope will be hitched to OSTA's annual meeting, scheduled for Las Vegas, Nevada in June 2005.

Contributed by

*Nick Saines
Las Vegas, Nevada*

Rancho Chapter Mapping Field Trip

by Leo Lyman

At a regular meeting of the Rancho (California) chapter last autumn the need was recognized to make a search and evaluation of historic trails in Silurian Valley, just north of Red Pass (not far south from Death Valley). This area will soon be incorporated into Fort Irwin Army Training Center (tank and desert warfare), which has virtually obliterated most remnants of such trails through the area to the west. On the first weekend of March, 2004, chapter members Clifford Walker and Leo Lyman led a group of two dozen dedicated searchers, including interested representatives of the BLM and NPS, on a careful reconnaissance of that area. Members of the group believe they located a small segment of the Old Spanish Trail pack mule route just a short distance from Red Pass (in compacted desert pavement, with one tank track visible in the same direction). Much of the adjacent area appears to be heavily eroded by numerous flash floods, and no additional traces of this trail were located. However, there were several large portions of the two-track wagon road that replaced the pack train trail, and also long remnants of one of the variant early routes of the Arrowhead Trails Highway, which eventually (some fifteen miles eastward) became Interstate 15.

Again, on April 3 & 4, 2004, Walker and Lyman directed another group of a dozen, including seven students enrolled in a weekend course offered through California State University, San Bernardino, in a similar search and evaluation of segments of the

OST and its successors in the California Valley (just within the California border) and Pahrump Valley (adjacent in Nevada). A classic remnant of the old mule trail (a true artifact in place) was already well known in the southwest end of the California Valley at Emigrant Pass. However, part of the group believes they located portions of the same pack animal trail in the northern section of the same valley, sometimes several parallel variants. Here, the wagon road from Utah to southern California was located, photographed and GPS readings taken for mapping across the entire length of the 10-mile valley. This is a good example of where the wagon and pack mule traces diverge by up to a mile all the way through the valley (entering and leaving the valley in closer proximity to each other). In contrast, in the Pahrump Valley the two trails follow virtually the same route for some 25 miles, with the later wagon wheels essentially obliterating the earlier mule track. Still some group members believe they observed (and photographed) several places where the single pack mule trace was situated near the wagon ruts. Some of the locators followed the two-track route (which had been driven over by motor vehicles) all the way across the Pahrump Valley.

The Rancho Chapter is attempting to be prepared to assist OSTA officers and others involved in publicizing, interpreting and preserving the priceless remnants of the Old Spanish Trail and its heritage in the region.

Double Negative — —

photos by Dan Dugan



Looking north

This is one of Michael Heizer's land art sculptures, excavated in 1969–70. Both ends are 30 feet wide by 50 feet deep, and it spans a 1,500 foot canyon. Out here in the middle of the desert it really is quite awesome.

This was viewed on a side trip when the board took its March 21 field trip across Mormon Mesa, and stopped at the north-end negative.



Looking south

The History of *Spanish Traces*

With the OSTA solidly established during 1994, the first “newsletter” was published in January of 1996. Although referenced as a newsletter in the early minutes of OSTA, it has never been simply a newsletter; from the beginning and to date it has included great articles by fabulous authors on past and present research of the Trail.

Phil Carson was the first editor, and is commended for the design and basic layout that he established and that continues today with few changes. The masthead at the top of page one remains the same, and that is what immediately establishes the publication in the viewer’s mind. The logo was designed by Yvonne Halburian of the Saguache Chapter. The font used in the masthead is called “Choc.”

Phil Carson continued as editor for three years 1995–98, then Judy Querfeld picked it up for three years 1998-01, followed by the Carpenters from the Fall of 2001 to present.

Every editor will excitedly tell you it is an educational and fulfilling experience, and wonderful to work with so many historically knowledgeable authors and enthusiastic chapter members! Then they pause a moment, and begin to tell you the real problems of getting an issue out the door. They can speak endlessly on those complications: deciding on content theme, getting inputs by deadline, checking for accuracy of statements, finding related photographs, doing an interesting layout, the number of pages must be a multiple of four and

so you must choose to delete or add or scrunch material to suit, get the printing done, and then prepare the bulk-mailing.

The growth and activities of OSTA can perhaps be indicated by the growth in *Spanish Traces*. Starting in 2000 we increased from two issues per year up to three; prior to 2000 we averaged 63 pages per year, and from 2000 to present we have averaged 107 pages per year.

On the technical side, there are only a few changes that have been made over the years. The early issues had text force justified in the columns, and in V4#1 it was changed to ragged right for easier reading. The screen used by the printer for photographs was originally 85 lines per inch at 45 degrees (85 lpi@45), and today we standardize on 110 lpi@45 for better reproduction. The font of choice continues to be 12-point Times New Roman.

Text alignment and white space are always a concern to the editors; done properly the reader will never notice. Text in different columns across a page must align, and the moment a heading or photograph is placed on a page this alignment is out of whack, and so adjustments must be made. Excess white space in a column of text is to be avoided; as an example, the text column just to the left has not been adjusted for horizontal spacing.

Layout is done using PageMaker in Windows. The front page masthead

and column margins throughout are carried from issue to issue with a template. Photographs and 35mm slides are scanned and cropped as needed, converted to black and white, and digitally enhanced when needed. The introduction of digital cameras has been a great asset for everyone; photos from conferences and field trips are more and more being transmitted to the editors with 20-50 pictures on a CD in just a few days, and of course that gives the editors numerous choices for picture selection and later use.

Editing of submitted materials begins with a careful read for clarity and understanding, and seldom is there a need to consult the author; we often marvel at the amount of obvious work an author has put into their manuscript. The major editing that is done relates to punctuation, italicizing, dashes, capitalization, and a thousand other small items, and for this we use our heavily worn 921 page “The Chicago Manual of Style.” Our intent is to have uniformity in presentation from article to article and from issue to issue.

To get an issue through the printing house takes five days, and we keep this to a minimum by having them order paper ahead of time. After delivery of the 100+ MB file on a ZipDisc, we take another trip two days later to check the proof and be sure they used the 110 lpi@45 screen on the images. Then comes the final printing, stapling, folding, and shearing off the creep on the open edge. In a couple of days we get a call to pick them up, and up course it is during grid-lock traffic time.

The next job is bulk-mailing, and by

now the membership roster has been sorted by zip code, and mailing labels printed at the very last minute to include the latest new members and changes of address.

Bulk-mailing sounds all so simple; take the “bulk” to the Post Office and they do the rest. It isn’t simple. Bulk mail requires a minimum of 200 identical pieces. In 1998 we got our first bulk mail permit for mailing at the non-profit standard mail rate, and a permit to use a postage imprint. *Traces* at that time was printed in Boulder CO and mailed via UPS to Richard Greene at Angle Fire NM. Richard and Marie printed the mailing labels, prepared the *Traces* for mailing, and took *them* to Eagle Nest NM for bulk mailing using the postage imprint. When *Traces* editing and printing moved to Marysville WA, we still UPSed them to the Greenes for bulk mailing, but this became an expensive hassle. When time came to renew our mailing permit in April 2002, we changed it to Marysville, and switched to using non-profit stamps instead of the postage imprint at a savings of \$150 per year. Now the complete *Spanish Traces* operation is done in Marysville.

For delivery to the Post Office, our bulk mail has to be first sorted by zip code. Zip codes are then grouped and bundled by Area Distribution Code (ADC). We use 14 ADCs plus one miscellaneous. Then the bundles are bagged, and off to the P.O. And of course there are only certain hours that bulk mail will be accepted.

All issues of *Spanish Traces* from V4#2 Fall 1998 to date have electronic files archived in-house. From these

we are gradually extracting significant articles so we can have reprints ready when requested. An Index to all issues of *Traces* is available; see page 5.

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Trail Rides on the OST

*compiled from material submitted by Suzanne Off
and Summit Trail Adventures*

On August 2–4 of 1990, the San Luis Valley Harness and Saddle Club sponsored in first annual Old Spanish Trail Ride. With the support of many local businesses, at least 23 couples and families set out to enjoy the Trail and “re-create the past – being very careful to not disturb evidence of the old trail.” Among the points of interest on that first ride were Sierra Blanca, Rock Creek Cemetery, the 1858 Trail Marker, the “Heart and Eagle”, Traces of wagon tracks, Martinez Hill, and Look-Out Mountain.

On August 1–3 of 1991, another enthusiastic group joined the SLV Harness and Saddle Club for their 2nd annual OST Trail Ride. Unfortunately, these exciting adventures did not continue a third year.

On the Trail Again . . .

In June 2003 Summit Trail Adventures, headed by trail boss Willard Forman, embarked on an ambitious series of annual trail rides to retrace the entire

length of the Old Spanish Trail. Their first year’s ride began in Ojo Caliente, NM and traveled approximately 75 miles, ending at Antonito, CO. There were some 30+ participants in this 4-day trip with participants coming from several states. A video is available.

The second of the Summit Trails



Willard Forman,
Trail Boss and
OSTA member

adventures will be taking place this year June 20–23. The ride will begin at Antonito, CO and travel north along the west side of the San Luis Valley for approximately 75 miles or 4 days, ending near Saguache, CO. In June of 2005, they will start again at this year’s ending point and travel another 4 days, then continue this schedule every year until reaching their destination of Los Angeles, CA.



Summit Trail Adventures invites you to join in this “ride of a lifetime.” Info and reservations: 303-670-9758 or 1-877-856-2815 (www.summittrails.com).

Concert and Benefit Auction

On Tuesday, the third night of the ride, the La Vereda Chapter will sponsor a concert and benefit auction in Del Norte, CO. The concert will feature an evening of music, cowboy poetry and story telling with Cowboy Singer Rick Devin. Silent auction proceeds will go towards preservation of the Old Spanish Trail. Contact Max Lara at 719-274-5769, or Doug Knudson at 719-873-5239. Whether or not you have a donation for the auction, be sure to attend this outstanding event and help preserve a piece of America’s western heritage. Tickets required.

See you on the Trail!



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