

SPANISH TRACES



Volume 17

Autumn 2011

No. 2



Michael White Adobe Wins LA County Preservation Grant

A grant of \$7,500 was awarded by Los Angeles County to the Friends of the Michael White Adobe, San Marino, California. The 1845 White Adobe was constructed for a young English sailor, Michael White, who lived in it with his family until 1878. It is one of only 39 extant 19th century adobes remaining in Los Angeles County. Constructed of sun-baked blocks made of water and clay, the modest three-room, one-story house exemplifies local residential construction common in Southern California prior to its US annexation in 1848. In 2009, the San Marino School District planned to demolish it for a high school campus expansion.

The protest of local residents, including volunteers Jerryd and Jane Pojawa who attended the OSTA conference in Pomona, and the preservation community led to the formation of the Friends of the Michael White Adobe to propose new uses for the Adobe. In August 2010, the project was awarded a \$5,000 grant to conduct a feasibility study for adapting the adobe into exhibit space for the San Marino High School Hall of Fame. The Los Angeles County Preservation Fund grant will be used to repair the moisture-damaged lower walls of the 1845 Michael White Adobe. Visit www.michaelwhiteadobe.com for more information.

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THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Old Spanish Trail (OST), one of America's long distance pioneer trade routes, is recognized by Congress as a National Historic Trail. From 1829 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, trappers, families, military expeditions, and Indian guides.

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

Visit the OSTA Website
www.oldspanishtrail.org

The OSTA website has an interactive map highlighting scenic trail locations and is the place to go for both general background and recent news on the OSNHT and OSTA. The site contains maps, an overview history of the trail including a bibliography, a listing of relevant books with links to sites where they can be purchased, and a regularly updated news page that contains links to government reports, activities of the OSTA members and other news related to the trail. The web page also links to National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sites that have links to public documents and maps of the OSNHT. Copies of the DVD *Old Spanish Trail Suite*, a CD of back issues of *Spanish Traces*, books and pins can be purchased from the site. Memberships (new or renewal) may also be paid via Paypal on the OSTA website.

Spanish Traces is the official publication of the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Colorado.

Spanish Traces welcomes submission of articles, book reviews, and OST related news. The next deadline for submissions is November 10, 2011. All matters relating to *Spanish Traces* should be directed to the OSTA Association Editor.

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OSTA Membership:

Individual	\$25/year
Family	\$30/year
Sustaining	\$50/year
Student	\$12/year
Institutional	\$30/year
Life (single or couple)	\$250
Corporate	\$100/min

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President's Corner by Reba Grandrud OSTA President

What a pleasure and privilege to once again be sending greetings to OSTA members across the nation and across the seas! (UK members—we missed you at the Pomona meeting!) Another memorable symposium is behind us. Each year we set high goals for attendance and quality programming, and again we were not disappointed---the constant stream of compliments was music to the ears of OSTA leadership, and especially to members of the hardworking 2011 Conference Committee, Jack Prichett, Chair, and Alex King, Program Committee Chair. What a great venue-- Kellogg West Hotel in Pomona, California! (See full conference report elsewhere in this issue). And you should know that insightful planning by Leo Lyman's 2012 Conference Committee is already underway; mark your calendars for June 14-17, and

count on another exciting annual meeting next year in Richfield, Utah.

The OSTA board will convene on September 8-10 at the Plaza Hotel in historic Las Vegas, New Mexico, where our Association Manager, Dennis Ditmanson, lives. He and his wife, Carol, are active members of Las Vegas' Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation, and we will enjoy a "meet and greet" meeting with that group on Thursday night. Las Vegas has an impressive number of its historic buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places, well over nine hundred. Saturday afternoon, a brief tour is planned of the imposing Montezuma Hotel, built in 1886 near Las Vegas Springs by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad. The restored edifice is now part of Armand Hammer's United World College campus where two hundred accomplished students, ages 16-19 from 80+ countries, meet as strangers and over their two years at UWC develop "an ethos of critical thinking, discovery, and cross-cultural understanding that will. . . touch the people, institutions, and societies that they serve."

Friday and a half day on Saturday will be devoted to reports, discussions, deliberations, and action on a long list of items that are designed to continue the good progress that is being made by OSTA members and chapters in six states and the UK. Among other actions, we plan to take a firm look, under the guidance of VP Paul Ostapuk,

President's Corner continued on page 4

at OSTA's Strategic Plan that was formulated in December 2009 and make changes as needed, and we expect to prioritize the long existing list of potential projects in order to provide maximum benefit to the Trail and to OSTA. Aaron Mahr, NPS Superintendent, will be updating everyone about the Comprehensive Management Plan, the NPS brochure, and what can be expected as all our federal partners face extensive budget cuts for the next fiscal year(s.) One of the first board actions will be the approval of Judy Nickle as board secretary. Judy, wife of Arizona Director Jerry Nickle, is highly qualified. Several vacancies still exist: California Director—though Alex King capably continues to fill in as interim director; and chairs for several Standing Committees. If any of our readers are interested in helping fill these volunteer positions, please contact your state director, any board officer, or the association manager.

Over the past two years, the OSTA board, with support from our federal partners, has shown increasingly serious interest in the enlistment of young people in the organization. A large step was taken when Jack Prichett applied (with Sarah Schlanger's BLM assistance) for a Student Conservation Association intern to help with the 2011 Pomona conference.

Ryan Muccio of Tecopa proved to be an excellent choice, as he provided valuable assistance during the four months of his internship with OSTA. During that time, Ryan represented our organization well at the 13th National Trails Conference in Abingdon, Virginia, on a Partnership for the National Trails System scholarship. Now as a volunteer, Ryan is co-chairing OSTA's Youth Initiative *Ad Hoc* Committee with Ashley Hall, president of the Nevada Chapter. Also, there is a possibility that he will be helping OSTA start a new enterprise—an electronic periodic newsletter. Just know that for now, we are expecting more youth involvement in OSTA as Ryan and Ashley put together an active youth-oriented committee. Contact either of them if you want to help.

Did you know that we value your opinions? As readers of *Spanish Traces*, perhaps you have ideas for new projects, topics you would like to see in the publication, books or other items you wish we would carry in our retail sales department, or you want to volunteer in some way. Let us hear from you. Everything we do is intended for benefit to the Old Spanish Trail, one of our nation's most fascinating national historic pathways.

Manager Musings

by Dennis Ditmanson
OSTA Association Manager



Last issue I noted the Association's receipt of a grant from the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs to prepare a National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form along with National Register Nominations for six high-potential Trail segments, one in each of the Trail states. The team members working on this project were Reba Grandrud, Mark Henderson, Rachel Preston Prinz, Baker Morrow, Will Moses and John Roney. Terry Moody in the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division coordinated the project. This turned out to be a monumental task and probably a much heavier workload than originally envisioned but through diligence and hard work, the deadlines were met and final

drafts of all the required documents were submitted on schedule. Much work remains as the various state and federal agencies review the drafts but the hope is that a final package will be ready for forwarding to the Keeper of the National Register by sometime next year. A special thanks goes to Terry Moody who truly went above and beyond in her work on this project.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll see a report on the annual conference in Pomona, California. This of course was my first OSTA conference but I was wowed by the quality of the presentations and the overall professionalism of the event. My congratulations to Conference Chair Jack Prichett and Program Chair Alex King and to all who had a hand in putting the event together. Planning has already begun for next year with Steve Heath, Leo Lyman and David Ogden setting the stage for Richfield, Utah, June 14-17, 2012. Put those dates on your calendar.

There is one lingering piece of business to bring to your attention. For the last couple of years the issue of reviewing and possibly amending the Association Bylaws has been a matter of discussion. Several proposals have been introduced, motions made, motions amended and a motion was placed on the agenda for the general membership meeting in Pomona.

Issues with the wording and even the legitimacy of that motion came up and at the Board meeting it was voted to withdraw the matter from the agenda. President Grandrud asked that I put together a small group to review the process to date and prepare a consolidated report and proposal for action in Richfield next year. That process is underway and I'm still looking for volunteers to assist with the review. Not the most exciting work but vital for the long-term health of the organization. Contact me at osta@desertgate.com if you'd like to help.

And finally, a comment on communication. OSTA is such a wide-spread organization that it seems we must depend on the impersonal world of emails to stay in touch. I've been a bit frustrated with the lack of response to my occasional requests for information, updates, reports, etc. If emails are not the best way for me to contact you, please let me know what will work better. I can only serve you if I know what the needs are. At the next Board meeting, September 9-10 here in Las Vegas, NM, the Board will hear a proposal for initiating an electronic newsletter which may provide a mechanism for more frequent updates of Association activities, chapter events, and member news. The 19th century meets the 21st!

California Parks Related to Old Spanish Trail Slated to Close

As announced back in May, due to budget cuts arising from our hard economic times, 70 California State Parks remain slated to close in September --or have already closed. Included are parks of all types: recreational, natural, historic and cultural.

Different efforts continue to stave off the closures: [California State Parks Foundation](http://my.calparks.org/site/PageServer?pagename=2011ParkClosures), has a good map of all parks affected and a donation plan to help keep them open: <http://my.calparks.org/site/PageServer?pagename=2011ParkClosures>

Another effort is at [Save Our State Parks](http://savestateparks.org/): <http://savestateparks.org/>

Among the parks to be closed are the following that are on, near, or related to, the *Old Spanish Trail*:

Providence Mountains State Recreation Area, which includes Mitchell Caverns and is on or near the Mojave Road.
www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=615

Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park.
www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=632

Pio Pico State Historic Park.
www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=621
www.piopico.org/

Fort Tejon State Historic Park.
www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=585
www.forttejon.org/

Welcome the New *Spanish Traces* Editor

Ruth Friesen grew up in Kansas near the Santa Fe Trail and now lives near the end of several Trails in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As an Air Force wife, she ventured far from Kansas including four years living in Germany.

Ruth began editing Air Force social organization newsletters when cut and paste actually involved scissors and adhesive. She is the incoming editor of *Wagon Tracks*, the journal of the Santa Fe Trail Association, and edits *SouthWest Sage*, the monthly newsletter of SouthWest Writers (www.southwestwriters.com) "I enjoy the puzzle aspect of putting together a publication," she said, "making everything fit and please the eye." Under her leadership, the *Sage* won second place in the 2010 National Federation of Press Women's Communication Contest.

With degrees in Education and Business, Ruth has managed a high tech trade show, shepherded aircraft equipment contracts with Honeywell and created monthly seminars as the Chamber of Commerce staffer in charge of Leadership Albuquerque. In 2002 she spearheaded the creation



of Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, a recycled building materials store, in Albuquerque and managed it for three years.

In addition to writing marketing materials for businesses, her creative nonfiction essays have been published in several anthologies and magazines. She is also an amateur photographer with awards from the Kansas City Star and the Albuquerque Journal.

"Learning more about Western history, and getting to know the people who relish studying it, is a real bonus to editing *Spanish Traces*," Ruth said.

Spanish Trail Suite Performed in China

by *Laurel Kay Dodgion*
Orchestra of Southern Utah

The Old Spanish Trail took travelers on a journey from New Mexico to California for many years. Now its musical namesake, the *Spanish Trail Suite* has toured parts of China, bringing distinction and international recognition to the original trail. This international endeavor has been in large part due to the work of Xun Sun, Musical Director and Conductor of the Orchestra of Southern Utah. Sun has conducted the *Suite* on both sides of the Pacific, in the United States in 2007 and 2008, and in China in 2009 and June 2011 (with a combined Southern Utah/Chinese orchestra).

2007: The World Premiere

The Orchestra of Southern Utah first commissioned and performed *The Spanish Trail Suite* by Marshall MacDonald and Steven Sharp Nelson in 2007 to commemorate and celebrate the route used by Native Americans, Hispanic traders, mountain men, and pioneers.

As Al Matheson of the Old Spanish Trail Association reported, the premiere was met with local enthusiasm and encore performances at the Heritage Center in Cedar City, Utah. Matheson also commented that after following the premiere, many OSTA members wanted to see more from *Spanish Trail*. They did not have to wait long.



2008: Video Enhancement in Concert and on DVD

Jerry Waddell and Video Ideas, Inc. of Chattanooga, Tennessee, worked with orchestra members, historians, pilots, photographers, native Paiutes and OSTA to create The Spanish Trail Suite with Video Enhancement DVD. The February 2008 world premiere received a standing ovation. Shortly thereafter the DVD and OSU received three national awards and attention from the other side of the globe – China.

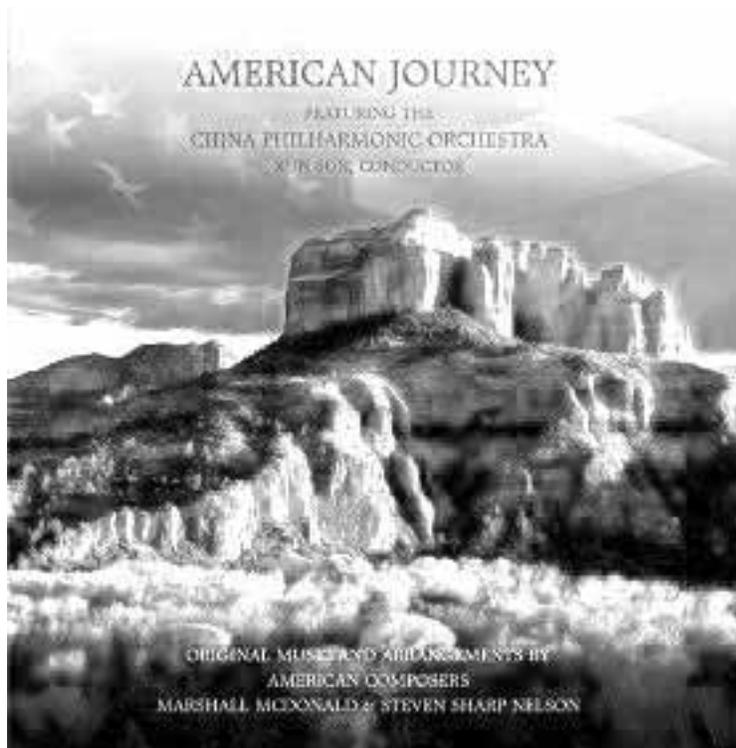
2009: The Spanish Trail in Beijing

Sun conducted both the *Spanish Trail* world premiere and Video Enhancement world premiere, but his work with the suite did not end there. Sun, a native of China and United States citizen, and OSTA members including Matheson arranged for the piece to be recorded by the Chinese National Philharmonic Orchestra in Beijing.

The *Spanish Trail*, conducted by Sun, was very well received and the performance was later released by Opus Con Brio, Inc on the “American Journey” CD.

2011: The International Orchestra

The *Spanish Trail Suite* and Sun returned to China in June 2011, this time with 11 members of OSU. The musicians performed the Suite with the Hubei Symphony Orchestra in a concert honoring Helen Foster Snow, a former



Cedar City resident, who worked to develop co-ops to fight hunger and support the establishment of schools and hospitals. The *Spanish Trail* was considered an integral part of this commemorative concert, as the Spanish Trail itself was an important part of Snow’s heritage.

The Southern Utah/Chinese orchestras, under the direction of Sun, performed the Suite in Wuhan, Yueyang, and Beijing.

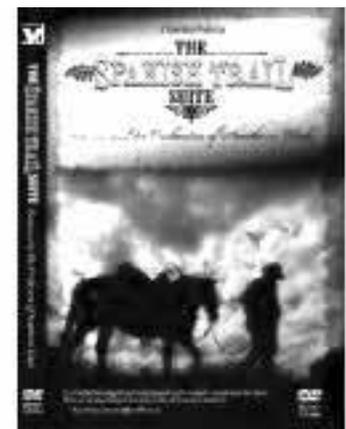
Marlene Barth, who accompanied her daughters OSU musicians Marissa Barth and Caitlin Robbins, commented, “The combined orchestras and choir received a standing ovation, resulting in three curtain calls and an encore.”

People from all over the world traveled on the Spanish Trail, and

now, thanks for the efforts of Sun, the Spanish Trail now travels the world.

The Spanish Trail Suite with Video Enhancement DVD and the CD “American Journey” that contains the Spanish Trail Suite are currently available for purchase at OSTA’s retail

store at www.oldspanishtrail.org/store.php. For more information on The Orchestra of Southern Utah and *Spanish Trail Suite* in China, including photos, visit www.orchestraofsouthernutah.org.



OLD SPANISH TRAIL: SAN BERNARDINO TO MISSION SAN GABRIEL, LOS ANGELES

by *John W. Robinson*

Trails and wagon roads of the late 18th and early 19th centuries were largely determined by two factors --availability of water, and path of least resistance. Water was the major factor for desert trails, but in the Southern California valleys and plains, the path of least resistance was usually followed. The path of least resistance between Rancho San Bernardino and Mission San Gabriel was through the gap between the San Jose Hills, south of present-day San Dimas, and the northern end of the Chino Hills, which leads from the Pomona Valley into and through the Puente Valley. This is the only route between San Bernardino and San Gabriel and on to El Pueblo de Los Angeles that follows a level course almost all the way. In the early and mid 19th century, this was known as Camino San Bernardino, or San Bernardino Road.

The fifty-mile route between the San Bernardino Valley and the Los Angeles plains was, well before the European arrival, a major transportation corridor. Mohave runners from their villages along the Colorado River carried on a brisk trade with the Gabrielino, or Tongva, and the Chumash peoples of the Southern California coastal regions. Shells, used for decorative purposes and money, along with dried fish, were in great demand by inland peoples. Trade was carried on over an elaborate network of Indian trails, most of it carried on

the backs of young Mohave, who are said to have made the trip to the coast and back in ten days. The main route used by the Mohave to trade with the coastal peoples was the ancient Mohave Trail, which traveled from the Colorado near today's Needles, across the desert and over the San Bernardino Mountains to the San Bernardino Valley, then west to the villages of the Tongva and Chumash. The exact route of this native trading trail is not known for certain, but we have a clue in the writings of Franciscan Padre Francisco Garcés, who followed the Mohave Trail from the Colorado River to newly-established Mission San Gabriel in 1776.

Father Garcés' diary reveals that from the San Bernardino Valley to Mission San Gabriel he traveled "close under the sierra on our right." It appears he may have followed the upper, hilly route to the mission. The one place name he mentioned was Arroyo de Los Osos, the "Canyon of the Bears," where he camped one night. This is believed to have been San Antonio Creek, in or close to the present-day city of Ontario. Mission San Gabriel Arcangel was founded on September 8, 1771 and moved to its present location, one league north of its original site, in September 1775. By 1800, the mission was a prosperous community, relatively so by early California standards, with many native "neophytes" working fields of agriculture and herding hundreds -

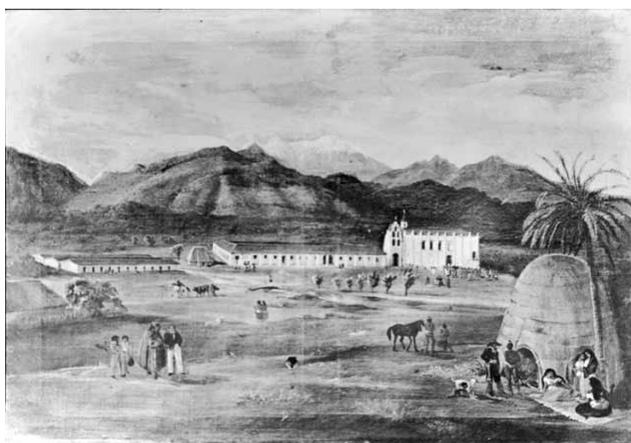
later thousands --of livestock both cattle and horses. Mission San Gabriel's first outlying stock ranch was Rancho La Puente, five miles to the southeast near the entrance to the Puente Valley. As early as 1792, Rancho La Puente was the designated name for the area. Four years later a priest from Mission San Gabriel stated that the La Puente had 3,000 head of cattle, over 4,000 sheep and horses grazing on its lands. The rancho was also distinguished because it had an adobe granary erected as storage for the wheat fields cultivated by neophytes who were supervised by mission padres.

Unrest on the part of some of the Mission San Gabriel's neophytes began a few years after the mission's founding. Many of them resented the strict control over their lives by the padres. Unrest reached a fever pitch in 1810, when many of the unhappy native people fled into the mountains and desert, taking with them some of the mission livestock. Ensign Gabriel Moraga, military chief of Spanish Alta California, was ordered to investigate, punish the offenders and restore order. Moraga and Sergeant José Maria Pico led a series of military expeditions to capture the "heathens" --as the Spanish referred to renegade natives --and return the stolen livestock. Many of these punitive expeditions scoured the desert on both sides of the Mojave River, and most of them were unsuccessful. Moraga and Pico and their soldiers obviously traveled

east from San Gabriel to the San Bernardino Valley before turning north over Cajon Pass, but the precise path they followed from the mission to San Bernardino is not known.

The beginning of a well-traveled pathway from Mission San Gabriel to San Bernardino came in 1819. Father Zalvidea, reportedly in response to an appeal from the Guachama Indians for instruction in agriculture and stock-raising, established Rancho San Bernardino that year. The Guachamas were a subgroup of the Serrano people who inhabited the San Bernardino Valley and mountains. The location of the new mission rancho was in present-day Loma Linda, on Mission Road just east of Mountain View Avenue. Two adobe structures were erected to house the *mayordomo* and serve as a granary and storehouse. To nourish agricultural plantings, a four-mile *zanja*, or irrigation ditch, from Mill Creek, east of present-day Redlands, was excavated, probably in 1820. Within a few years, the San Gabriel padres established other mission stock ranchos around the San Bernardino Valley: Jumuba, just west of the original rancho; Agua Caliente, north to Arrowhead Hot Springs; Yucaipa, in the foothills to the east; and San Gorgonio in the pass of the same name.

Originally a *capilla*, or chapel, was erected at Rancho San Bernardino headquarters. With the great numbers of Serrano Indians the padres wished to convert, a larger mission *estancia* --not an *asistencia*, as San Bernardino County now calls it --was erected. (An *asistencia* was similar to a mission but with a traveling rather than a resident priest. A mission *estancia* had only occasional visits by a priest. There were only five *asistencias* in all California; the nearest one was Pala in San Diego County.)



San Gabriel Mission 1830s

To connect Mission San Gabriel with its five ranchos to the east, Camino San Bernardino developed from a narrow dirt path into a well-used but still primitive wagon road. Horsemen, ox-pulled *carretas* loaded with supplies, cattle and horses all journeyed between the mission and its eastern ranchos. El Pueblo de Los Angeles, now grown into a community of several hundred persons, probably used the road for trade purposes, bringing in grain to help feed its citizens.

Onto the scene, with startling abruptness, came Jedediah Strong Smith, the first Anglo-American to reach California overland, in the year 1826. Smith led a party of seventeen trappers south from Salt Lake to the Mohave villages along the Colorado River, then west across the Mojave Desert and over the mountains into the San Bernardino Valley. Our interest here is in tracing Smith from the latter valley west to Mission San Gabriel. This tracing of Smith's route is based mostly on his own writings, many of which only came to light in recent years. We owe a debt of gratitude to George R. Brooks of the Missouri Historical Society for his superb editing of Smith's diaries in *The Southwest Expedition of Jedediah Smith: His Personal Account of the Journey to California, 1826-1827*, published by the Arthur H. Clark Company in 1977.

Jedediah Smith's route from Salt Lake into the San Bernardino Valley is agreed upon by most historians. But his itinerary from the valley to San Gabriel bears no such unanimity of opinion. Historians have long been at odds over his precise route here, largely because the diary and day book of his lieutenant, Harrison Rogers, published some sixty years ago, are vague on this part of their journey. Specifically, did Smith and his men take the route directly west, close under the San Gabriel foothills, later known as Upper San Bernardino Road, or the slightly longer but leveler route through La Puente Gap?

Why does it seem more likely that Smith and his men followed the lower route? Two reasons: Smith's own words that he traveled west-south-west from San Bernardino, which would take him through La Puente Valley, known in Mission days as Valle de San José. His last stopping place before reaching the mission was Rancho La Puente. If he took the upper route, La Puente would have been well out of his way. (It should be noted that the Mission Rancho La Puente was centered in today's City of Industry, near the mouth of La Puente Valley; whereas the La Puente land grant of 1845 covered a much larger area, extending north to the southern boundary of Rancho Azusa.) Both Smith and Rogers mention their short stay at La Puente, the largest livestock rancho of Mission San Gabriel. Next day Smith rode on to the mission, where he was warmly greeted by Father José Sanchez. The date was November 27, 1826.

Although the mission padres appeared happy to see Smith and his trappers, Governor José María Echeandia of Mexican California noted their presence with far less enthusiasm. He summoned the "impudent trapper" to San Diego, where the governor was then residing, and ordered Jedediah's party to leave California by the way they had come.

Smith and his men departed Mission San Gabriel on January 18, 1827. They spent a night at Rancho La Puente, then continued to Rancho San Bernardino, where

they rested several days before leaving the area.

Jedediah Smith returned to Southern California in 1827-28, reaching only as far as the San Bernardino Valley. Jedediah and his men remained at San Bernardino only five days, recuperating and replenishing their provisions, but did not continue to Mission San Gabriel, probably for fear of Governor Echeandia's wrath.

Hardly a year and a half after Jedediah Smith's departure, Antonio María Armijo crossed Cajon Pass and reached the lush San Bernardino Valley, leading a caravan of loaded mules on what soon became known as the Old Spanish Trail. Armijo's 1829-1830 trade caravan inaugurated the annual Santa Fe-Los Angeles pack train journeys, bringing New Mexican woolen goods to exchange for California horses and mules.

Armijo's diary entries of the initial days of his *jornada* were often long and detailed, but became sparse as he neared journey's end. Typical entries for his last weeks are as brief as "ate a mule," "ditto," "ate a horse." Our interest here is of the final five days of his journey and the route he followed between Rancho San Bernardino and Mission San Gabriel. Below are his final entries. We quote Armijo's lately discovered diary:

January 27, 1830: "Along the same arroyo [Cajon Canyon?] we met the detachment with supplies and people from the Ranch of San

Bernardino." Short of provisions, Armijo had dispatched a rider to Rancho San Bernardino asking for help.

January 28, 1830: "To the San Bernardino." They reached the lush San Bernardino Valley and rested the remainder of the day.

January 29, 1830: "To the stopping place of San Jose." San Jose was the mission-age name for the Pomona Valley and also the Puente Valley to the southwest. Armijo and his men camped somewhere near here for the night.

January 30, 1830: "*A la Fuente*" translated as "to the Fountain." Here there is a controversy. Where was this Fountain, spelled with a capital letter to distinguish it as a proper noun, a named place? In all the literature involving Mission San Gabriel and its livestock ranchos, historians have found no mention of a place called "La Fuente." The most likely explanation is that La Fuente was actually La Puente, with capital "P" replacing capital "F." With this in mind, it becomes obvious that Armijo and his caravan traveled through the Puente Gap -- the only level route -- to Rancho La Puente, where they spent the night.

January 31, 1830: "To the San Gabriel Mission." Armijo and his men followed the well-worn road from La Puente six miles north-east to San Gabriel, where they were warmly greeted by the padres. From the mission, the trade caravan followed the *camino*

west-southwest to El Pueblo de los Angeles, which closely followed today's Mission Road from the city of San Gabriel to the central plaza of Los Angeles.

For the return trip to New Mexico, Armijo divided his caravan, now including some of the horses and mules he received in trade for his woolen goods, into three sections. The first group set out on February 24 and traveled the same route which they had come and reached Santa Fe in forty days, less than half the time of the westward journey. Armijo led the second group, setting out on March 1 with most of the purchased livestock and reached New Mexico via the same route in 56 days. A third, smaller party went south and followed the Yuma Trail to Sonora.

Some writers have assumed that Armijo's party followed a virgin, trail-less route from Rancho San Bernardino to Mission San Gabriel. Nothing could be further from the truth. By Armijo's time, 1829-1830, a distinct, well-traveled road existed between the Mission and its five stock ranchos in the San Bernardino Valley, plus the newly-established (1829) Estancia in today's Loma Linda. There were undoubtedly mission priests, *carretas* loaded with agricultural goods, supply wagons, and vaqueros herding livestock along the well-beaten dirt pathway later known as Lower San Bernardino Road.

Armijo's pioneering journey instituted the annual series of trade caravans that plied the Old Span-

ish Trail between New Mexico and Southern California-which lasted nineteen years until the final caravan in 1848 following the American conquest.

Momentous change came to California during the years of the Old Spanish Trail. The Mexican Secularization Act of 1833 brought an end to California's mission era. One by one, through the middle and late 1830s, the California missions were converted to parish churches and were stripped of their extensive rancho holdings. Mission San Gabriel was one of the first to go, losing all seven of its outlying livestock ranchos.

In its place came the era of the great land grant ranchos, the time, to quote historian Robert Glass Cleland, of "The Cattle on a Thousand Hills." One by one, Mexican California's governor granted large sections of land to worthy Mexican citizens. East of San Gabriel the first grants were Rancho San José, centered in the Pomona Valley, to Ygnacio Palomares and Ricardo Vejar in 1837; and Rancho Jurupa, west of today's Riverside, to Juan Bandini in 1838. Rancho Cucamonga was granted to Tiburcio Tapia in 1839. In 1841 Rancho Santa Ana de Chino was granted to Antonio Maria Lugo, and the following year the huge Rancho San Bernardino was awarded to Lugo's three sons and a cousin, José Maria Lugo, Vicente Lugo, José del Carmen Lugo, and Diego Sepulvida.

Ranchos Azusa de Duarte and Azusa de Dalton were granted to

Andres Duarte and Henry Dalton respectively in 1841 and 1844. These two foothill ranchos extended from today's community of Duarte east through present-day Azusa, and were reached by what later became known as Upper San Bernardino Road. This dirt pathway traversed some hilly terrain but was slightly shorter and more direct than the more heavily used Lower San Bernardino Road. From San Gabriel, the upper route followed an east-northeast course to the Ranchos Azusa then due east through Mud Springs (today's San Dimas) and the upper portion of Ranch San José to a junction with the lower road just beyond San Antonio Creek. Here there was an important fork. The left fork, heading northeast, went through what is now known as the DeVore Cut-off into lower Cajon Canyon, where it joined the well-traveled route over Cajon Pass. The right fork continued straight east to Rancho San Bernardino. Just when this upper road came into use is undetermined. It is possible that some of the later Old Spanish Trail caravans, anxious to reach Los Angeles, may well have utilized it.

Great herds of horses and cattle grazed on these land grant ranchos, and this extensive livestock, poorly guarded, soon attracted the attention of horse thieves. Escaping mission neophytes had long absconded with small numbers of livestock, particularly horses, but now organized parties of outlaws, traveling the western part of the Old Spanish Trail, some from as far away as Utah and New Mexico,

began preying on the vast herds. The most successful horse thieves were *Los Chaguanosos*, a motley band of New Mexicans, Americans, and Indians who, in the years 1836 to 1840, swooped down on the San Bernardino, Pomona Valley, and Chino ranchos to abscond with literally hundreds of prized horses. The greatest horse-stealing raid in California history occurred in 1840 by a large band led by a bold Ute chieftain named Walkara, “The Hawk of the Mountains,” and assisted by Thomas “Pegleg” Smith. While Walkara and his Utes went north and stole choice horses from the San Luis Obispo area, Pegleg and his band of Americans and Piutes raided ranchos San Bernardino and San Jose, and went as far west nearly to San Gabriel, and south as far as San Juan Capistrano. In three days and nights, the two parties stole upwards of 2,000 horses (one source says 5,000), which they drove east on the Old Spanish Trail.

Mexican Californio authorities made a serious effort to recover the purloined horses and capture the thieves. Solders from Santa Barbara Presidio, augmented by vaqueros from some of the victimized ranchos, raced over Camino San Bernardino in a largely fruitless attempt to recover the stolen hoses. The frustrated Californios never were able to halt this serious threat to their livestock, which was the major underpinning of the province’s economy.

From 1837 on the Old Spanish Trail increasingly served a dual

purpose, both as the route of annual trade caravans, and as a path of immigration. The Wolfskill-Yount party of 1830-31 was the first settlers group to use the trail, well before the Slover-Pope group. William Wolfskill settled in Los Angeles, and George Yount ended up in the Napa Valley of northern California. Isaac Slover and William Pope traveled the path in 1837. Slover settled in the San Bernardino Valley near the little disappearing mountain named for him. The largest group of Ameri-



Los Angeles about 1850

cans was the Rowland-Workman party, which included Benjamin Wilson, who traveled the trail in 1841. John Rowland and William Workman, who had become Mexican citizens, applied for Rancho La Puente in 1842 and were granted the 48,000-acre spread by Governor Pio Pico in 1845. Benjamin “Don Benito” Wilson, who refused to become a Mexican citizen, purchased Rancho Jurupa in 1843. In the early 1840s large groups of New Mexicans traveled the Old Spanish Trail to the San Bernardino Valley and in 1842

founded the community of Agua Mansa, along the Santa Ana River just north of today’s Riverside. Agua Mansa was the first town-sized community in the valley.

The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, signed on February 2, 1848, formally ended the U.S.-Mexican War. California and a vast stretch of the Southwest were now part of the United States. Change came rapidly as thousands streamed west during the Gold Rush. Within three or four years after the treaty signing, Los Angeles grew to a good-sized community of some 2,000 people.

By 1850 Los Angeles was loosely connected to outlying areas by a number of *caminos*, or highways, radiating outward from the town’s central plaza somewhat like the spokes of a wheel. These were highways in name only. Other than the well-traveled

wagon road between the growing city and San Pedro Bay, and possibly the lower road to San Bernardino, these were mostly narrow trails easily negotiable for horses but over which wheeled vehicles often found difficult going.

The first official government description of the radiating roads resulted from an order by the Los Angeles Court of Session, May 19, 1851, listing and describing the routes of all the *Caminos Publica*, or Public Highways, in the County of Los Angeles. At the time Los Angeles County embraced all

of San Bernardino and Orange counties, and parts of Riverside and Kern counties. These detailed descriptions date from only three years after the demise of the Old Spanish Trail, giving us knowledge of routes probably traveled by the trade caravans on the last part of their journey, from San Bernardino to Los Angeles.

Our interest here is the roads between Los Angeles and San Bernardino. The court order defined the San Bernardino Road as running “from Los Angeles to Mission San Gabriel, thence to the Rancho Puente” thence to the Rancho of the Ybaras [Walnut], thence to San Jose [Pomona], by the plain below the Rancho of Cucamonga, thence to the hill of the Aguajila by the Pueblo of the New Mexicans [Agua Mansa] by Jumuba to San Bernardiuno.”

The Upper [San Bernardino] Road was more briefly defined as going “from Los Angeles to San Gabriel and Azusa between San Antonio and San Jose to the plain below the Rancho of Cucamonga to San Bernardino.”

J.M. Guinn, Los Angeles' first real historian, vividly described these early *caminos*: “Along these roads there were no milestones to tell the distance; no guideboards to direct the way; no bridges across the rivers: no cut through hills or fills of the gulches. If a mudhole impeded, it was easier to go around it than to fill it. If the winter rains cut a deeper channel in the arroyo leaving steeper banks on the sides, it

was more convenient to go up or down the stream to find a crossing than to grade an incline.”

In the times of Jedediah Smith and the Old Spanish Trail, the journey between San Bernardino and Mission San Gabriel usually required three full days of rigorous travel. Today, using our freeways, you can make it in an hour or so.

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Conference Report

by Jack Prichett
2011 Conference Chairman

You'd have a hard time finding remains of the Old Spanish Trail near California's Mission San Gabriel or the present-day central plaza of Los Angeles, where the trail ended. The mule traces of the 1830s and 40s now lie beneath freeways, subdivisions, and busy city streets.

You'd never guess that to judge by the lively interest of those attending OSTA's 2011 conference in Pomona, California, 30 miles east of Los Angeles. Entitled "The Old Spanish Trail in California," the conference took place at the Kellogg West Hotel on the campus of Cal Poly, Pomona.

The program assembled by program chair Alex King included 40 presentations and demonstrations, with 49 speakers and panelists. The multidisciplinary program included historians, genealogists, urban planners, conservation experts, and officials from government agencies. Several papers from the conference are published in this issue of *Spanish Traces* and additional papers will be published in future issues. For a complete listing of conference presentations, go to www.oldsouthspanishtrail.org/conference/program.php.

On June 2, the conference kicked off with an evening reception hosted by the Workman-Temple Homestead Museum. Friday eve-

ning brought a taste of Hollywood with the screening of *Mula!*, a feature-length documentary on the Old Spanish Trail, hosted by the director-producer team of Susan Jensen and Paul Singer.

The conference banquet on Saturday night was a Trail-period-style fiesta at the historic Palomares Adobe. Dinner was accompanied with 1830s and 40s Mexican music played by the Arias Troubadours, recruited by banquet chair Barbara Milliken. Diners savored a rare treat: beef cooked for 18 hours in a traditional Mexican pit barbecue. Culinary historian and former food writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, Charles Perry, served as chef.

Sunday, June 5, conference attendees visited trail-related locations within 30 miles of the conference center. A West tour included stops at the Workman-Temple Museum, the San Gabriel Mission, and L.A.'s Central Plaza, which was

the western terminus of the Trail. An East tour made visits to Casa la Primera Adobe, a known trail stop in Pomona, the Agua Mansa Cemetery, and two trail locations near the foot of Cajon Pass.

The tours ended the conference, with attendees bidding each other a final *Adios!*



Paul Spitzzerii of the Workman-Temple Homestead Museum delivers a talk.



Barbecued beef from the conference, 18 hours in the pit.



Mule-packing demo



The Arias Troubadours performed Trail-period Mexican music at the pit.



Tombstone at the Agua Mansa cemetery. Agua Mansa was a small California pueblo founded by small groups who emigrated in the 1840s, via the Old Spanish Trail, from Abiquiu, NM. The community no longer exists.

Bruce Haemer demonstrates his bit and spur collection.



(Left to right) Mulepacker Chris Flanagan; Mike Preston; film-makers and producers Susan Jensen and Paul Singer. The Jensen & Singer film Mula was shown on Friday night.



sh from



Faces of OSTA at the 2011 Conference...Left column, from top: Mark Franklin, Dr. Jim Jefferson, Judy Knudson. Center column, from top: Anthony Ray, Karen Wade, John Robinson, John Anderson. Right column, from top: Sharon Brown, Frank Talbott. (photos: Dan Dugan, Richard Bent)

Field Inventory for the ARRA Funded Historic Trail Inventory Program

by *Jonathon C. Horn and Jack E. Pfertsh*, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Montrose, Colorado

Paper presented at the 2011 Old Spanish Trail Association Conference

Alpine Archaeological Consultants in Montrose, Colorado has a subcontract from AECOM to look for and record portions of the Old Spanish Trail on BLM land in Utah and Colorado. This is Alpine's second field season working on the National Historic Trails project and it has been very exciting. In Colorado, we have identified portions of the Northern Branch in the San Luis Valley, both sides of Cochetopa Pass, and in western Colorado between Delta and Grand Junction. Later this summer we will be looking for the route from Cochetopa Creek into the Uncompahgre Valley.

In Utah, we have identified portions of the main Spanish Trail in East Canyon near Monticello, northwest of Moab, and in the San Rafael Swell area west of Green River and on the Northern Branch from the Colorado state line nearly to Green River. After we finish our search in the San Rafael Swell, we will move to a section of the main trail in Long Valley and to a section of the Fish Lake Cut-off near Richfield. We have also looked at a portion of the Armijo Route in the Paria River area and have a pretty good idea of where it probably went.

Prior to our fieldwork, as many documentary sources as we could find were consulted in order to focus our inventory on the most likely locations of the Spanish Trail. Expedition reports and travel journals constituted some of the primary sources consulted. These accounts often provide good descriptive information that helped us determine the general location of the route. These include the 1829 Armijo Journal, the 1853 Beal Expedition report, 1853 Gunnison Expedition report, the 1854

In the majority of instances, little remains of the trail except what can best be termed as changes in texture. These changes are subtle variations in vegetation along the disturbed path of the trail. Trail traces are sometimes visible as narrow passages through the vegetation or shallow swales on the landscape. On occasion, route remnants consist of little more than axe-cut branches removed or pushed out of the path of the trail.

By the early 1850s, portions of the

We discovered that the actual trail tends to run on a very direct course, over the top of an obstruction, whereas wagon routes wind around topographic obstructions, away from the obstructions.

Elk Mountain Mission diaries, Col. Loring's 1858 account, and the 1859 Macomb Expedition report. We also used data from early regional maps, expedition maps and General Land Office maps.

With a general route projected by these sources, we examined aerial photos on Google Earth. We transferred the collected data onto USGS maps and downloaded it onto GPS units for use in the field. By ground truthing these leads, we identified many trail traces. The condition of what remains is influenced by a variety of factors, such as erosion, landscape and later land use.

Spanish Trail began to be traveled by wagons – some portions of the trail never saw wagon use. Routes that continued to be used by wagons are by far the easiest to see on the landscape. Wagon routes are often visible as wide, linear depressions. In some cases, multiple routes cross drainages and hill slopes. When one route became too deep from use and water erosion, another route was taken.

Excited when we found trail, we discovered that the actual trail tends to run on a very direct course, over the top of an obstruction, whereas wagon routes wind around topographic obstructions, away from the obstructions. In

western Colorado, the trail swath is typically a slight vegetation change about four or five feet wide, something that we think can be partly attributed to the Utes pulling tipi poles behind their horses.

In the early 1900s, the mode of travel shifted to automobiles. We often find that modern roads are on top of the earlier routes or vestiges of older routes are to the side of current roads. Just as wagons did not travel over the landscape in the same way as someone on horseback, automobiles do not travel over the landscape as wagons did, so often take slightly different courses.

Although visible trail or wagon traces are a blessing, routes have often been obliterated. We have identified many cases where soil deposition or landscape degradation have removed all physical evidence of a route. In these areas, we have come to rely on secondary lines of evidence to determine where the route might have gone. Artifacts are one of the most common indicators of the general location of a travel route. The artifacts encountered are discarded and lost items including food cans, broken glass from bottles, wagon hardware, hand tools, horse tack, and horse and mule shoes. A fair number of the artifacts are time diagnostic and can be confidently assigned to the period of wagon use on the trail. In one particular instance, we found insulator glass along sections of the Salt Lake Wagon Road, which fol-

lowed portions of the Northern Branch through western Colorado. Research indicated that an early telephone line was constructed along the road in 1910. With this information, we were able to use the presence of insulator glass to help identify the route.

Still other lines of evidence exist, such as rock inscriptions that can serve as markers of a historic travel corridor. Thus far, we have not encountered any inscriptions that are firmly associated the 1829-1848 period of significance assigned to the Spanish Trail, but we remain hopeful.

In some instances where physical remains of a trail or a road cannot be seen, features are found that are associated with the trail or wagon road. Included are simple rock cairns and axe-cut blazes that probably served as visual markers along the trail.

Among the more exciting aspects of the fieldwork, aside from actually finding traces of the Spanish Trail, has been applying the first-hand accounts from historic journals and reports written by early trail travelers. This has given us the wonderful opportunity to relive their experiences. It is very exciting to stand at the places and see the landmarks that are described in the early accounts.

For example, we were able to experience three of the places visited by the Macomb Expedition in 1859 as they followed the Spanish Trail through East Canyon

in southeastern Utah. The first was carved hand and toe holds in the bedrock used by John Strong Newberry during the expedition's excavation of the first dinosaur found in Utah. The second was an important watering hole along the Spanish Trail known as La Tinaja. This is a large 7-foot-diameter, 9-foot-deep pothole in the bedrock capable of holding over three thousand gallons of water. The last was the view of Casa Colorado, which served as a visual landmark for travelers through the canyon and was sketched by Newberry from his camp near La Tinaja.

One of our most recent discoveries was made in late May. In 1858, Colonel Loring traveled eastward from Fort Douglas near Salt Lake City, improving portions of the main Spanish Trail and the Northern Branch of the Spanish Trail as he went. West of Green River we identified what he called 13-Mile Spring and found evidence of his camp. In addition to a curry comb, which was a military issue of a type used only between 1856 and 1859, we found a spout from a Model 1857 military-issue canteen of a type that ceased being made in 1861. The presence of these artifacts made it possible to make a clear association with Loring and shows how important it is for visitors to the trail to leave artifacts in place and not collect them.

Farther west, near the Colorado state line, we found the place that Loring spent several days improving in order to make it passable by

wagons. We learned by talking to Bill Chenoweth that when he and Lloyd Pierson were working to identify the route of the Northern Branch into Colorado, they considered this extensive improvement to be the key in demonstrating the route of the Northern Branch of the Spanish Trail. It is hidden from view from the nearby road, so they never found it, but we now know where it is.

There can be uncertainty in determining the path of the trail on a landscape that has been subjected to many later uses. Therefore, we must rely on all lines of evidence in order to reach our final conclusions. Using the prefield research, potential routes are examined, topography is taken into account, historical accounts are considered, and the physical characteristics of the linear remains are assessed. Through this process, we have been able to identify linear routes with physical and historical integrity. Frequently, we cannot see any physical evidence or only pieces of a potential route can be identified. In these cases, our methodology considers the landscape even further and we identify the most viable route between known points.

The fieldwork on the National Historic Trails Project has been quite a learning experience. The physical remains vary considerably over a multitude of environmental settings. As a result, our eyes have been calibrated to see even the most ephemeral of linear remains. We are quite certain that people will return to places where we have identified the trail and not be able to see what we have seen. We have described and mapped what we have found as well as we can and can only hope that these vanishing traces can be appreciated for as long as nature and humans allow.

In addition to finding the trail, another part of what we have learned is that past travelers have left behind more than just a trail, a swale, or a road. We have become well versed in reading the landscape to the point of being a bit more in tune with the hows and whys of what influenced their choices. We have learned to look beyond just the linear remains and to see history on a larger scale.

NEW PULL-UP BANNERS

OSTA now has pull-up banners for public events. If you would like a light-weight pull-up banner for your event, please contact Dennis Ditmanson.

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Manuel Lorenzo Trujillo
1794 - 1855
Born in Abiquiu, New Mexico, Lorenzo Trujillo led pioneer families from New Mexico along the Old Spanish Trail in the 1840's. They made their homes in the San Bernardino Valley of Alta California. He is buried here in Agua Mansa in an unmarked grave close to this sculpture which is dedicated in his honor.
Descendants of Lorenzo Trujillo, 2011
Sculptor, Simi Dabah

Lorenzo Trujillo Sculpture Dedicated

by Michele Nielsen
Curator of History/Archives, San Bernardino County Museum

Reserve Oct. 28 now and participate in our Family Remembrance Day at Agua Mansa Cemetery in Colton, California from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. This wonderful historic site is a part of our county museum system. The first known burial in the cemetery took place in 1852, and the last in 1963. The cemetery represents a connection between the rich history of South Colton and California, and our lives today. Join us as we look back at the history of the Agua Mansans, people who traveled on what is now called the Old Spanish Trail from Abiquiu, New Mexico to Colton in the 1840s, and subsequent families that called Colton home and now are buried at the site.

We will have a special dedication during the event for a new sculpture at the site, honoring Lorenzo Trujillo. Trujillo was one of the original settlers of the community of La Placita, located along with the community of Agua Mansa on the banks of the Santa Ana River. The sculpture by artist Simi Dabah is a gift from the artist and descendants of Lorenzo Trujillo to the cemetery.

We will also celebrate the arrival of a new interpretive sign outdoors at the site. This sign was made possible through a generous donation from a friend of the museum, and supporter of the cemetery, Richard Whitaker. The new sign will offer information about the cemetery and will feature historic photographs. It will be mounted so that visitors to the site, whether it be open or closed, can take away new insights.

Donations for the sculpture project are still being accepted and may be sent to Leonard Trujillo, P O Box 17136, North Hollywood, Ca. 91615. Visit the San Bernardino website at www.sbcountymuseum.org.

Jargon: Historians' Nemesis

by LeRoy Johnson and Tom Sutak

Abstract of part of the paper:

"Old Spanish Trail, Salt Spring to Resting Spring: A Fable Falsified."
OSTA 2011 Conference

Concerning Frémont's traverse through the Sperry Hills in 1844 (between Salt Spring and Resting Spring, California), historians and trail buffs have consistently misinterpreted Frémont's journal because they apparently did not know how to read topographers' jargon. In doing so, they have Frémont following the Old Spanish Trail northward up the Amargosa River to today's Tecopa.

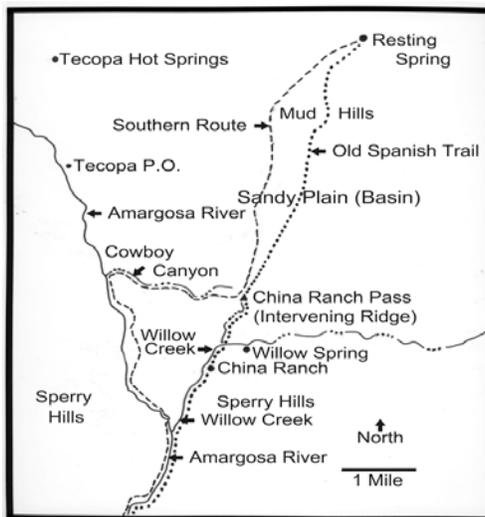
To correctly interpret Frémont's report you need to understand the jargon (the terms) used by scientists, topographers, and surveyors for the past 200 years to describe points along a river as either being on the left-hand or right-hand side.

Probably the world's most noted example of one of these descriptors is the Left Bank of the Seine River that flows through Paris. The Left Bank in Paris is that land to your left when you are facing down river.

C. Albert White, in his authoritative and highly acclaimed book *A History of the Rectangular Survey System*, documents some of the early history of the terms "left bank" and "right bank" as topographers used them in the 1800s. He found in the National Archives numerous early directives given

to U.S. surveyors, and White reprinted them *en toto*.

In an 1832 directive, surveyors were instructed that when "noting the banks of streams, instead of North or South, East or West, always use the terms right, and left bank, applying the terms as if you were descending the stream, and not ascending it" (in White 1983, 269).



Map of Old Spanish Trail and Southern Route through the Sperry Hills: Salt Spring is about twelve crow-miles south-southwest of the confluence of the Amargosa River and Willow Creek. NOTE: Neither the Old Spanish Trail (packer trail) nor the Southern Route (wagon road) went to Tecopa. Features based on USGS Tecopa, Calif., 7.5 min. provisional 1983 quad. map and TOPO! computer generated maps.

Then in 1833 another directive was issued: "To establish a uniform and simple mode of designating and distinguishing the two sides of navigable streams, the terms 'Right bank,' or 'Left bank,' will be used, in all cases, thus: —suppose yourself standing at the head

of the river, looking down stream; then that bank of the stream on your right hand is to be called and referred to in your Field Notes, as the 'Right bank,' and that on your left hand as the 'Left bank'" (in White 1983, 298).

In 1846 yet another directive was issued: "Standing with your face towards the mouth of a stream, the bank on your left hand is termed the left bank, and that upon your right hand, the right bank. These terms are to be universally used to distinguish the two banks of a river, both in running lines and in meandering" (in White 1983, 343; italics in original).¹

Even today these same guidelines are used. The Bureau of Land Management's Glossaries of BLM Surveying and Mapping Terms (1980: 48 and 69), has the following: "RIGHT BANK (River)—The bank on the right-hand side of a stream or river as one faces downstream" (p. 48) and "BANK OF STREAM—... The right bank of a stream is the bank on the right-hand side, and the left bank, the one on the left-hand side, as one proceeds downstream" (p. 69).

To further clarify this important point, we wrote West Point and briefly described the conundrum that rotates around Frémont's description of the fork in the Amargosa River. Leslie Gordnier, Public Affairs Office, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, sent the following:

I received your inquiry regard-

ing directions and mapping.

I consulted with Col. Lance Betros from our history department and he offered the following:

“Directions concerning streams, canyons, valleys, etc., are always from the reference of the origin of the water flowing through it. For example, the famous “left bank” of the Seine River in Paris is really the south bank because the river starts in eastern France and moves generally westward. So if a person were on a raft floating down the river, the bank in question would be on the viewer’s left” (Gordnier 2007).

John Frémont was not a West Point graduate. He was appointed to the rank of second lieutenant in the Topographical Bureau’s Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army. Although a college graduate, he received most of his topographical and astronomical training under the tutelage of the renowned French astronomer and cartographer Joseph Nicolas Nicollet. Allen Nevins, Frémont’s noted biographer, points out that “for Frémont to become associated with such a scientist was a triple piece of luck. He soon learned from him ten times as much about scientific exploration, mapping, and description as he could have obtained at any American school” (Nevins 1955, 31).

Frémont worked with Nicollet as a field assistant in 1838 and 1839. Edmund and Martha Bray translated and edited Nicollet’s field journals and concluded he “con-

sistently referred to what would be the left and right river banks as one travels from the source to the mouth” of a river (Bray and Bray 1976, 44n6). This convention was assuredly instilled in Frémont.

With this firm foundation on how a scientist would describe location points along rivers, streams, or in canyons, you can now correctly interpret Frémont’s short phrase concerning the “fork from the right” that has befuddled historians and trail buffs for decades.

Frémont, John Charles, 1844: In 1843, the U.S. Military sent Frémont on an exploring and scientific expedition to Oregon and California. He wrote the most important and the most detailed early journal—pre-1848—delineating the segment of the Old Spanish Trail between Salt Spring and Resting Spring.² His extensive field notes describing his western exploration (commonly called Frémont’s Second Expedition) were first published by the Federal government in 1845: *Report Of The Exploring Expedition To The Rocky Mountains In The Year 1842, And To Oregon And North California In The Years 1843-44*. He and his entourage traversed part of the Old Spanish Trail in 1844 when they were homeward bound from Alta California to St. Louis, Missouri, and this was when he traversed the Sperry Hills.³ Frémont’s report and accompanying maps were widely used by emigrants and Argonauts rushing to California during the Gold Rush.

Below are excerpts from Frémont’s

report—beginning at Salt Spring and continuing northward to Resting Spring.

[April 28, 1844] We had a very poor camping ground... [the water was] entirely too salt to drink [Salt Spring]....

[We soon] reached a large creek of salt and bitter water [Amargosa River], running in a westerly direction [toward Death Valley], to receive the [Salt Creek] stream bed we had left. The Spaniards called the river *Amargosa*—the bitter water of the desert. Where we struck it, the stream bends; and we continued in a northerly course up the ravine of its valley [Amargosa Canyon], **passing on the way a fork from the right [the Amargosa River]....**

Gradually ascending, the ravine opened into a green valley [China Ranch], where, at the foot of the mountain, were springs of excellent water [Willow Spring]. We encamped among groves of the new *acacia* [mesquite], and there was an abundance of good grass for the animals.

This was the best camping ground we had seen since we struck the Spanish trail. The day’s journey was about 12 miles.

April 29: Today we had to reach the *Archilette* [Resting Spring], distant seven miles, where the Mexican party had been attacked; and, leaving

our encampment early, we traversed a part of the desert, the most sterile and repulsive that we had yet seen.... **Our course was generally north; and, after crossing an intervening ridge, we descended into a sandy plain, or basin,** in the middle of which was the grassy spot, with its springs and willow bushes, which constitutes a camping place in the desert, and is called the *Archilette* [today's Resting Spring]" (Frémont in Jackson and Spence 1970:682-683; highlight ours).

Before leaving Resting Spring, Frémont renamed it "*Agua de Hernandez*—Hernandez's Spring" to memorialize the boy's father who was murdered there a few days earlier (Frémont 1887, 376 and Frémont in Jackson and Spence, 1970, 684), but the name did not survive.

Mendenhall, Walter C. 1909: Mendenhall's *Some Desert Watering Places in Southern California and Southwestern Nevada* is a compilation of data on California springs collected by the noted geologist Gilbert E. Bailey. However, Mendenhall wrote the introductory chapter to the book (1909, 5-31). He was Director of the U.S. Geological Survey from 1930 to 1943.

In Mendenhall's "Main Routes of Travel" section he briefly describes Frémont's trail: "[From the Mojave River, Frémont] followed the old Spanish trail...to Salt Spring and the canyon of the Amargosa, which he followed up to China Ranch Spring [today's Willow

Spring] on Willow Creek [where he camped]. From China Ranch Springs he journeyed [northward] to Resting Springs" (1909, 25-26).

Then in his "Old Spanish Trail" section Mendenhall says: "From Salt Spring the trail led northward through the canyon of the Amargosa to Resting Springs" (1909, 26). This implies the trail traversed the Sperry Hills via the Amargosa River to Tecopa. However, Frémont's route is clarified on page 40 and 41. He noted that Frémont passed today's Willow Spring—Mendenhall's spring 52—on April 29, 1844 (1909, 41). From Saratoga Springs, in southern Death Valley, he instructs travelers to enter the

mouth of Amargosa Canyon, which can be seen from a distance. When the mouth of the canyon is reached water can be had from the river. Stock will drink it, but it is strongly alkaline. The road then runs up the canyon for about 9 miles.... The road thence keeps a straight course northward up Willow Creek from which the [China] ranch derives its water supply....

Resting Springs are about 6 miles northeast of this ranch.... [and] The old emigrant road from Salt Lake passed here [i.e., Resting Spring] on its way south by way of...Salt Spring.

J.C. Frémont passed this spot [China Ranch] April 29, 1844 on his way...to Resting Spring. (Mendenhall 1909, 41)

Waring, Gerald A. 1915: Waring was a prominent U.S. Geological Survey scientist. In his definitive and highly acclaimed *California Springs* treatise, he describes the route taken by Frémont and his entourage as they traversed the Sperry Hills in late April 1844:

The China ranch is situated in the canyon of Willow Creek, half a mile or more above its junction with Amargosa River.... Willow Creek is supplied by springs of considerable flow and of good quality.... The springs were visited by Fremont in 1844, when returning eastward from his exploring expedition. (Waring 1915, 343)

An early detailed description of Resting Spring is also found in Waring's book:

[At Resting Spring]...Mr. Philander Lee, who has lived there since 1882, has made a real oasis of the place. About 25 acres of alfalfa, corn, and garden vegetables are irrigated by the main spring, which is said to yield about 29 miner's inches (260 gallons a minute).... [The water's] constant flow indicate that it is essentially of deep-seated or artesian character. (Waring 1915, 319-320)

Warren, Elizabeth von Till, 1974 and 1980: Warren's thesis has the Old Spanish Trail going "either west or southwest [from Resting Spring and], Armijo would have shortly reached the Amargosa River, his 'River of the Payuches,' a water course dotted with settle-

ments of Paiutes and Shoshonis in both historic and prehistoric times” (Warren 1974, 73). By inference she has the Old Spanish Trail going to today’s Tecopa.

In the China Ranch section of her “History of the Amargosa-Mojave Basin,” Warren says: “This [China Ranch] site was apparently heavily used by prehistoric peoples, and was visited by Fremont in 1844” (Warren 1980, 227). She cites both Waring (1915, 343) and Mendenhall (1909, 42) supporting her statement Frémont “visited” today’s China Ranch in 1844. However, she does not say the Old Spanish Trail went up Willow Creek. And, she does not tackle the knotty problem of Frémont “**passing on the way a fork from the right.**”

CONCLUSION

When Frémont reached the confluence of the Amargosa River and Willow Creek, he looked downstream and recorded he was “**passing on the way a fork from the right.**” That fork from the right is the Amargosa River. He did not say he went up that fork—*he says he passed it*. The other significant aspect of his report is his description the following day after passing the fork from the right: “**Our course was generally north; and, after crossing an intervening ridge, we descended into a sandy plain, or basin.**”

Had he gone to Tecopa, he would have ascended into “a sandy plain or basin” and he would not have crossed an “an intervening ridge.”

Almost a century ago, two scientists—Mendenhall and Waring—read Frémont correctly. They have him ascending Willow Creek and camping at today’s China Ranch.⁴

The Old Spanish Trail, which Frémont was following, went up Willow Creek, crossed China Ranch Pass, and descended into a basin that contains Resting Spring. The Old Spanish Trail did not go to Tecopa.

AFTERWORD

Not included herein, is our conclusion the Southern Route wagon road also did not go to Tecopa. The wagon road went westward from Resting Spring to avoid the Mud Hills. It then turned south and paralleled the Old Spanish Trail to China Ranch Pass. From there it turned westward and went down Cowboy Canyon⁵ to the Amargosa River, thence down the river to the confluence with Willow Creek. Here the trail and wagon road merged.

NOTES

¹ Similar instructions are found on pages 240, 258, 265, 316, 332, 326, 368, 391, 405, 441, 464, 523, 621, and 718 encompassing U.S. surveyor guidelines from 1811 to 1902. The main emphasis of these instructions dealt with navigable rivers, but these guidelines evolved through common usage to include any travel so long as you were ascending or descending a dry canyon bottom or a watercourse.

² Frémont consistently used the descriptor “Spanish Trail”—without the “Old.”

³ While camped on the Mojave

River, two Mexicans rode into Frémont’s camp. They were the sole survivors of an Indian massacre that occurred at Resting Spring. They said a hundred Indians raided their camp. The two *vaqueros* managed to escape because they were mounted on horses. Fuentes and Hernandez (a young boy) were part of a six-person party that were driving horses they had secured in Southern California back to their home in New Mexico. As the two *vaqueros* escaped, they managed to drive about twenty horses southward down the Old Spanish Trail. Morbid fear kept them from returning to aid the boy’s mother and father, another woman, and a man named Giacomo. Frémont took the two survivors into his mess. We cannot herein cover the oft-repeated story of how two of Frémont’s guides—Kit Carson and Alex Godey—tracked down a band of Indians and murdered two of them. The two guides retrieved most of the horses Fuentes and Hernandez abandoned at or near Bitter Spring. These Indians were not the ones who attacked and killed the two men and two women at Resting Spring. The Indians who found the horses probably assumed the two *vaqueros* had left them on the desert to die.

⁴ Mendenhall correctly read Frémont 102 years ago and Waring also did so 96 years ago.

⁵ Cowboy Canyon is a local name and is not on any map. The cowboys drove their livestock down the canyon to Modine Meadow (along the Amargosa River). The meadow is now covered by trees.

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Report from William Workman Chapter, England

Earlier in the year Chapter President Bill Ramsay was diagnosed with prostate cancer and has spent the summer undergoing radiotherapy treatment. This unfortunately necessitated him cancelling plans to attend the upcoming Annual Conference in Pomona, California.

John and Anne Thompson who had also planned to attend had a change of mind and also dropped out. David Fallowfield, who had prepared a presentation entitled "William and David Workman: Their English Background" regrettably decided against attending on his own. The paper he had prepared was forwarded to Paul Spitzzeri at the Workman Temple Homestead Museum in California for their archives.

Messages of support received from OSTA officers in the US have been passed on to Bill Ramsay. It is pleasing to report that he is currently doing well and his prognosis for a full recover is excellent. We all hope that by next year we will be back to normal and once again able to attend the Annual Conference.

All members have renewed their membership and dues sent to Lorraine Carpenter. A Chapter Newsletter was produced and sent to members with the Spring edition of Spanish Traces.

David Fallowfield, Chapter Secretary
Penrith, Cumbria, ENGLAND

Santa Fe's First Old Spanish Trail Marker

On Sunday July 31, 2011 the first ever Old Spanish Trail Marker in Santa Fe was unveiled. The story of how it came to be goes like this:

Last year at the OST conference in Kanab, Utah I was introduced to Gibbs Smith, a publisher in Utah and a person very interested in the Old Spanish Trail. He asked if I would be interested in helping to get a marker in Santa Fe and said that he would fund it and would like to put it on the outside of the La Boca Restaurant of which he is a part owner. Of course I was delighted at the prospect of a marker in Santa Fe but a bit worried if we'd be able to get something through the Historic Review Board. I expressed my concerns to Gibbs and also told him that there would be several other organizations that would need to be contacted and asked for approval of whatever we came up with. Namely, NPS, BLM, and OSTA's interpretation committee.

The map was the easy part. Then we had to decide which logo to use, The Old Spanish Trail Association's or the National Park Service Logo. If we used the association logo we could bypass BLM and NPS. Great idea! Now we were down to the Historic Review Board and OSTA's interpretation committee. Meantime Gibbs and I were working on the verbiage

for the plaque. It only needed a bit of tweaking here and there to be what we wanted. I contacted David Rash at the City of Santa Fe Historic Division. He told us that the restaurant building is not a historic building and since we weren't asking the city for any funding we



Lisa Bonney (with hat) and her niece Jordan Farfan at the unveiling of Santa Fe's first OST marker. Lisa's Great-great-grandfather was killed on the Old Spanish Trail near the California-Nevada border.

could do what we wanted without their approval. Yea, big hurdle overcome!

Gibbs wanted to have the plaque unveiled on Spanish Market weekend and between the two of us we were able to get a proclamation from the Mayor of Santa Fe declaring July 31 Old Spanish Trail Day. Donna Pedace, the Director of the Spanish Colonial Arts

Society, came and gave a short speech. Margaret Sears, our State Director, and Dennis Ditmanson, the Association Manager, and his wife Carol were there along with several members of Salida Del Sol Chapter. A number of tourists and citizens of Santa Fe came because they had read a very nice article in the New Mexican about the OST and the new marker going up in town.

All in all it was great fun working with Gibbs and going through the process and the plaque looks just wonderful. A great big thank you to Gibbs for his efforts and funds. The plaque is located on the outside wall of La Boca Restaurant at 72 West Marcy Street, one block north of the Plaza in Santa Fe. Stop by and see it next time you are in town.

Pat Kuhlhoff, President
Salida Del Sol Chapter, OSTA



Gibbs Smith, Pat Kuhlhoff, Donna Pedace, and Lisa Bonney

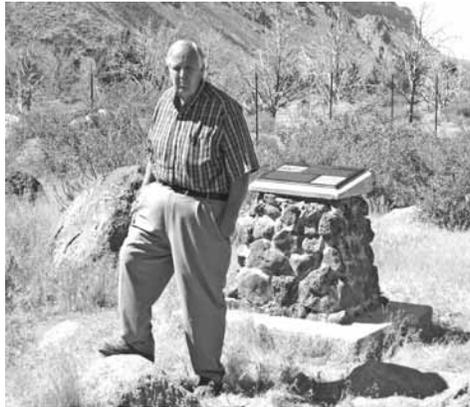
Domínguez and Escalante Commemorated in Utah

Members of the Old Spanish Trail Association gathered at the Snowfield Exit off Interstate 15, just south of Black Ridge, Utah, to dedicate a monument to commemorate the work of two Franciscan priests, Atanasio Domínguez and Silvestre Velez de Escalante.

The priests were given the task by the governor of New Mexico in 1776 to find a trail from New Mexico to California, which today is identified as part of the Spanish Trail. The trail blazed by Dominguez and Escalante, the Escalante Valley's namesake, was a precursor to the Old Spanish Trail used by the Mormon pioneers in 1830. Many of the roads in the area were the result of the work done by the priests and the dozen retired soldiers who accompanied them.

Alva L. Matheson, president of the Southern Utah chapter, said Boy Scout Brandon Colvin provided supplies for the monument to complete his Eagle Scout project.

Other contributors to the monument included the Fort Harmony Historical Society, Sons of Utah Pioneers Site 159, Iron and Washington County Historical Societies, Old Spanish Trail Association and Alva Matheson.



Leo Lyman at unveiling of plaque

The plaque reads:

October 13, 1776: *“We set out southward from the small river and campsite of Nuestra Señora del Pilar (“Our Lady of the Pillar” – Kolob Canyon of Zion Canyon National Park)...” and... “We traveled a league and a half to the south, descended to the little Río del Pilar (Ash Creek) which here has a leafy cottonwood grove, crossed it, now leaving the valley of the Señor San José, and entered a stony cut in the form of a pass between two high sierras...” “We continued without a guide, and having traveled with great difficulty over the many stones for a league to the south, we descended a second time to the Río del Pilar and halted on its bank in a pretty cottonwood grove, naming the place San Daniel – Today five leagues south.”*

Franciscan Fathers Atanasio Domínguez, Sylvestre Velez de Escalante and eight other members of a daring exploration party departed the Misión de Santa Fe, New Mexico, on July 29, 1776, in an attempt to establish contact with

the Franciscan mission at Monterey, California.

Following previous expeditions into the Spanish borderlands they were able to cross the Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado, and entered the unexplored regions of the Great Basin near Spanish Fork, Utah. They then proceeded southward along the Wasatch Mountains expecting a westward flowing river that would eventually take them to the Pacific Ocean.

Disappointed and facing the reality of winter snows they “cast lots” at a point near Cedar City, Utah, on October 11, 1776, and elected to return to Santa Fe by a southern route. Their encampment here at “San Daniel” represents the first recorded entry of non-native people into Washington County, Utah. The Fathers arrived back at the Santa Fe Mission on January 2, 1777, having traveled over 1800 miles and recording one of the greatest explorations in American history. Their observations and maps were instrumental in the opening of the American Southwest to further exploration and commercial use of the National Historic Old Spanish Trail.

Sons of Utah Pioneers: Site #159
Washington County Historical Society
Alva Matheson
Snowfield Monument
“Franciscan Fathers”
Fort Harmony Historical Society
Brandon L. Colvin/BSA/2010
Art work courtesy of: Utah State Historical Society, Provo

El Monte: End of the Santa Fe Trail?

by Bill King

El Monte (1851) was one of three new towns or villages founded in southern California in the 1850s. These were the new ones unrelated to those still existing from the Spanish-Mexican Era. The others were the Mormon community of San Bernardino and the settlement of German immigrants at Anaheim (1857).

By the federal census of 1860, El Monte was the second largest town at 1,004 citizens, trailing only the 4,000+ in Los Angeles. The two parties that arrived in 1851 settled near the San Gabriel River. One small party consisted of Brewsterite Mormons while the second group originated in several southern states. While there are no diaries or other hard evidence, it is most likely that the two groups used the Gila River trail via Yuma

and Warner's Ranch, traveling up what is now highway 15. In 1853, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors created the El Monte Township of 153,000 acres in the eastern San Gabriel Valley.

El Monte prospered as a trade and farming community. It housed the first elementary school and Protestant churches in Los Angeles County. It was also famous or infamous as a center of vigilante activity and definite southern sympathies. A group known as the Monte Boys rode into Los Angeles on several occasions to participate in vigilante actions. During the Civil War, the Monte Mounted Rifles staged several torch-light "Bear Flag" parades proclaiming states rights and support for the cause of the Confederacy.

The designation "End of the Santa Fe Trail" first emerged as a Cham-

ber of Commerce sponsored city celebration in the early 1920s. Revived in the dark days of the Great Depression, the event drew large crowds to parades and carnivals for the next 25 years. The designation remains in use today despite its obvious historical inaccuracy. Since 1851, the focus of the town's history has remained on the people and events within the community, with little recorded information on the paths taken by the first and subsequent arrivals.

Thank you again for inviting me to participate in the conference. I greatly enjoyed the other presentations.

Bill King

Rock art near Moab, Utah. Visited by Paul Ostapuk, Reba Wells Grandrud, Pat Richmond and Mark Franklin in March 2011 after the OSTA board meeting in Moab. Members are welcome to attend board meetings and join us in OSTA related sites.

