

# SPANISH TRACES



Photo by Pat Mimms

AWARDS IN HAND: Kanab High School drama students with Life Achievement Awards provided by OSTA for their work in “Tales of the Trail: the Armijo Adventure.” L-R: Andrew Corry (“Jed Rogers”); Cheryl McAllister (“Marie Trujillo Rogers”); Judah Evangelista (“Antonio Armijo”); Josh Ochoa (“Rafael Rivera”); David Kirby (“Smoke Dancer”); Christi Cox (“Willow”).

## A Dramatic Milestone

Wednesday, April 28th was a bit of a milestone for OSTA: the first time in its history that the association had presented a historical drama. “Tales of the Trail: the Armijo Adventure” premiered in a special presentation to public school students in Kanab, UT, the day before the official opening of OSTA’s annual conference, held in Fredonia, AZ and Kanab UT.

OSTA Manager Don Mimms says the April 28th presentation to the students was in some ways more satisfying than the two public performances later in the week. “There seemed to be a special energy among the students that day,” he said. “Even the elementary kids were attentive and responsive.”

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# THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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

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

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Visit the OSTA Website  
<http://www.oldspanishtrail.org>

The updated OSTA website now has an interactive map highlighting scenic Trail locations and is the place to go for both general background and recent news on the OST and OSTA. The site contains maps; an overview history of the OST, including a bibliography; a listing of relevant books, with links to sites where they can be purchased; and a regularly updated news page, containing links to government reports, activities of the OSTA membership, and other news relevant to the trail. The web page also links to NPS and BLM webpages, which have further links to public documents and to maps of the OST. Copies of the DVD of the *Old Spanish Trail Suite*, a CD of back issues of *Spanish Traces*, and several books can be purchased online, as well as through *Traces'* new OSTA STORE. Memberships may also be paid and renewed on the website.

*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. The next deadline for submissions is August 15, 2010. All matters relating to *Spanish Traces* should be directed to the Editor:

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## President's Corner by Reba Wells Grandrud

This past OSTA year has been an exhilarating, challenging, and satisfying time—from Ignacio, Colorado in early June 2009, where we were warmly welcomed on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, to the annual conference that just concluded on May 2 in neighboring Arizona and Utah towns--Fredonia and Kanab. As I made contact through the months with state directors, officers, chapter leaders, and Association members scattered through six states, I was delighted at the internal growth that has taken place in the two years (2007, 2008) that I was not involved in OSTA leadership. Sometimes, I was almost amazed at the interest, the ideas, the projects and the events! I already knew that nationally, the Old Spanish National Historic Trail has become a recurring blip on the radar screen, well-known by the PNTS (Partnership of the National Trails System), and by many in the assorted national, regional, state, and local levels of the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Forest Service, and other federal partners.

But, as I reported to the OSTA Board of Directors at Fredonia, if we are painfully

honest, we have to recognize that problems exist. I'd like to mention just two: first, the Old Spanish National Historic Trail is relatively UNKNOWN to the American public in general. Do you find that to be true in your state? If so, is it of concern to you? What can be done? We would welcome your sending to the OSTA website those fresh ideas and suggestions that you might have that could help solve this problem.

Second, much of the amazing growth that I mentioned in the first paragraph is centered in "small pockets of activity" here and there. It seems everyone is busy. It has been difficult to find people willing to fill board positions—too costly and time-consuming; one or two chapters are near "death's door," others are in seriously poor health; long-time members are disgruntled, discouraged, and feeling neglected—we (members of OSTA's national board) have not been able to make regular visits to all six Old Spanish Trail states.

BUT there are signs of upturn as the current board and chapters continue to build on what has been accomplished in OSTA's fifteen years or so of existence. Membership (the volunteer pool) is holding its own; all board positions are currently filled with qualified people—continuing ones, and those who joined the board last June or last month. Five were newbies in 2009 (New Mexico, Colorado, and Nevada directors, and president, vice-president, secretary), but we now have a year of learning and

experience "under our belts." The one 2010 incoming new board member (Arizona Director Ken de Masi) is already gathering ideas, and proving to be just the right person to help OSTA usher in its new Youth Initiative. This focus on young people is already blossoming in some of the chapters—Nevada, for example, brought just such a proposal to the Fredonia board session. The proposal was adopted with enthusiasm.

Continuity is a boon to an organization and we are pleased to have the invaluable, steady influence and institutional memory of our longtime Membership Coordinator, Lorraine Carpenter, who, also, serves as Chairman of the Leadership Development Committee (Nominations). OSTA has two useful, flourishing websites, thanks to the leadership of outgoing Arizona Director, Paul Ostapuk. One is for the public ([www.oldspanishtrail.org](http://www.oldspanishtrail.org)), the other serves the board as a library or archives. Dan Lewis, editor of *Spanish Traces* since the spring of 2009, has kept our respected publication going out across the nation. We have talented, experienced, "on-our-side" federal partners who are always ready to listen to our needs and are helping OSTA grow professionally. Finally, OSTA has enjoyed for more than a year now, the services of an organized, creative Colorado dynamo: Don Mimms, our Association Manager, from Pueblo!! Stay tuned for many more successes as Don encourages and inspires us.

## **Manager's Musings**

*by Don Mimms*

### **"A Story that Matters"**

A certain famous man, history tells us, had a habit of making up stories and telling them to anyone who would listen. His audiences, though, did not see him as a mere storyteller but as a great teacher. They apparently realized stories were his way of making sure people understood and remembered his message.

I mention the teaching methods of this man, Jesus, to entice you into thinking seriously about OSTA's message: what it actually is, and whether "story" is a valid approach to conveying it.

First, let's acknowledge a problem: many (most?) members of the general public are not very interested in historical details about the Old Spanish Trail. Few want to discuss whether the caravans passed through This Valley or That Valley; not many are excited about swales and corridors, or about how the pack mules were loaded and exactly what cargo they carried.

Yes, historians and seasoned trail enthusiasts understand that those issues are indeed important--that if historical fundamentals are not properly established, we have no story to tell. But, while it is essential that OSTA continue its much-needed work on those fundamentals, we need to realize that most people will not care that we are doing so.

So, do we give up on talking with The Many and settle for insider conversations with The Few? No, as stated in the OSTA Strategic Plan developed recently, we need to "Provide creative interpretation of the OSNHT...." Convinced that 'our corner of history' is relevant to Everyman, we should creatively package and deliver our message in a manner that resonates with most members of the audience we seek.

The use of "story" as a medium for our message could be one example (just one) of such an emphasis. Perhaps we can reach more people if we dramatically portray the lives of individuals who traveled the trail, leading audiences to vicariously experience those travelers' likely emotions and motivations (longing, fear, pain, anger, greed, joy, faith) in narratives about who the travelers were, why they might have chosen the journey, and the "what-happened-next" element that is so important in storytelling.

A separate but related issue--at least as important as HOW we tell our message (method)--is the question of WHAT we tell (content). I.e., what exactly is our message?

Our message is historical in nature, but is it merely a history lesson? Or is history the framework on which we deliver a larger message: the impact those historical facts had--and still have--on human beings?

Another way of putting this: effective history-telling needs to focus

heavily on “relevance.” If we cannot demonstrate the contemporary, personal implications of our message to an intended audience, we will forever be ‘preaching to the choir’, wondering why the ‘pews’ are empty. But if we intelligently and creatively draw attention to the relevance of our message--its immediate application to listeners--it will be easier to attract and hold a crowd.

We need a socio-historical mindset as we study, interpret and promote the OSNHT, discussing questions such as: What do the experiences of travelers on the OST teach us about the nature of the human family--about cultural relationships, political ambition, courage, humility, religious boundaries, human rights, human weakness? And we shouldn’t be afraid to ponder aloud how those lessons apply to contemporary society.

These two topics--the need to demonstrate relevance and the role of “story” in conveying that relevance--are just two of several issues that need ongoing attention as we continue to fashion our message; but they are important. And they should not intimidate us; the stories are there, if we want to tell them, and they are indeed relevant. Hard work is involved in finding and choosing the best ones, and in discovering concepts, language and delivery methods that convey their relevance; but we need to embrace those challenges, not fear them.



San Bartolomé, Arizona

photo by Daniel Lewis

## “Paso Por Aqui, Año 1776”

**PASSED BY HERE**

**A Message from 1776**

*by James Page*

*Armijo Chapter*

**Jan. 1st 1776** – Gen George Washington hoists the Continental Union flag

**March 2nd 1776** – Americans begin shelling British troops in Boston

**March 28th 1776** – Juan Bautista de Anza finds site for the Presidio of SF

**July 4th 1776** – Declaration of Independence

**July 29th 1776** – With little or no fanfare... Ten men under the leadership of Padre Fray Francisco Atanasio Domínguez and Padre Fray Francisco Silvestre Vélez de Escalante depart Santa Fe, New Mexico.

### **Fast forward to 2003:**

In 2003 a 55-foot SkipperLiner houseboat was donated to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The only caveat was that the houseboat was to be used to support a graffiti removal program on Lake Powell.

The graffiti removal program, known as G.R.I.T. (Graffiti Removal and Intervention Team) began in earnest in 2004. Staffed by an all-volunteer effort the program supported ten to fourteen 5-day trips per year to remove graffiti along the shorelines of Lake Powell. This invaluable program continues to this day.

Continued on page 6

On September 7th 2006... an all-volunteer graffiti removal team from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Lake Powell) discovered a hidden, vandalized inscription that reads....

*Paso por Aqui, Año 1776*  
(Passed by Here.... Year of 1776)

Before the end of the 2006, the recently formed Armijo Chapter, Old Spanish Trail Association, spearheaded the effort to authenticate the inscription. At this point in time the NPS had no funds or staff to facilitate the authentication effort. So begins a year long effort by the Armijo Chapter!

**January 24th 2007 ....**  
Memorandum of Agreement between NPS and the Armijo Chapter of the OSTA to begin efforts to authenticate the inscription

**February 7th 2007...** Scientific Research and Collecting Permit issued to Armijo Chapter by NPS.

**February 17-18th 2007...**  
Western Mapping Company, Tucson, AZ conducted a laser scan of the inscription providing a 3-D record of the 1776 image. Included in this 24-person entourage were archeologists from the Glen Canyon NRA, Mesa Verde NP, Grand Staircase Escalante NM, the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Chief Ranger and Chief of Resources for the park, Armijo Chapter members on two donated houseboats to support the two day effort.

**March 14th 2007...** The field report submitted by Marietta Eaton, Grand Staircase-Escalante NM science program administrator, concluded that “based on the inscription’s mineral and organic skin coating, and the style of script I feel secure that the inscription is authentic.”

**April 13th 2007...** Kim Anderson PhD., ecologist for the Grand Staircase-Escalante NM sampled the lichen species surrounding the inscription. His lab results were inconclusive because of the degraded conditions of the lichen but he concluded that the inscription “...has probably existed for 100 years, if not more.”

**August 3rd 2007...** Dr. Ronald Dorn, Professor of Geographical Sciences, Arizona State University, conducted sampling for lead-profile dating. His lab analysis concluded that the 1776 inscription was made well before the 20th century pollution contaminated varnishes in the Four Corners region with lead and probably is several centuries old.

**August 10th 2007...** Dr. Joseph Sanchez PhD., Superintendent of Petroglyph NM and the Spanish Colonial Research Center visited the 1776 site after reviewing early Spanish inscriptions at El Morro NM. He questioned the style of some of the letters and the number 1 in 1776 but his report concluded that “...it was best to err on the side that it should be classified, for now, as probably authentic...”

Paul Ostapuk, Arizona Director of OSTA also visited El Morro NM and found examples of similar styles of early Spanish letters and numbers comparing favorably with the 1776 inscription.

In 2007, the Armijo Chapter, submitted a summary of all scientific and academic reports stating that the 1776 inscription is probably authentic.... Glen Canyon NRA accepts the validity of the report and issues a press release.

Here is the list of circumstantial evidence supporting the authenticity:  
(Ostapuk, 2007)

1. The Gunsight Canyon location matches the diary itinerary for November 6, 1776
2. A nearby alcove provides shelter from rain
3. The inscription location on the panel is consistent with being first in time
4. The phrase Paso Por Aqui is consistent with the time period
5. The disciplined calligraphy differs markedly from modern graffiti
6. The unusual and distinctive flairs of numbers and letters argue against forgery
7. The dark patina, the faintness and shallow depth, and the smooth worn edges all suggest significant antiquity
8. The coalesced and degraded conditions of lichen colonies suggest an age of at least 100 years
9. Varnish lead (Pb) analysis indicates the inscription carving pre-dates 20th century pollution

10. Underlying magnesium-rich varnish microlaminations suggest the inscription is several centuries old

**February 9, 2008...** Armijo Chapter, working under a Metal Detector Permit issued by NPS, scanned the area at the foot of the inscription and found no evidence of metallic traces. However, upon scanning the small alcove in the vicinity of the inscription we detected eighteen metallic sources at depths ranging from surface litter to metallic objects 10 to 12 inches deep. At the present time (May 2010) we are waiting for the Glen Canyon NRA archaeological staff to excavate the various points. But let's stop here and go back to 1975-76....

Leading up to America's 1976 Bicentennial celebration, a four-state (Utah-Colorado-New Mexico-Arizona) commemoration of the 1776 Dominguez-Escalante expedition was proposed to conduct a thorough examination of their route. Subsequently, the trail was divided into ten segments and the most competent researchers were assigned to conduct an interpretation of the Escalante journal and the identification of their route.

During 1975 an extensive survey was conducted along each segment. Segment No. 8, from Lee's Ferry to the Crossing of the Fathers was conducted by Dr. David E. Miller, Dr. C. Gregory Crampton and Mr. W. L. (Bud) Rusho. Their final report asserts

that the expedition, on November 6, 1776, probably halted on the west side of Gunsight Canyon by "...a strong blizzard and tempest consisting of rain, thick hailstones, amid horrendous thunder claps and lightning flashes."

The 1776 inscription resides on the east side of Gunsight Canon and so we must rethink the interpretation of the journal on that date and re-evaluate the conditions that led a member of the expedition to scramble into the narrow defile and leave the only remaining inscription from that remarkable 1,700 mile journey.

One looming question... why is the inscription there? And why was it not mentioned in Escalante's journal? At this point the members were near starvation and some were sick. They had already resorted to slaughtering one of their pack horses from time to time, as they had last done on November 4th. Not knowing whether they would survive or whether the journal would survive, one of the party, perhaps Don Bernardo Miera y Pacheco deftly carved the inscription while they waited out the storm, perhaps unbeknownst to Padre Escalante.

The ravages of time, graffiti and vandalism are taking their toll. The soft Entrada Sandstone in the narrow, sheltered area is showing evidence of spalling. Recent rock falls have impacted close to the inscription. Graffiti continues to be a problem and subsequent vandalism on anti-graffiti signs

in the immediate area is of great concern.

The Armijo Chapter continues to look to the National Park Service to develop a management plan for the 1776 inscription.

How to protect the inscription? How to manage the historical site? How to mitigate the damage done by contemporary graffiti? Or... perhaps not!

**January 2010...** Armijo Chapter begins the application process to nominate the 1776 inscription to the National Register of Historic Places.

In conclusion, that is the history and fact and speculation revolving around a 1776 Spanish inscription.



James Page presenting at Kanab Conference

## 160 Years Ago: Packers and 49ers (No, not the NFL Football Teams)

By Clifford Walker

[Note by author: spelling is as is]

From August 1849 to March 1850 gold seekers from eastern America flocked to the California gold fields to find their fortunes. Most came by wagons leaving Missouri by early spring heading to Salt Lake City and then going through the California or Oregon trails arriving before the snows in the Sierra Nevada. If they arrived in Salt Lake by October, since they feared what happened to the Donner Party in 1846, they headed southwest following the **Old Spanish Trail** to the Mojave River Trail into southern California.

Most immigrants had covered wagons, but hundreds were packers or ended up being packers. They usually started with pack horses or mules, but after 300-400 miles with poor grass and inconsistent or no water for days, horses gave out and later some mules, and these 49ers unpacked their dying or dead animals, made their own backpacks and headed out for their future fortune ON FOOT!

Depending on their luck, endurance or choices, they came into one of the following: the Lugo rancho in San Bernardino, Rancho Cucamonga, John Rowland's Ranch in La Puente, or Rancho

Chino by the end of December 1849 or the first three months of 1850.

Their surviving journals show hardships beyond belief, acts of great kindness, acts of great self-centered selfishness.

William Lorton paid McDermot \$20 to store his gear in McDermot's wagon while McDermot paid \$10 to Jefferson Hunt to be part of his wagon train to Chino. McDermot left Hunt's wagon train for a possible shortcut through Walker Pass to the gold mines. Unfortunately the short cutters got scattered all over what became Death Valley. McDermot took the shortcut, abandoned his wagon, packed his belongings on animals and became a packer. Lorton put his gear in Norton's wagon and he too later became a packer and Lorton had no other choice than to load what he could on his white pony *Mazeppa*, becoming a packer. Later Lorton made it back down to the **Old Spanish Trail**. He made moccasins for *Mazeppa*'s hooves, but one day in his diary he sadly wrote "...my *Mazeppa* would not get up, suffice it to say he starved to death. I shot him & cut out a steak, for every boddy said white horses eat best."

Wagon 49er traveler Henry W. Bigler bought a tin canteen in Salt Lake for "6 bits." His group made fine time, as much as 25 miles a day going south from the Provo area. After over 200 miles south, Bigler wrote, "Brother Keeler and

I [thought we'd] better leave our wagon, and pack the rest of the way through. So we spent the day in making packsaddles...." His group followed Captain O. K. Smith's packers on the mistaken shortcut. Here is part of Bigler's account trying to find a way through: Br. Whittle took the course by a star and got into camp about 10 o'clock, but not a drop of water was there. The Camp was in a dry bed of a River. we dug in the sand for water but all in vain.

"A emigrant belonging to Capt. Smiths Cumpany Came in to our Camp, offered to pay any price for a drink of water. there was none for sail, I had no water and but few of the boys that had. The day had been vary warm and I had walked all day, that I was exceedingly thirsty myself, all though I started with a canteen full this morning I had drank and divided all out soon after starting. I observed this man that I was so dry myself that if I had a drink I would not take \$50 for it."

On Friday November 9th he wrote "...the animal I had was nearly give out...I was soon left behind...I frequently scratched holes in the sand and chewed bullets to make moisture in my mouth...."

"12 men was sent back with water to look for the 4 men. Took a spade, should they find them dead." Later: "...2 of my animals give out. One was the best, as I thought, a horse belonging to Thomas Calester, here I could of

Cried! I pitied the poor dum bruits, leave them without a drop of water to perish or for the Indians to kill & eat after serving me so faithful to the vary last until they could go no longer.”

Bigler and his groups of packers decided they had enough of this being lost and looking for some path to the Walker Pass. They broke away from Smith’s packers to head south to the **Old Spanish Trail** and caught up with wagons that had remained with Jefferson Hunt’s train at the Muddy River. The next *jornada* was the 50-mile trek to Las Vegas with no water and with little grass [called *jornada del muerta*, journey of death]. But these packers were at least not lost any more. They were on the main road to southern California.

When packers came through the Cajon Pass, they had finally arrived. Some of these people signed in at rancho Chino. For example, trapper James Waters wrote as follows: “Jams Waters arvd from the Grate Salt Lake with party of 1.14 [114] men all arrd to the Cheano in good helth with loss of about 30 Muls for the wate [want] of water and grass. October 29 / 49.”

After paying \$10 a wagon to Jefferson Hunt in 1849 to lead them through the **Old Spanish Trail** (via the Mojave River Trail), most gold seekers took a supposed shortcut through southern Utah, Nevada and through Walker Pass to the gold fields of California.

Soon they found themselves blocked by high mountains and cliffs. Some turned back and retraced to the **Old Spanish Trail**; others forged through circuitous routes all over Nevada deserts and Death Valley, only to abandon most their wagons and pack their gear on the animals or on their backs or both.

They were lucky it was in November and December and fortuitous rains or snows fell about every two weeks. Animals were starving because of poor feed and inconsistent water—they were living off their own body. Dying oxen had little nourishment, the marrow from which they would boil for soup was not beige color but runny with brown matter and blood. It had so little oxygen that the meat was blue, according to Vincent Hoover who had followed the regular route to southern California. That’s what they had to eat when their flour, rice and bacon gave out.

To find water the more able men climbed to the top of mountains to scan the mountain bases and the dry lakes for signs of green, meaning there may be water. Once in a while they found fresh water near the edge of a dry lake, but usually it was too salty. They dug in sandy gullies and dry river beds. They followed Indian trails; some 49ers even capturing Indians to ask by sign language where to the west was water. They drank with relish the muddy water found on the desert floor, filling their canteens and pots. And when they found

rain water held in rocky holes, they praised the heavens for their life-saving gifts.

Groups splintered again and again, some rejoining as they met later and some joining other parties. A few came out of the California with their wagons. The rest abandoned their wagons, burning them for fuel to keep warm and to jerk the meat of the starved oxen. For example, a diary note by Young tersely said, “W 6 [miles] (22nd [November]), NW 8 (23rd), W 8 (24th) W 18 (25th)” where Young noted “here we left our wagons.” At what is now McLean Spring just east of Stove Pipe Wells.[Koenig 66-67]

Most ended up walking from southwestern Utah to central California. The starving oxen just couldn’t carry the supplies needed plus the people. There were many “laying by” and “laid by,” sometimes for more days at a time. They were waiting for scouts to come back, or simply trying to recuperate their exhausted animals or their own exhausted bodies. While “watering up” German 49ers Nusbaumer said they jerked meat, recouped and re-shod oxen and sometimes made moccasins for themselves. They were desperate: 49er Stover related this story from two back packers: “We went over the mountains and traveled through a rough country, nothing to shoot, not a living thing to be seen till your horsemeat was all gone and we came one night into a camp [a group of other 49ers] on the big desert. The boys

said we would have to draw cuts in the morning to see who should be killed to eat. As we did not want to be killed to be eaten or eat anybody when we thought they were asleep we got up and traveled till day; then we took our butcher knives and dug holes in the sand and covered up all but our heads till night when we would come out and travel all night again. By this time we did not fear them and were recruited. The sand was what saved us. We think we kept westward more than we did before we left those seven men, they bore northwest too much to suit us. We had almost given out when we thought we saw water and smoke. That cheered us up and gave us encouragement till we made the lake. It was Owen's Lake."

By Christmas 1849, those who followed Jefferson Hunt or who backtracked to the Old Spanish Trail were already in the San Bernardino Valley obtaining refreshments at Lugo's ranch in San Bernardino, or Rancho Cucamonga, Rowland's Ranch in La Puente or Rancho Chino. They were safe and recuperating. The shortcut people were still in Death Valley or in the process of leaving it.

Potential California miner Stephens was in the desert on the 25th: "On Christmas day, 1849, we were all busy making pack saddles and cooking the scanty supply of flour into little biscuits or crackers as they were perfectly hard. We were divided into eight men and two men mess(es) [a "mess" was

the term for cooking or eating group] and each had his share allotted... We had a half dozen of the little crackers, about three or four spoonfuls of rice and about as much dried apples... which must last until we reach settlements."

Juliet Brier wrote this poignant account of their holiday coming out of Death Valley on Christmas. She walked with her three boys Christmas Eve: "Poor little Kirk gave out and I carried him on my back, barely seeing where I was going, until he would say, 'Mother, I can walk now.' Poor little fellow He would stumble on a little way over the salty marsh and sink down, crying, 'I can't go on any farther.' Then I would carry him again, and soothe him as best I could.

"Many times I felt that I should faint and as my strength departed I would sink on my knees. The boys would ask for water but there was not a drop... Night came and we lost all track of those ahead. I would get down on my knees and look in the starlight for the ox tracks and then we would stumble on...

"About midnight we came around a big rock and there was my husband at a small fire. 'Is this camp?' I asked. 'No, it's six miles farther,' he said.

"I was ready to drop and Kirk was almost unconscious, moaning for a drink. Mr. Brier took him on his back and hastened to camp to save his little life. It was 3 o'clock

Christmas morning when we reached the springs... a Christmas none could ever forget."

Then Mrs. Brier added this later about Christmas: "Two young men, St. John and Patrick made up our 'mess' as we called it" and that after the arrival at 3 o'clock on Christmas morning, she was for "lying down immediately, but good, kind Mr. Masterson insisted upon eating a little and gave us each a piece of bread.

"The men killed an ox and we had a Christmas dinner of fresh meat, black coffee and a very little bread. I had one small biscuit..." And: "Music or singing? My, no. We were too far gone for that. Nobody spoke very much, but I know we were all thinking of home back east recalling the cheer and good things there. Men would sit looking into the fire or stand gazing away silently over the mountains and it was easy to read their thoughts. Poor fellows! Having no other woman there I felt lonesome at times, but I was glad, too, that none was there to suffer.

"Fred Carr said to me that night, 'Don't you think you and the children had better remain here and let us send back for you?' 'No,' I said, 'I have never been a hindrance. I have never kept the company waiting, neither have my children, and every step I take will be toward California.'"

Nusbaumer wrote about the New Year: "Happy New Year! The first of January, 1850! Two Alsatians

## Chapter Reports

### WILLIAM WORKMAN CHAPTER REPORT ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

took pity on our condition and provided us with boiled beans. Thus we began the New Year quite cheerfully... We exchanged a pistol for beans and coffee and are now living in comparative affluence. Today (on the 2nd of January) we had excellent soup. We boiled ox feet and snout with beans, ect, for a whole night and as a result we had a fine mulligan this morning... Blessed New Year, dear wife and perhaps child [to his pregnant wife he left back east].”

These are but a few incidents of our California ancestors, a few of the early ones who were eager to make their fortune or new life in our great state. Millions have since come to the Golden State for health or wealth, but few suffered as much as those who took the short cut in the winter of 1849—and finally made it a couple months late.

For more information of the Forty Niners and the trails to California, see *“Lost Death Valley 49ers Journal of Louis Nusbaumer”* by George Koenig, and Koenig’s *Routes of the Death Valley 1949ers*, Hafen’s *Journal of the Forty Niners*, Leo Lyman’s *The Overland Journey from Utah to California: Wagon Travel from the City of the Saints to the City of the Angels*, Louis Manly’s accounts of his Death Valley experiences, and when it gets back into print *Walker’s Back Door to California: The Story of the Mojave River Trail*.

Four members of the chapter attended the Annual Conference in Fredonia/Kanab, namely, Chapter President BILL RAMSAY, Secretary DAVID FALLOWFIELD, Director JOHN THOMPSON accompanied by his wife ANNE. (See photos at bottom of pages 14 & 15)

DAVID FALLOWFIELD writes “We flew with US Airways, for the first time, from Manchester to Philadelphia and as we landed at the airport there, beside the Delaware River, I thought of David & William Workman who sailed all the way from England and used Philadelphia as their port of entry in 1818 (David) and 1822 (David & William). Also, more than 100 years earlier in 1714, a relative, Lancelot Fallowfield, had founded two townships, East & West Fallowfield, in nearby Chester County, PN after purchasing the land from William Penn, but that’s another story.

From Philadelphia we flew to the OST town of Las Vegas and spent the night in North Las Vegas. Next morning we had breakfast on the trail in Mesquite and amused the waitresses, when they realised we were from England and enquired how we had got there, by saying we came by mule on the Old Spanish Trail. We then travelled via Zion NP to Mt Carmel and down to Kanab and checked in at Parry Lodge before turning up at Kanab Airport for registration and some of the afternoon presentations. We participated more fully in Saturday’s agenda and particularly enjoyed the presentations by Leo Lyman, Benn Pikyavit and the “Trail Families – Real Life Stories” with the panel of Don Rowland, Lisa Valdez Bonney & Arvel Bird. At the banquet that evening we were all extremely impressed with Arvel Bird’s wonderful musical performance.

Sunday morning saw us join the large party heading on the East Field Trip under the leadership of Paul Ostapuk. Personally, I enjoyed the geology and scenic wonders of the Paria River canyon most and the resulting photography overwhelmingly proves the point. It was particularly good to have Judy Knudson travel with us in our Jeep. In fact that’s the best feature of the Conference – meeting old friends and making new ones.

On Monday morning after breakfast we split up, John & Anne were heading east and Bill & I were generally heading west. However, first we had some business in the south to attend to. For many years I have wanted to visit Toroweap Point on the north rim of the Grand Canyon and fortunately Kanab made a great base for doing the trip. We headed south to Fredonia then a few miles west on Hwy 389 before taking the dirt road



down to Toroweap – it’s 61 miles in and proved to be nearly 90 miles out by a different route.

It certainly was worth the effort. Toroweap is awesome, some might say scary. The weather was perfect and Bill and I had the place to ourselves. We had bought food in Fredonia and it was indeed a memorable picnic lunch in such a spectacular location. Our outward journey from Toroweap was via west of Mt Trumbull and thru Main Street Valley to St George where we proceeded to Cedar City for overnight lodgings.

Meanwhile, John & Anne Thompson had headed east to South Fork, Colorado where they visited with OSTA members Harry, Pat & Ellie Fluck. They then headed to Santa Fe and later to Kingman, Arizona, then on to Barstow, California before returning to Las Vegas where they spent some time with another OSTA member Ramona Lesley.

After our stay in Cedar City, Bill & I headed into Nevada and visited Cathedral Gorge State Park which looked great in the early morning sunshine. We then headed north west and used Hwy 375 (known as the “Extraterrestrial Highway”) for the first time.

Eventually we reached our destination which was Sacramento in northern California where we spent several days with cousins. From there we headed south to Barstow and had dinner with someone we met at the OSTA

2007 Conference. Next day we spent photographing in the Mojave Desert before arriving in Las Vegas late in the afternoon to meet up with the Thompsons and just in time to say “hello” to Ramona. The following day we flew home – can’t wait for the next year’s Conference!”

DAVID FALLOWFIELD, Penrith, Cumbria, ENGLAND 30th May 2010.

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## **Armijo Chapter Tales of the Trail: The Armijo Adventure**

The few hundred steps from my room at the historic Parry Lodge to downtown Kanab's Crescent Moon Theater enabled me to think about what I was likely to experience at the play. I knew it had been penned by the mighty Don Mimms and I was fully expecting it to be a tightly woven, hard-hitting, action-packed adventure. I'm not sure why I thought that because it had been a mere 48 hours before that I had met Don for the very first time. And he was definitely not a tightly woven, hard-hitting, action packed sort of guy. However, I could tell he was über-organized and very personable, and he smacked of goodness and a strong belief in the better nature of humans.

It turns out his play was all of that and more. Highly imaginative, funny and poignant at times, with insight and entertainment galore. Oh yes, even hamminess with

rugged period costumes worn by the actors. I felt like I was right there on the trail with them, even if I didn't know where the trail was, then or now. Now, I've been to several hundred school plays over the more than three decades I spent in the classroom and so I think I know a bit about how to judge a play's success. The students were really great at bringing the script alive. I suspect they felt it might be their big break, a way out of town, a chance for stardom on the world stage. It was a crafty move as well by writer Mimms to include well-known supporting artists (Arvel Bird and Fritz Davis) in the production, and to use paintings by Pat Mimms to enhance the scenery.

How good was the play? Well, the student performers received a standing ovation, cheers and whistles from the audience, as well as some scholarship money. Quite frankly, the whole experience was a great way to spend a lively Friday evening in a lovely little town just north of bustling Fredonia, Arizona. It's inspired me to complete my own personal journey to San Gabriel Mission, hopefully in the next year, looking for adventure.

Ken de Masi  
Arizona Director



## Nevada Chapter OSTA Clean-up Day Activity May 22, 2010

Dear Spanish Trail Members:

The Nevada Chapter of the OSTA conducted a clean-up activity along the Old Spanish Trail from Cottonwood Springs (Blue Diamond) to Stump Springs on the western leg of the Trail from Las Vegas to the California state line.

One of the goals of the Nevada Chapter is to introduce the OST to the youth of Southern Nevada. The Clean-up Activity was a preview of the Fall Marking of the Trail activity the Chapter has planned for late October through early November 2010 - our goal is to remark the Trail, with the assistance of BLM and other service minded people within the greater Las Vegas community: the Boy & Girl Scouts, High School Service Clubs, Boys

& Girls Clubs, Church Youth Groups and other Youth Oriented community based groups.

The group had a very productive day collecting several bags of trash at specific historic sites along the Trail - Cottonwood Springs, Mountain Springs and Stump Springs.

Ashley Hall, President  
OSTA - NV Chapter



Members of the NV Chapter-OSTA at Mountain Springs & Meadows (Mount Potosí Peak in the Background) Clean-up Activity of OST Site Locations from Las Vegas to Stump Springs. L to R: Lorna & Ashley Hall, Hal Steiner, Kelley Bradley, Liz Warren, and BLM's Stan Rolf & Kathleen Sprowl, Archaeologist



There are several large pre-historic Native American cooking pits adjacent to Mountain Springs. These Pits are approximately 4 feet deep, 10 to 20 feet in Diameter and filled with small limestone rock. Archeological estimates date these pits to 2,000 years old. Kathleen Sprowl pictured.

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## La Vereda del Norte Chapter:

On April 13th, the La Vereda del Norte Chapter hosted a "spring rendezvous" event that brought together representatives of groups interested in promoting history-related events in the community. Suzie Off, treasurer of the chapter, reports that over half of the 45 attendees were non-OSTA

members. The meeting was largely responsible for at least two Southern Colorado OSTA projects that are now being planned or discussed, including the possibility of OSTA's trail steward program being expanded to the San Luis Valley area of Southern Colorado. Recent follow-up visits with some of the meeting attendees have, so far, resulted in three new memberships. Chapter members Ray Lara and Suzie Off joined

Don Mimms in a June 22nd meeting with federal partner representatives at the public lands headquarters in Monte Vista regarding possible federal assistance with the proposed local trail steward program. Mimms reports that interest in the program is high, but adds that a great deal of investigation and discussion must occur before decisions about it can be made.

# *Paso Por Aqu*



# ui, Año 2010



**Join Old Spanish Trail Association members and friends--  
Trail Experience in the Rockies  
August 13-15, 2010**

Two nights on the Old Spanish Trail (and you can stay longer), hosted by OSTA Past President Douglas M. Knudson. Come enjoy the highest point on the Old Spanish Trail-- Cochetopa Pass (10,065 feet altitude). On the Trail and on the Continental Divide. Bring hiking boots, a bicycle, horse, and water. Drive the North Branch of the OST. We will camp in tents at Luder's Creek Campground at 10,000 feet elevation near Cochetopa Pass. It has six developed sites, with "in-the-woods" camping nearby

**Friday August 13:**

Arrive at rustic, beautiful Luder's Creek Campground to pitch your tent, reconnoiter the area, and cook your favorite supper.

**Saturday August 14:**

Study the birds, the varied vegetation, and wildlife with an interpretive naturalist; learn the wild country that the OST travelers confronted.

Discover trails through the thick pine and spruce forests (at least 5 good trails):

- The Great Divide Mountain Bike Trail,
- The Continental Divide Ntl Scenic Trail/Colorado Trail, and
- any of many National Forest roads and trails.

Go on an archaeological treasure hunt.

Drive the Old Spanish Trail route with an early supper in Saguache area.

Back at Luder's Creek, tell your favorite campfire stories.

**Sunday, August 15:**

Early bird walk, if weather permits. Camp cooperative breakfast. Then hike, bike, ride, or soak up the ambiance at the top of the nation's great watersheds.

Break camp or stay a little longer.

- We'll experience some of the conditions that the traders faced back in the 1830-1850s. The cost is free--except for your lodging, food you cook for yourself or meals you buy. Safety and good sense are required--this is a gathering of friends and OSTA people, not a commercial event. Be prepared to be responsible for your actions and behavior.

If you want to enjoy this Trail Experience please ask for more details from:

Doug Knudson, 89 Fir Dr., South Fork, CO 81154

douglasfir@gojade.org 719-873-5239





## Hike the Hill: Trails Advocacy Week: February 20-25, 2010, Washington D. C.

(Excerpted from Warren/Grandrud "Trails Advocacy Week" Report)

Trails Advocacy Week, as always, offered many opportunities for OSTA's delegation to renew friendships and working relationships with the Partnership for the National Trails System, American Hiking Society, and other trail organizations advocates. Our delegation consisted of OSTA President Reba Wells Grandrud, PNTS Liaison Liz Warren, and OSTA VP Jere Krakow. A major highlight on Monday morning, February 22, was the group trip to our national Capitol. After a chilly gathering at the Lincoln Memorial for speeches and photos, about 100 trail enthusiasts joined in the first-ever "Hike the Mall" event from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol. There, a group photo was made and encouraging talks were given by two leaders of the House Trails Caucus. Past President Doug Knudson was able to join us Monday morning for the hike, helped Liz carry the OSTA banner, and after lunch, attended the USDA/Forest Service Leadership meeting with Reba.

Reba, Liz, and Jere attended Saturday morning meetings scheduled at the hotel by co-sponsor, the American Hiking Society, on a variety of topics; on Saturday afternoon, we attended the PNTS Board Meeting, and were updated on issues regarding finances, legislative policies, membership, and the great strides made in

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### Trail Host Program

*Following is an alphabetical list of OSTA's Trail Hosts--businesses that offer special services to members and serve as distribution centers for OST information*

**Abiquiu Inn.** Category: Lodging/Dining. 21120 Hwy 84; Abiquiu, NM 87510. 505-685-4378 or www.abiquiuintn.com. Intimate inn, restaurant, gift shop, gallery. Historic area (Armijo's departure site). Near Abiquiu Pueblo, Abiquiu Dam, Chama River, Ghost Ranch. Discounts for OSTA guests.

**Cynthia's** (formerly Ranch House Inn). Category: Lodging. 2001 Old Spanish Trail Hwy; Tecopa, CA 92389. 760-852-4580 or www.discovercynthias.com. Desert and OST-themed lodging, including special programs of personal/family OST adventures. Owner: long-time OSTA member Cynthia Kienitz.

**Dessert First Kitchen.** Category: Dining. 410 8th Street; Saguache, CO 81149. 719-655-0113. Casual dining with emphasis on home style entrees, desserts, pastries and coffees. Gift shop. Across the street from an excellent museum. Local owner/staff. Discounts for OSTA guests.

**El Rey Inn.** Category: Lodging. 1862 Cerrillos Rd; Santa Fe, NM 87505. 505-982-1931 or www.elreyinnsantafe.com. Vintage midtown inn; white adobe haciendas; garden style grounds, patios, pool, sauna, bus at front door. Long-time local owner/staff. Discounts for OSTA guests.

**Hotel Don Fernando de Taos.** Category: Lodging/Dining. 1005 Paseo del Pueblo Sur (Hwy 68); Taos, NM 87571. 575-758-4444 or www.donfernandodetaos.com. Mid-priced hotel, classic pueblo style. About one mile from Plaza. Free shuttle. Pool, lounge, restaurant. Discounts for OSTA guests.

**Hotel Santa Fe.** Category: Lodging/Dining. 1501 Paseo de Peralta; Santa Fe, NM 87501. 505-982-1200 or www.hotelsantafe.com. Luxury hotel, restaurant. Native American owned and styled. Near downtown. Guadalupe Railyard District. Museums and shops nearby. Discounts for OSTA guests.

**Inn of the Rio Grande.** Category: Lodging/Dining. 333 Santa Fe Ave (Hwy 160); Alamosa, CO 81101. 719-589-5833 or www.innoftherio.com. Established hotel, water park, conference center, restaurant. Moderate prices. Locally owned/operated. Great Sand Dunes nearby. Discounts for OSTA guests.

**Old Cow Town.** Category: Lodging/Dining. 36710 CC36; Saguache, CO 81149. 719-655-2224 or www.oldcowntown.net. Upscale 1880's Old West town reproduction. Individual, family, corporate lodging/dining. Chapel, museum, cattle drives, horsemanship lessons. Reservation only. Discounts for OSTA guests.

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**DAVID & WILLIAM  
WORKMAN  
Cumbrian Pioneers of the  
American West**

*by John Sharpe*

David Workman (1797-1855) and his brother WILLIAM (1799-1876) were adventurous Cumbrians who took the American West by storm but never forgot the quiet corner of England where it all began.

David was just twenty-one when he opened this drama of pioneering enterprise in 1818 by leaving the English village of Clifton, Westmorland, for the United States with £100 cash, to set up as a saddler with Penrith man John Nanson at the rough-hewn frontier settlement of Franklin, Missouri. When Nanson left and funds ran low, David made the 10,000-mile round trip home to raise more cash and recruit his brother William. Back at the saddlery by the Missouri River the Workman brothers took on a young apprentice called Kit Carson, whose destiny was the stuff of legend as America's ultimate frontiersman and scout.

With David's runaway apprentice Kit not far behind, William braved the Great Plains of the Cheyenne and the bison in 1825 on the 1,000-mile Santa Fe Trail to Nuevo Mexico, newly free of the crumbling Spanish Empire but still over twenty years from US annexation, to sell illicit "firewater" in that exotic northern

outpost of Mexico west of the Pecos River and take a leading role among shadowy beaver trappers of the Rocky Mountains, the "reckless breed of men" who were America's original Wild West pioneers. While the Clifton family fretted for news of errant sons so far from home, William survived desperate illness and clashes with Indians to become a naturalized Mexican and set up home with a local *senorita* and their two children at a place called Taos.

Hidden away at 7,000 feet in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico, Taos (rhymes with "house") was a scattering of dirt-floored adobe dwellings dominated by the twin towers of a little church, its streets littered with animal dung and the central plaza either dry and dusty or ankle-deep in mud, depending on the season. A chaotic haunt of gun-toting trappers and smugglers and a magnet for Comanche and Navajo raiding parties, Taos could hardly have been more different from the peaceful old Clifton that William had left just three years earlier.

#### THE US-MEXICAN WAR

A hard man who was not always on the right side of the law (such as it was) in tough times, William Workman progressed from trapper to store owner and outfitter of trapping expeditions, and did well for himself in shaky New Mexico. In 1841 he stood accused of siding with the hostile Republic of Texas and plotting to assassinate New

Mexico's despotic Governor Manuel Armijo as civil disorder threatened to engulf the troubled territory. It was time to head West once again.

Governor Armijo railed against William's "torrent of evils" in his volatile domain as the intrepid Englishman was well on his way to leading the first American settler party 1,200 miles over America's toughest pack-mule route across the blistering Mojave Desert to the little Mexican pueblo de Los Angeles, where a well-placed \$1,000 in gold won him 18,000-acre Rancho La Puente. Unerring loyalty to California's embattled Governor Pio Pico earned rancher William respect as "Don Julian", while La Puente grew to nearly 50,000 acres and other real estate coming the energetic newcomer's way for services rendered included Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay.

The US-Mexican War hit fabled California not long after William Workman reached the Pacific shore with his dynamic band of American pioneers. He brokered the surrender of Los Angeles to American forces early in 1847 - just a few days before his old friend Charles Bent, who had stayed on in New Mexico and become the territory's first American civil governor, was shot and scalped by a mob of Mexicans and Indians in Santa Fe. Three years later Gold Rush riches sent William via Acapulco and Vera Cruz to New York and across the Atlantic to London and the home

of his youth at Clifton, where he was welcomed by a brother and sister he had not seen for nearly thirty years.

Back in California, rancher William prospered as Los Angeles grew from a small Mexican pueblo into a violent cow-town of the 1850s and matured into the American capital of an agricultural empire with a limitless future. In 1868 he and a flamboyant son-in-law founded the growing town's second bank, but a few years later the acclaimed Workman and Temple Bank failed with the loss of his beloved Rancho La Puente and William tragically ended his life with a gunshot.

When self-assured young William and restless apprentice Kit hit the trail for New Mexico in the 1820s, David Workman stayed on to marry in frontier Missouri but was widowed within a year then flooded out of his riverside home. Re-housed and remarried by his early 30s, he went on to be an inveterate trader over the Chihuahua and California Trails who survived everything from robbery in El Paso to fire in Sacramento and marauding Sioux and Cheyenne on the prairies of Nebraska. As the Plains Indian Wars loomed and Civil War storm clouds gathered over Missouri, he led his family 2,000 miles west by wagon train to Los Angeles and met an untimely end in California's booming goldfields.

## LOS ANGELES TO CLIFTON & PENRITH

William's granddaughter Josephine was a Hollywood star of the silent era, with 70 Westerns to her credit in the 20th century's second decade. David's youngest son, William Henry Workman, was a distinguished Mayor of Los Angeles in 1887 and 1888, before becoming the City Treasurer with responsibility for early financial planning for the 250-mile aqueduct project that brought Owens River water into LA in 1913, setting the stage for the rise of the motion picture industry and the city's most phenomenal growth. Aged 73 in 1912, William Henry enjoyed a fabulous European tour with his wife Maria and daughter Mary Julia, and realized a lifetime's ambition to see the old Workman home at Clifton.

William Henry Workman's older brother Elijah had travelled to Clifton from Los Angeles in 1879, to sell up the remaining Workman property in the village with the assistance of the old family's Penrith solicitors, Cant and Fairer. He was followed 25 years later by his nephew, thirty-year-old William Henry Jr, son of ex-mayor William Henry, who visited the ancestral home at Clifton and toured the Penrith area in May 1904, during a world cruise that was part of his convalescence after a serious illness. Writing home to his father, William Henry Jr enthused about Lowther Park with its deer and Ullswater's "sylvan scenery", and said of Penrith:

"Penrith is a substantial, quaint old town. We got there on market day when the principal streets are filled with farmers' wagons full of produce which they have brought to exchange for the harness and ploughs, shoes and calico, that the shop keepers too have brought out for the barter. The streets are all well macadamized, there are stone pavements all about. The houses look clean and well kept, and the predominance of plate glass windows shows that the people are not poor. All the kids and some of the big people too wear shoes with wooden soles with a bit of brass or copper tacked over the toe. A troupe of them going along the highway make almost as much noise as Japanese in their wooden sandals."

Nothing, it is said, has defined America and the character of its people more than the nation's westward expansion. Certain it is that the Wild West, that most potent symbol of the American dream, was won at terrible cost to those already living there – and to the pioneers who set out to make it theirs. Whatever the story's contradictions, the territorial expansionist who claimed it was America's Manifest Destiny to spread across a vast continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific could have had no better champions for his cause than David and William Workman. Theirs was the stuff that made America.

--John Sharpe  
Clifton  
2010



## Conference Highlights



### Gary Werner Visits OSTA

Gary Werner, executive director of the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS), from Madison, Wisconsin, was highly visible, and audible, at the conference this year. Not only did he deliver a keynote address, but he also went out of his way to spend time in meetings with the OSTA Board of Directors and others throughout the four days of his stay.

His first appearance was at the meeting of the board on April 29th in Fredonia, where he made a presentation regarding current trail-related initiatives being supported by PNTS. His keynote address on Saturday, titled “Dynamics of Success: How OSTA Can Achieve Its Goals,” outlined fundamental principles that an organization such as OSTA needs to stress as it plans for future growth. A major theme of his comments was the power of partnership among organizations with similar goals.

OSTA President Reba Grandrud, who introduced Werner, said OSTA was fortunate to have Werner attend the conference. “There’s absolutely no doubt,” she said, “that we have been greatly benefitted by the activities of PNTS, and being able to hear directly from its executive director is a unique opportunity for us.”

Werner has a long history of assisting national historic and scenic trails, and has received several awards for his service. His efforts at the annual “Hike the Hill” event in Washington, DC, are widely credited with encouraging Congress to continue funding for federal agencies such as NPS, BLM and USFS that support those national trails.

PNTS, formed in 1991, represents the collective interests of organizations that preserve, protect, develop and maintain America’s national historic and scenic trail system.

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### Ten Years and Counting

Carl Rountree, Director of BLM’s National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) addressed OSTA members and guests at its conference on May 1, 2010, in Kanab, UT, the first such appearance by the program’s director in OSTA’s history.

His presentation, occasioned in part by the 10th anniversary of the founding of the NLCS, included an exceptional slide and video depiction of portions of the



Carl Rountree, Director of BLM’s NLCS

866 special areas of public land managed under the NLCS in 11 Western states plus Alaska and Florida.

In describing the distinctive mission of the NLCS, Rountree quoted former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, who said in March of 2000 that the new program would “set the standard for protecting landscapes, applying evolving knowledge and social standards, and bring people together to live in harmony with the land.”

Rountree pointed out: “The establishment of the NLCS is changing BLM’s management of public lands, to focus more on the conservation component of its multiple-use mission.”

The landscape-focused mission of the NLCS targets about 27 million of the 253 million acres of public land managed by BLM. Among the NLCS assignments are 16 National Monuments, 16 National Conservation Areas, 221 Wilderness Areas, 545 Wilderness Study Areas, and 11 of the 19 National Historic Trails, including

the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.

Encouraging his OSTA audience to appreciate the distinctive mission and real-world value of the NLCS division of BLM, Rountree again quoted Babbitt: “These landscapes are the very heart of who we are—the ancestral soil of all of us who trace our roots to a love of the land. Let’s pass it on.”

Rountree became NLCS Director following about 30 years experience in multiple roles with BLM, including Associate State Director for the Arizona BLM, and Budget Officer in Washington, DC.

### Upcoming Meetings

OSTA Trail Experience  
Cochetopa Pass  
August 13-15, 2010  
Saguache, Colorado

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro  
Association (CARTA)  
Hispanic Heritage Celebration  
September 11, 2010  
El Camino de Real Heritage  
Center  
Socorro, New Mexico

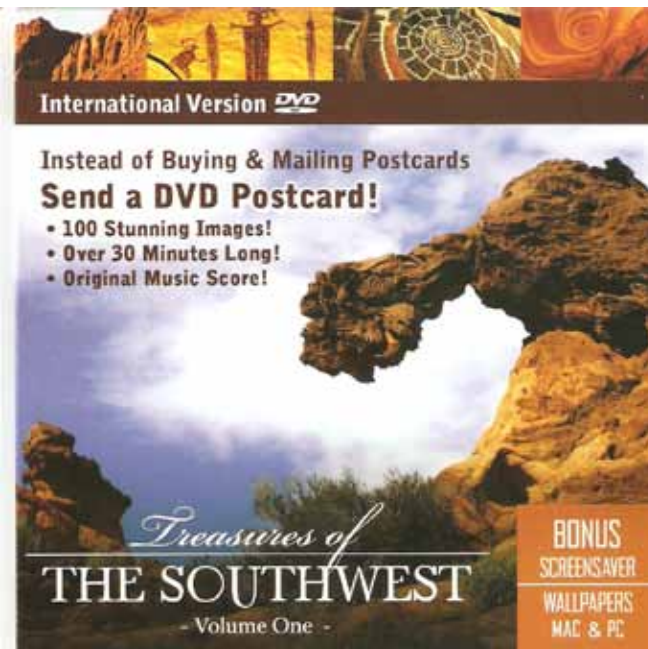
2011 OSTA Conference  
“The 170th Anniversary of the  
Workman-Rowland Expedition”  
June, 2011  
San Gabriel Mission and  
City of Industry, California



Dr. Dan Shilling

One special feature of this year’s conference was a presentation titled, “Historic Trail Economic Opportunities for Small Towns,” an attempt to engage local community representatives in dialogue about a possible dual-focus approach to tourism. Dr. Dan Shilling of Phoenix, an acknowledged expert on what is sometimes called “civic tourism,”

outlined ways in which a community can use tourism to sustain and protect its heritage and culture, rather than allowing it to compromise the community’s values. Conference Director Paul Ostapuk says that while he hopes the Kanab/Fredonia area will someday find ways of focusing more local and tourist attention on the Old Spanish Trail, Shilling’s presentation was actually not designed to promote OSTA’s interests, but those of the local community. Shilling, whose presentation was well received, is former director of the Arizona Humanities Council, and has received many awards for his work in community development, including being named “Person of the Year” by the Arizona Office of Tourism. He is author of a recent book titled, “Civic Tourism: the Poetry and Politics of Place.”



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OSTA STORE  
pg. 26



WHADDYA MEAN BY THAT? Characters from “Tales of the Trail: the Armijo Adventure” rehearse some of the racial tensions dealt with in the story. L-R: Kanab High School Drama Students Andrew Corry (as Jed Rogers); Josh Ochoa (as Rafael Rivera); David Kirby (as Smoke Dancer); Christi Cox (as Willow).

A Dramatic Milestone: continued from page one  
 The play was a two-act depiction of an 1829 history-making mule caravan from Santa Fe to the Los Angeles area, led by Antonio Armijo. The journey had a significant effect on trade across what is now the southwestern United States, leading to about 20 years of consistent overland trade between present-day New Mexico and California.

Acting for the play was provided by six Kanab High School drama students, directed by Linda Alderman. Their roles included two men known to have made the journey, Antonio Armijo (caravan leader) and Rafael Rivera (a scout), and four fictional characters: Jed Rogers, an Anglo; Marie Trujillo Rogers, Jed’s new Genizaro bride; and Smoke Dancer and Willow, representing a Native American guide known to have accompanied Armijo.

Fritz Davis of Red River, NM, played the part of fictional Mose Johnson, an Anglo ‘narrator’ who introduced each scene with an educational but playful monologue. Arvel Bird, a Native American classical violinist and flute player, joined Davis in providing live music throughout the performance.

The play, though centered on the caravan journey, also dealt with some of the cultural and political upheaval characteristic of that era. “The students,” Mimms says, “did a great balancing act between racially prejudiced attitudes, on one hand, and a certain camaraderie that ultimately brought them closer together.”

At the final performance of the play, OSTA presented “life achievement awards” to each student actor, honoring their work with monetary honoraria for use upon graduation from high school. Funds were supplied by OSTA and several Kanab area organizations. The students also received life memberships in OSTA.

The play was videotaped, and consideration is being given to having the tapes edited and made available for public viewing.

Mimms, who wrote the script and one song for the play, says the project was an experiment to test the practicality of using historical drama to tell some of the stories of the Old Spanish Trail. “It will take awhile for the association to determine the implications of it,” he adds, “but everyone I’ve talked to seems to think it worked well in this particular instance.”



Arvel Bird, Native American violinist and flutist, accompanies Fritz Davis’s singing one of Fritz’s original songs, “It’s a Good Day to Die,” a theme that seemed relevant to the danger-filled journey depicted in the play. Photo by Pat Mimms

## “I Want to Go with Armijo”

### VERSE 1:

A caravan is gathering in the plaza,  
California bound from Santa Fe.  
Antonio Armijo says, “Come with me.  
Pack your gear, we’ll leave at the break of  
day!

### CHORUS:

I want to go with Armijo.  
I want to see the Native Land.  
I’m ready to cross those cactus canyons,  
Ready to crawl the desert sand.  
Morning sun behind me, fire burns inside  
me.  
I wanna go!

### VERSE 2:

Marie don’t want to winter here without  
me.  
Says Abiquiu ain’t kind to a girl alone.  
“Jed,” she said, “don’t be such a  
dreamer!”  
But I walk away to find Antonio.

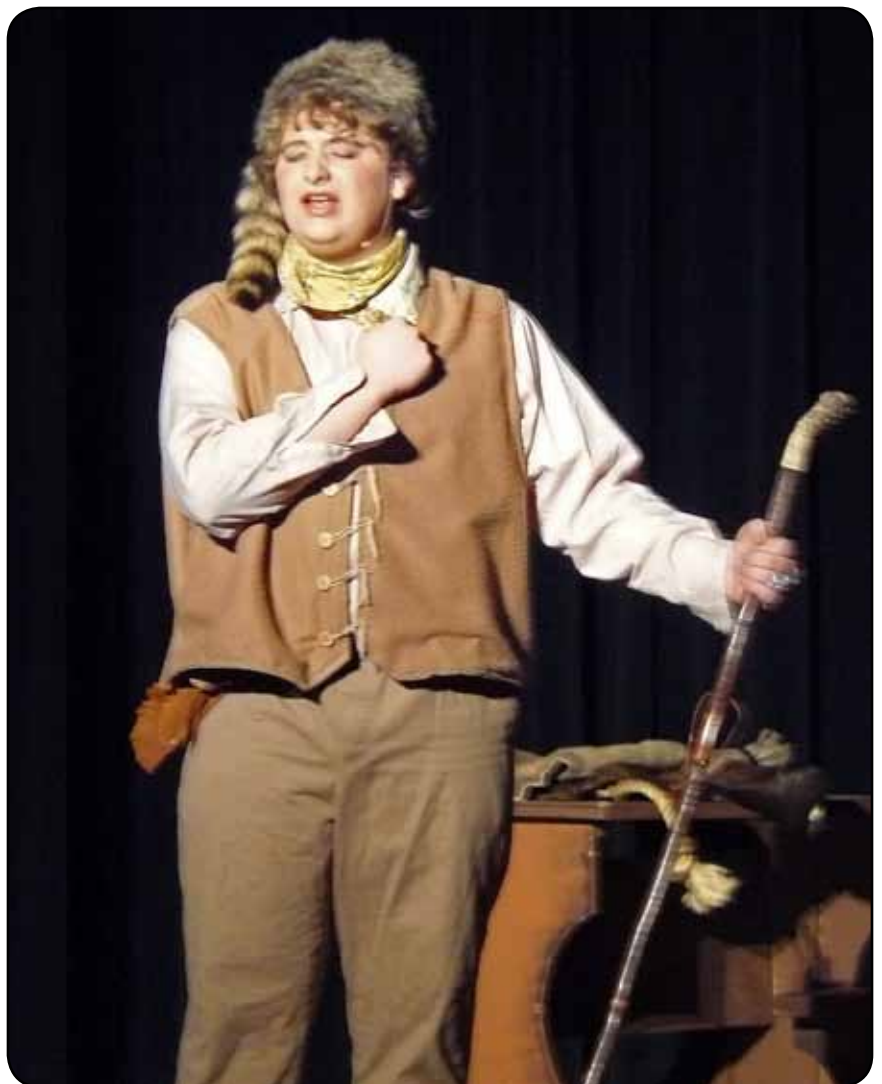
### Repeat Chorus

### VERSE 3:

I walk the line, shaking hands with  
strangers,  
White and brown and red side by side.  
Marie watches, shedding tears in silence.  
Armijo cries, “To every man the prize!”

### Repeat Chorus

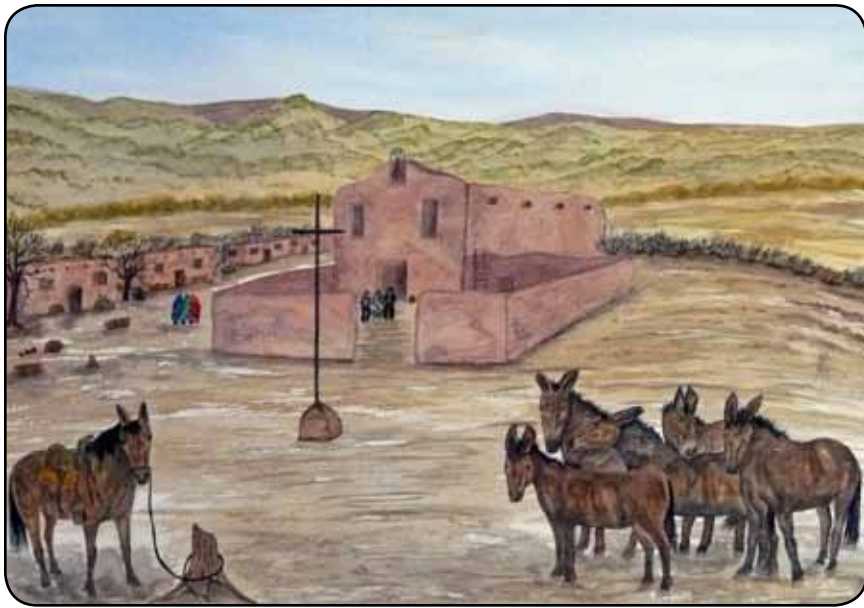
Lyrics and Music by Don Mimms  
©2009 Old Spanish Trail Association



Andrew Corry (“Jed Rogers”) sings a song written for the play, titled, “I Want to Go with Armijo,” depicting Jed’s desire to accompany the caravan to California despite his new wife’s strenuous objections. Photo by Pat Mimms



Josh Ochoa (“Rafael Rivera”), right, tries to talk Judah Evangelista (“Antonio Armijo”) out of taking a caravan to California, citing dangers from hostile natives, drought, floods, snakes, and just about anything else he can come up with, before finally giving in and grumbling all the way to San Gabriel. Photo by Pat Mimms



Watercolor painting by Pat Mimms that was displayed during Act One, Scene Two



Association Manager, Don Mimms, introduces the play



Artist Pat Mimms with desert camp scene background painting



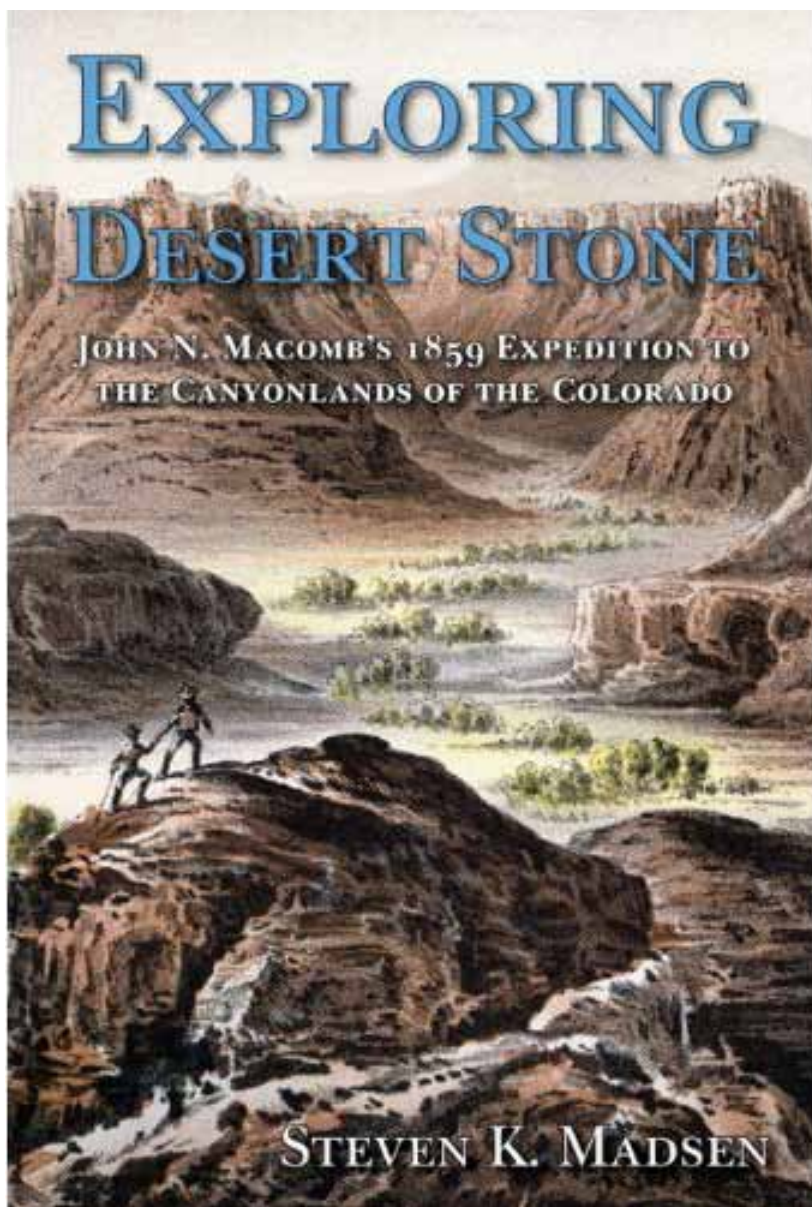
### National Historic Trails Workshop

OSTA member Mark Henderson delivers a presentation titled, “Developing a Trail Steward Program through Volunteerism” at the National Historic Trails Workshop in San Antonio, May 12-14, sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System. Mark’s presentation focused on OSTA’s trail steward training program currently under development.

The program will focus initially on Arizona Strip segments of the trail, but will expand to include the other five OST states as well. Three workshops, based on a training manual now being developed, are scheduled for this fall.

More information about the program is available from Mark Henderson, [markscotthenderson@netzero.net](mailto:markscotthenderson@netzero.net); Paul Ostapuk, [postapuk@cableone.net](mailto:postapuk@cableone.net); Don Mimms, [manager@oldspanishtrail.org](mailto:manager@oldspanishtrail.org). (See article on Trail Steward Program on back page.)





**Madsen, Steven K. 2010. Exploring Desert Stone; John N. Macomb's 1859 Expedition to the Canyonlands of the Colorado. Logan: Utah State Univ. Press. 273 pp. + folded map. This book is available on [www.oldspanishtrail.org](http://www.oldspanishtrail.org) or through Utah State Univ. Press.**

Two old but active skiers read a good book this winter. We thought you should know about it. This new book informs, excites, confirms, and expands our vision of the Old Spanish Trail and enriches our sense of this part of the nation.

It also attests to the fine work of Captain Macomb, geologist John S. Newberry, civil engineer Charles H. Dimmick, Ferdinand B. Meek, and Frederick W. von Egloffstein and

their associates. Few of these got praises due them; the Civil War delayed publishing of their findings. During much of their mapping and geological work, they were following the Old Spanish Trail from Santa Fe into today's Canyonlands National Park in central Utah.

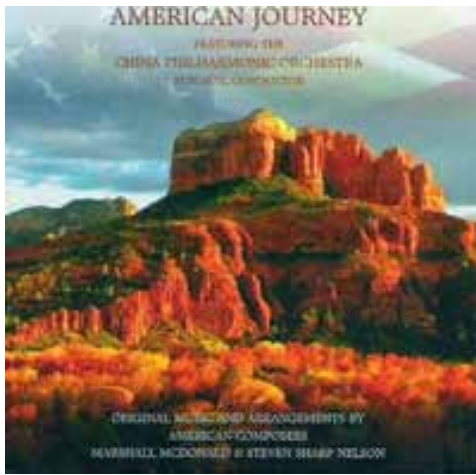
Author Madsen wrote succinctly and efficiently. He gave us a broad view plus many fascinating details. He chose very well from a mass of information that he uncovered. Readers will enjoy the good, clear writing style. The superb drawings and photographs enrich our understanding tremendously.

The map is worth the price of the whole book. It correlates closely with modern maps making it possible to tie the places to topographic features and modern highways. The appended diaries and commentaries by the principals reinforce the facts and impressions in the text. It is refreshing to read of dedicated, decent, competent men who have done excellent work, even though they received little recognition.

OSTA member Steve Madsen has done thorough research for over six years to produce this diligent recording of the travels and findings of Captain Macomb's crew. Even the side trip to Aztec Ruins sheds light on this Armijo Route feature.

Charles Elliott, one of our eldest (96) OSTA members brought the book to my attention as we rested in between ski runs at Wolf Creek Ski Area (which he founded). He was delighted with the photo and information about his great grandfather, Albert Pfeiffer (which he had supplied to the author). Mr. Elliott loaned me his copy; I read it and immediately ordered my own copy. Mr. Elliott and I recommend this book to OSTA members, especially those interested in geography of the eastern part of the Main Branch of the Old Spanish Trail.

—Douglas M. Knudson



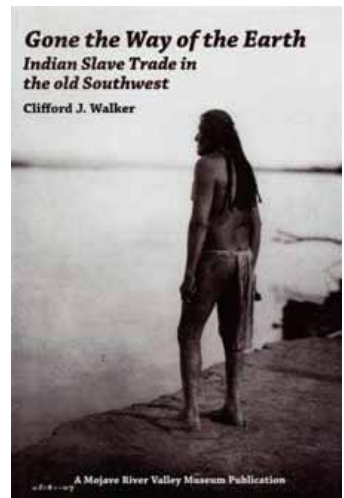
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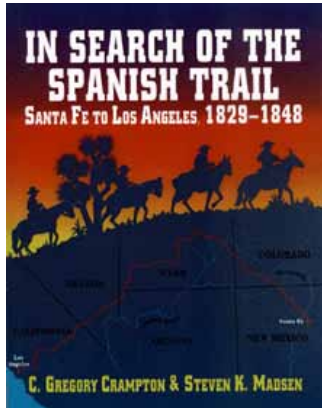
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### *In Search of the Old Spanish Trail*

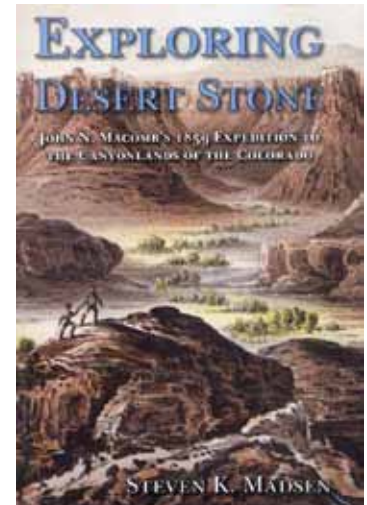
This book is a distillation of about 50  
years of research on the Old Spanish  
Trail by the late Dr. Crampton and  
about 20 years by Mr. Madsen.

The book is an indispensable  
companion for travel over the trail.  
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**Steven K. Madsen**

Madsen's work provides the first detailed investigation of the 1859 Macomb Expedition into western Colorado and the canyon country of Utah.

(See Doug Knudson's review on page 25 of this issue.)

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Hike the Hill: continued from page 17

PNTS office capacity that has resulted in significant improvement to the PNTS website, Pathways, and internal office functions. Sunday morning, Reba had an early breakfast meeting of the PNTS Membership Committee which she chairs; we all attended the PNTS Leadership Council meeting from 8 a.m. to noon. Sunday afternoon, Jere Krakow as Chair of the PNTS Decades Committee, led a wrap-up workshop from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., well-attended with a total of ninety people signing in.

A variety of meetings were held on Monday and Tuesday afternoons with agency representatives from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service. Jere and Reba attended the session with USDA Forest Service chief and staff, and Jere gave Chief Tidwell a packet of information on Miranda Canyon in northern New Mexico. The rest of the week, there were agency leadership meetings and individual appointments with Congressional offices (Senators, Representatives, and/or their staff) as each had been able to set up.

A final special event was the annual Wednesday night Congressional Trails Caucus Reception. It was held this year at a venue new to us but old in Washington's traditions: the Members' Room in the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress. It is a rare place, elaborately decorated in 19th century motifs, and only made available if a member of Congress requests to use the space. The week spent in our nation's capital was time well-spent.

**Trail Hosts, continued from page 17**

**Parry Lodge.** Category: Lodging/Dining. 89 E. Center; Kanab, UT 84741. 435-644-2601 or [www.parrylodge.com](http://www.parrylodge.com). Many stars stayed at this lodge while filming (F. Sinatra, J. Wayne, G. Peck, D. Martin, etc.). Red Barn Theater. Nat'l Reg. Historic Places. Near national parks. Discounts to OSTA guests.

**Peace of Art Café & Organic Peddler.** Category: Dining/Lodging. 14475 W. Hwy 160; Del Norte, CO 81132. 719-657-9042 or [www.organicpeddler.org](http://www.organicpeddler.org). Quaint café, coffee shop, gift shop, bed/breakfast. Organic entrees, groceries. Quilts, clothing, gifts. Locally owned/operated. Discounts for OSTA guests.

**Sagebrush Inn.** Category: Lodging/Dining. 1508 Paseo del Pueblo Sur (Hwy 68); Taos, NM 87571. 575-758-2254 or [www.sagebrushinn.com](http://www.sagebrushinn.com). Upscale vintage hotel, restaurant, cantina, conference center. Long-time local owners/operators. Near shopping, galleries, museums. Discounts for OSTA guests.

**Silver Sage Steakhouse.** Category: Dining. 104 4th Street (Hwy 160); Ft. Garland, CO 81133. 719-379-3600. Western-theme, moderately priced restaurant. Beef/American entrees. Locally owned/operated. Large dining room, cozy lounge. Sand Dunes nearby. Discounts for OSTA guests.

**Sky Ute Casino Resort.** Category: Lodging/Entertainment/Dining. 45,000 sq ft gaming floor. 146 rooms/suites. Luxury spa, salon, pool, bowling. Five restaurants. Conference facilities. Near Durango. Owned by Southern Ute tribe. Site of 2009 OSTA conference. Discounts for OSTA guests.

**Spurs Grill.** Category: Dining. 78 E. Center St.; Kanab, UT 84741. 435-644-8080 or [www.kanabchamber.com/members](http://www.kanabchamber.com/members). Cowboy-themed, featuring fire-grilled BBQ, steak. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, buffet, salad bar. Seats 300. 60-seat western-themed outdoor patio. Locally owned/operated. Discounts for OSTA guests.

**Town & Country Inn (Best Western).** Category: Lodging. 189 N. Main; Cedar City, UT 84720. 435-586-9000 or [www.bwtowncountry.com](http://www.bwtowncountry.com). Large hotel/conference center. Two pools/spas. Complimentary breakfast. RV park. Limo service. Meeting rooms. Local owner. Discounts for OSTA guests.

## New Look for an Old Trail

Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of the National Park Service (NPS) National Trails office in Santa Fe, and Sarah Schlanger, Trail Lead for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), unveiled the new logo (below left) for the Old Spanish National Historic Trail during OSTA's conference in Kanab on May 1st. The new logo had been in development for a few years before being formally presented this spring.

OSTA Manager Don Mimms said he is happy to see the new logo. "Its use will be promoted by the trail partners and managed by the federal administrators to unify public recognition of the trail," he said. He added that the new logo does not replace nor limit the use of OSTA's existing logo, explaining that the federal logo represents the national historic trail while OSTA's logo is specific to the association.

Mahr and Schlanger told conference attendees that permission for use of the new logo is available from the NPS and BLM, which will review requests on a case-by-case basis.



The Trail Steward Program, when fully developed, will provide a method and process for trained volunteers to monitor the condition of designated "high-potential segments" of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and report their findings to agencies in charge of public land through which those segments pass: the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

The workshops cited above will focus on segments of the "Arizona Strip" section of the trail, in northern Arizona, but will also include emphasis on segments in southern Utah and southern Nevada. Funding for the first phase has been approved by BLM, and separate BLM funds have been earmarked for expansion of the program in the very near future to the other states through which the OSNHT passes: California, Colorado and New Mexico.

More information about the program, including plans for development of its next phases, is available from OSTA Manager Don Mimms, who may be phoned (719-242-8619) or e-mailed ([manager@oldspanishtrail.org](mailto:manager@oldspanishtrail.org)).

### Trail Steward Program Update:

Paul Ostapuk, project manager for the first phase of OSTA's new Trail Steward Program, has announced dates and locations for the program's first three training workshops. The first session will be in Kanab, UT on September 10–11, 2010; the second in St. George, UT on September 17–18; the third in Mesquite, NV on October 8–9. Additional information about locations and times will be available soon.

Plans for the training workshops have been underway since last year, including an initial session in Phoenix in early December. An OSTA-specific training manual is nearing completion, and much of the training process has been developed. The workshops will feature a day of classroom instruction on Friday, followed the next day by field training.

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ASSOCIATION  
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