



# WAGON TRACKS

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY

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## SYMPOSIUM AWAITS YOU

THE symposium program and registration materials have been sent to all members, and the hardworking hosts in the Quivira and Cottonwood Crossing chapters are waiting to process your registration. They have put together a superb program with activities for a variety of interests, including opportunities to visit sites few members have seen. Please join this informative and intriguing Trail experience. Symposium coordinator Janel Cook promises, "you'll be glad you did."

A few changes have been made in the eastern tour because of logistical problems, and these are noted to help participants plan their tour schedule. Those who want to see the notorious Blowout ruts will be able to do that only by special arrangement on Monday.

Because the Sunday tours are scheduled for an hour longer than the Saturday tours, there will be a huge Sunday bonus. Participants will be transported via hay wagons from the National Park site to the swales a quarter-mile south on the Youk land. Some of these swales are five feet deep. They merge into one huge swale 100 to 150 feet wide, and they extend for at least a quarter-mile. They are the central corridor of the Trail leading from the river crossing. These swales may be one of the best-kept secrets in the SFTA. They are impressive.

For people committing to the Saturday tour to the East, it will be possible to see the Youk ruts if they are able to hike a half-mile or so in 45 minutes. The main swales are about a quarter-mile away and are easily reached by a short hike. The wagons will be available only on Sunday.

Everyone traveling to McPherson is encouraged to take some time to visit Trail sites along their route to and from the symposium. Your trip can be a rewarding experience. We hope to see you there.

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 2  
SFTA SYMPOSIUM  
McPHERSON, KANSAS

## NEW COLUMN PLANNED "SCOUTING THE TRAIL ONLINE"

JULIE Daicoff, a longtime SFTA member from Lenexa, KS, and Trail researcher, especially the flora of the route, asked why *WT* does not publish lists of Trail resources available online. A good idea, and she has agreed to serve as column editor of "Scouting the Trail Online."

She requests that all readers who have found Trail documents online send the information to her. She will check them out and compile a new list for each issue of *WT* (starting next issue). These sources may be compiled on the SFTA web site too.

Daicoff is especially interested in primary sources, whether manuscripts or previously published items (including maps, sketches, and written records), that are now available online. Please help with this project and send information to her at 20830 W 100 Terr, Lenexa KS 66220 or e-mail <jdaicoff@everestkc.net>. Special thanks to her for agreeing to head this project.

## MUSEUM COLUMN EDITOR NEEDED

AS Margaret Sears's fine tribute to the late Anna Belle Cartwright in this issue makes clear, Anna Belle provided a splendid service with her regular *WT* column, "The Caches," about museums along the Trail. To date no one in SFTA has stepped forward to continue what Anna Belle started.

If there is anyone willing to volunteer to edit a similar column (with same title or another), featuring exhibits and activities at museums and historic sites along the Trail, please contact the editor. It is hard work and there is no pay, but the rewards are incalculable.



Kevin Corbett, Olathe Parks Superintendent, speaking at the Lone Elm Park Dedication, June 9, 2005.

## LONE ELM PARK DEDICATION

by Ross Marshall

[SFTA Ambassador Ross Marshall, former SFTA president and current SFTA representative to the Partnership for the National Trails System, is a frequent contributor to *WT*.]

"There is no other tree or bush or shrub save one Elm tree, which stands on a small elevation near the little creek or branch." (Susan Shelby Magoffin, June 11, 1846)

SUCH was the appearance of one of the most famous campgrounds on the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails in the latter part of the 1840s. This campground has now been preserved and interpreted, thanks to the efforts of the Parks Department of Olathe, KS, under the leadership of Superintendent Kevin Corbett. Ending several years of concern by many of us about how to preserve this key Trail site, good news was received from the City of Olathe in 2000, when the city purchased the 160-acre Willsey family farm. They have spent several million dollars to create both a historical and recreational city park.

Softball and soccer fields now occupy approximately one-half of the acreage that was farmland. The rest of the land, including a branch of

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Historic Trail logo into our marking and interpretive efforts allows the Trail's steward organizations to utilize existing distinctive regional designs, and still take advantage of using a universal Trail graphic to advance the overall interpretive goal of incorporating their efforts into a trailwide common geographical theme that links every sign to a total array stretching from a Missouri River bottom to a sun-washed Spanish provincial capital. In a practical sense, for any "heritage" traveler, the advantage of a single, recognizable symbol linking a nine-hundred-plus-mile trail not only graphically conveys the vital sense of the Santa Fe Trail's spiritual and symbolic march, but is also a powerful incentive for the modern sojourner to do the same, accompanied by a familiar talisman. That is, I believe, something we all strive for.

Our campaign to incorporate the Santa Fe Trail National Historic Trail logo isn't going to work miracles or bring on world peace, but it's a worthy step to assist the public's navigation and overall interpretation of the Trail. It would also honor and affirm the idea that Americans believed enough in the Trail's historical and spiritual importance that they banded together and through their vote made it a national trail to keep its memory alive. They would also note that we've added their mark—the mark as a national trail—to hundreds of memorials recounting for them the Trail's timeless march across the West, to reassure them of the fact that under the stewardship of ourselves and our partners, the Trail was never in better hands.

As George Sibley's team labored across the open plains on its epic Santa Fe Trail survey, his route-marking efforts on some stretches were befuddled by a lack of durable materials such as wood or stone. Feeling compelled to leave some evidence of the passage of a national survey, he crafted his trail markers out of that old prairie standby, piles of buffalo chips.

I think we just might have a better solution.

—Clive Siegle

**LEAVE YOUR LEGACY: PLAN A BEQUEST TO THE SFTA**

## GRACE MUILENBURG

SFTA charter member Grace Muilenburg died July 22 at Jetmore, KS, where she has resided the last few years since leaving Manhattan, KS. She was 91. She was a true friend of the Trail and is best known for her book (with Ada Swineford), *Land of the Post Rock*. She has written a lengthy manuscript on the Kansas Flint Hills which may be published. Through the years she was a teacher, worked for the Kansas Geological Survey, and was an editor of publications at Kansas State University. Grace was a remarkable and talented woman, and she was a wonderful friend. A tour in the Flint Hills with her as guide is a memory to be treasured. Sympathy is extended to her family and friends. She will be missed by many of us.

## DONOR HONOR ROLL

**M**ANY members have responded to various pleas for additional donations to assist SFTA with its many projects. Special thanks is extended to the following for recent donations, several designated for the Laura Jackson Education Memorial Fund and one was in honor of SFTA President Hal Jackson's birthday:

Bent's Fort Chapter  
 Corazón de los Caminos Chapter  
 Milton Dobkin  
 End of the Trail Chapter  
 Phyllis Morgan  
 Stephen and Mary Whitmore

## LONE ELM DEDICATION

(continued from page 1)

Cedar Creek, which comprised most of the historic camping area, has been preserved and interpreted for visitors. Extensive archeological investigations have been done on the construction areas and many trailera artifacts have been recovered.

With the completion of the athletic fields, the impressive "Rendezvous" shelter house, and the installation of several interpretive exhibits, the Lone Elm Park was officially dedicated on June 9, 2005, and opened for visitors. Speakers at the event included various Olathe officials, including Mayor Michael Copeland and Park Superintendent Kevin Corbett. SFTA members Craig Crease and Ross Marshall also spoke about the history of the site.

Lone Elm Campground is one of the most famous frontier trail camp sites and rendezvous points. In the almost four decades of its use, starting in 1821, thousands of Santa Fe traders, Oregon and California emigrants, mountain men, missionaries, soldiers, and '49ers came this way and camped at Lone Elm, including such frontier notables as William Becknell, John Fremont, the Donner-Reed party, Kit Carson, and Francis Parkman.

This trail campground was first known as Round Grove, named by the earliest traders to Santa Fe because it was a grove of trees at the entrance to the "treeless prairie." By 1827 it shared duty with Elm Grove Campground, 2¼ miles northwest on the same Cedar Creek, and the two campgrounds were often mistaken for each other. By the mid-1840s, when the grove had been reduced to one huge elm tree, this site was known as Lone Elm.

Along with traders and emigrants who camped at Lone Elm on the first or second night out of Independence or Westport, in 1846 the Mexican War brought the frontier military through Lone Elm. Several of these soldiers and also '49ers who succumbed to cholera were buried at Lone Elm.

Dr. F. A. Wislizenus recorded in 1846, "How long the venerable elm tree [will remain] . . . I am unable to say, but I fear its days are numbered." J. F. Pritchard recorded in his 1849 California-trip diary, "This lone tree stands on the bank of a small stream, with no other tree or shrub in sight, all its branches have been cut from it by traders and emigrants for the purpose of fuel." By the end of the 1840s the great old tree was gone—used for firewood—but such was its fame that spurious reports of its existence continued through the 1850s.

The trails were harsh. Stream crossings were hazardous. The elements were unforgiving. Illnesses took their toll: "This morning we buried John N. Collins, a private in Captain Turney's company. His grave is situated on the right hand of the road about 150 yards east of the 'Lone Elm' the only tree to be seen on the prairie for miles around." (Pvt. Benjamin L. Wiley, July 13, 1847.

Lone Elm's fame was perpetuated



Members of the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter SFTA at the Lone Elm Park dedication on June 9, 2005, in front of the dedication plaque.

into the early 1900s by Newton Ainsworth, a tireless promoter of the Lone Elm Campground on his farm. Ainsworth was instrumental in the placement of a Santa Fe Trail marker at Lone Elm in 1906 by the Daughters of the American Revolution, which continues to grace the spot today.

Thanks to the City of Olathe and their many area partners as listed on a bronze plaque at the Rendezvous shelter house, including the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of SFTA, once again people can gather at Lone Elm.

## PARTNERSHIP REPORT

by Ross Marshall

**FY05 Congressional Appropriations**—Good news! The Santa Fe NPS office has received an additional \$25,000 in base funding for FY05, adding to the \$40,000 increase received last year. In addition, the Challenge Cost Share Program has been increased.

Even though federal budgets are tight, these increases reflect Congress's interest in trails, partly because of the army of volunteers, like all of us SFTA members, who donate our time and money in response to these appropriations. My thanks to the chapters, committees, board, etc. for sending me the totals of their manhours and dollar donations.

**FY06 Appropriations**—I was in Washington DC in early March attending the Partnership Leadership Council meeting and other various PNTS committee meetings. In addition,

I spent a day on the Hill calling on about a dozen Senate and House offices from Missouri, Kansas, and New Mexico. The Santa Fe Trail is a welcome subject in these offices and appropriations support for us is good, even though FY06 will be tight.

The appropriations increases I have sought the last 4-5 years were the result of a plan developed by NPS and SFTA leadership a few years ago which amounted to about \$316,000. We have been successful in securing about half of that in increased base funding for the Santa Fe office up through FY05. Using SFTA's Strategic Plan of 2003, the NPS has developed their own appropriations increase request to be sent up through their own chain of command as part of the president's budget for FY07. I have used that plan as a basis for my current congressional work for the FY06 budget.

One additional day was spent calling on various administration side offices, including the NPS, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of Management and Budget. An additional advocate for the Santa Fe Trail accompanied me, my wife Pat, who already knew her way around the Hill.

**10th National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference**—Hosted by the Old Spanish Trail Association, this conference involving all the National Trails was held in Las Vegas, NV, in conjunction with OSTA's annual convention, June 17-22, 2005. There was an exciting series of workshops and plenary sessions supporting the

theme of "Trails Connecting to Communities through Education, Tourism and Stewardship." The PNTS Leadership Council also met at this conference.

SFTA is a partner with the Partnership for the National Trails System, the National Park Service, and others in the management of the National Trails System, which was the vision of the NTS Act in 1968. We are members of a very important family as we seek to preserve the historical heritage of our nation.

## NEW SIGN AT FORT DODGE

**THE** Wet/Dry Routes and Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron chapters erected a new sign at Fort Dodge on July 2 in memory of the late Richard Dryden (see their chapter reports and photo on p. 27). The sign reads:

**FORT DODGE: THE WESTERN TERMINUS OF THE FORT HAYS-FORT DODGE ROAD**

In the fall of 1867, the Fort Hays-Fort Dodge Road was developed to transport merchandise, mail, and passengers from the newly founded railroad at Hays City to Fort Dodge and on to Santa Fe via the established route of the Santa Fe Trail. Thus, the Fort Hays-Fort Dodge Road became the far eastern leg of the Santa Fe Trail for a brief period of eight months until the Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division pushed westward from Hays City to Sheridan City in June 1868.

## CLEVELAND ROLLER MILL MUSEUM MILLFEST SEPT. 3-4

**THE** Cleveland Roller Mill Museum, located two miles north of Mora, NM, near the village of Cleveland, will host a "Millfest," September 3-4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., featuring 45 artists, a variety of native foods, dance exhibitions, and musical entertainment. The historic roller mill, a 3-story, adobe, water-powered flourmill, will be in continuous operation during this event. There is a nominal admission into the museum, which is regularly open on weekends, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.. See their web site at <[http://www.angelfire.com/folk/roller\\_mill](http://www.angelfire.com/folk/roller_mill)> or call (505) 387-2645.

There is also a special exhibit at the museum until September 4, featuring black-and-white photos by A. J. Melnick, of Santa Clara Pueblo pottery and pottery-making by three generations of the Moquino family of the pueblo.