de La O Saloon, Village of Doña Ana, New Mexico
This September marks the end of my term as President of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association. It has been a remarkable roller coaster ride for four years. The trail association and board have grown up a lot during this time. We have established “Chronicles of the Trail” as a viable publication, and have been involved in a number of projects related to the Camino Real: 1) El Paso River Walk; 2) Documentation of existing Camino Real signage; 3) Hardening (artifact collection and archiving) and surveying of Camino Real overlook areas; and 4) Signage at Yost and Perrillo in the Jornada del Muerto.

Without a doubt, New Mexico Spaceport meetings and related activities outweighed all other concerns. Inputs into activities for planned Off Road Vehicle (ORV) courses, proposed construction, queries about Camino Real endeavors, proposed utility corridors, Challenge-Cost-Share grant proposals and support letters for other organizations also consumed much of the CARTA board’s time.

Probably the best time the board and its president had was the hosting of a number of conferences on the Camino Real: In 2006, CARTA held a special session at the 10th International Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Colloquium in Socorro, sponsored by the BLM/NPS/INAH; in 2007, we hosted a Camino Real session in Lerdo, Durango, and Ben Brown and I participated at another in Durango, Durango; at the Camino Reales symposium in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, in 2008, CARTA had its own session organized and chaired by Ben Brown that included CARTA members Joe Sanchez and Pat Beckett, and six other professionals from Mexico and Latin America presenting papers; and this past spring CARTA hosted a special Camino Real symposium at the Camino Real International Heritage Center.

In conjunction with our symposium in Las Cruces, September 18-20, 2009, we held a meeting of the outgoing board, and a general membership meeting where we saluted our departing officers and board members, Patrick Beckett, John Bloom, William Little, Cameron Saffell and George Torok, and announced the results of the election. [Editors’ Note: see “Your CARTA Officers and Board” on page 8.] The two-day symposium on the Camino Real featured twenty-four papers given by speakers from both sides of the border. After the presentations, the new board met for the first time, followed by the Awards Banquet with Keynote Speaker Jack Williams. Due to heavy rainfall in the preceding days, we cancelled the Jornada del Muerto portion of the Sunday field trip, and instead toured the Taylor property in Mesilla; the Amador Hotel in Las Cruces; the Camino Real, plaza and church (oldest in southern New Mexico) in Doña Ana; and Ft. Selden, our last stop.

I want to thank Jean Fulton, our Executive Director, and all members of both the old and new CARTA boards for their many courtesies. I also would like to thank our Chronicles editors past and current (Jay Sharp, William Little, John Bloom, Catherine Kurland and Jean Fulton). Finally, to the new officers and board I wish success in expanding CARTA’s activities and membership. Viva CARTA! Viva El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro!

--Patrick Lucero Beckett
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FROM THE EDITORS

We are embarking on new alignments of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. As we follow along the path editors before us have blazed, we will survey parallel trails and lesser-known spurs, in search of fresh views and new perspectives. We hope that you will join us on this journey of discovery as we travel up and down the Trail, reaching out to new CARTA companions as we go, together celebrating 400 years of cultural, social, economic, political and natural history in Chronicles of the Trail. We’re starting out slowly, finding our footing. You’ll encounter a few new regular features: “Federal Place,” news from our colleagues at the National Park Service and BLM; “Spaceport,” updates and discussions about this controversial venture; and a letter from our Executive Director. Our overarching goal is to expand our horizons, drawing upon the wealth of material yet to be explored on a wide variety of topics, from food and music and architecture, to political intrigue and commerce and intercultural rituals, north and south of the border. At the same time, we hope to attract more women, students, artists and others whose diverse heritage and concerns intersect with El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro.

We give our heartfelt thanks to Chronicles editors Jay Sharp, William Little, and John Bloom for paving the way with their dedication and high standards of editing and scholarship. We follow humbly in their footsteps.

Sincerely,

We look forward to receiving contributions to Chronicles of the Trail. The purpose of our publication is to stimulate interest in the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, and encourage readers to join in the adventure of memorializing and exploring one of the great historic trails of North America.

Membership in CARTA is open to all. A membership application form is enclosed, and can also be found on our website: www.caminorealcarta.org

Chronicles of the Trail is a quarterly publication of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association (CARTA), P.O. Box 15162, Las Cruces NM 88004

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MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE

Este mes de septiembre marca el final de mi período como Presidente de la Asociación del Sendero de El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. Ha sido un extraordinario paseo con altas y bajas como en una montaña rusa durante cuatro años. La Asociación del Sendero y el Consejo han madurado mucho durante este tiempo. Establecimos “Crónicas del Sendero” (“Chronicles of the Trail”) como una publicación continua y hemos estado involucrados en varios proyectos relacionados con El Camino Real: 1) Paseo del Río (River Walk) de El Paso; 2) Documentación de las señalizaciones existentes de El Camino Real; 3) Inspección y “endurecimiento” (recolección y almacenamiento histórico de artefactos de las áreas de miradores de El Camino Real; 4) Señalización en Yost Draw y en el Paraje del Perrillo en la Jornada del Muerto.

Sin lugar a dudas, el tiempo dedicado a las reuniones de New Mexico Spaceport y a varias otras actividades relacionadas superó con creces los demás asuntos. Otras aportaciones a las actividades de los “cursos para vehículos todoterreno (ORV por sus siglas en inglés)” programados, la construcción propuesta, las preguntas acerca de los proyectos de El Camino Real, las propuestas de subvenciones ambientales y de otros tipo mediante el pareo de fondos entre el Gobierno y la entidad solicitando los fondos (Challenge-Cost-Share grants, los corredores de servicio propuestos y las cartas de apoyo por parte de otras diversas organizaciones han ocupado gran parte del tiempo del Consejo de CARTA.

Probablemente, la mejor época del Consejo y de su presidente fue cuando se llevaron a cabo varias conferencias acerca del Camino Real:

Tuvimos una sesión especial de CARTA en el simposio de Socorro BLM/NPS/INAH; llevamos a cabo una sesión de El Camino Real en Lerdo, Durango, en 2007; Ben Brown y yo participamos en una sesión de El Camino Real en Durango, Durango, en 2007: CARTA tuvo su propia reunión dirigida y organizada por Ben Brown con miembros de CARTA, Ben, Joe Sánchez, Pat Beckett y otros 6 profesionales de México y Latino América presentando ponencias en Los Caminos Reales de España que se celebró en Cádiz, España, en 2008; nuestro Vice-Presidente presentó una ponencia en un simposio de El Camino Real en Chihuahua, Chihuahua, en 2008; y CARTA llevó a cabo un simposio especial de El Camino Real en el Centro Internacional del Patrimonio de El Camino Real en 2009.

Durante nuestra conferencia celebrada del 18 al 20 de septiembre de 2009 en Las Cruces, tuvimos una junta de el Consejo saliente, seguida de una junta de todos los miembros durante la cual presentamos a nuestros nuevos miembros y funcionarios: Will Ticknor, Presidente; Larry Broxton, Vice-Presidente; Van Ann Moore, Secretaria, Helen Geer, Tesorera, y Patricia “Tisa” Gabriel, Enlace Internacional; así como a los miembros y funcionarios del Consejo saliente: Patrick Beckett, John Bloom, William Little, Cameron Saffell y George Torok.

A las reuniones anuales siguió el Simposio de El Camino Real, presentando 24 ponencias de expositores de ambos lados de la frontera. El nuevo Consejo se reunió después de que se presentaron las ponencias. Debido a las lluvias que cayeron durante varios días antes de la visita, cancelamos la parte del recorrido guiado a la Jornada del Muerto. En su lugar, hicimos un recorrido de la propiedad de J. Paul Taylor en Mesilla e hicimos una parada en el hotel Amador, en El Camino Real, en la plaza y en la iglesia [la más antigua en el sur de Nuevo México] en Doña Ana y de ahí a Ft. Selden, de donde todos partieron rumbo a sus casas.

Quiero darle las gracias a Jean Fulton, nuestra Directora Ejecutiva, y a todos los miembros de los Consejos de CARTA, tanto el nuevo como el anterior, por todas sus atenciones. También quiero agradecer a los editores pasados y actuales de Crónicas (Jay Sharp, William Little, John Bloom, Catherine Kurland y Jean Fulton). Finalmente, al nuevo Consejo le deseo éxito en la ampliación de las actividades y las membresías de CARTA. ¡Viva CARTA! ¡Viva El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro!

-- Patrick Lucero Beckett
As many *Chronicles* readers know, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail is co-administered by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff in New Mexico serve as the “federal face” of trail administration. Our goals for the trail focus on trail preservation, protection and interpretation. Many of you have met our main federal partners over the past several years. Aaron Mahr, Superintendent, National Trails System Intermountain Region Office; Sharon Brown, Chief of Operations; Mike Taylor; and Steve Burns, from the National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region Office in Santa Fe, are probably most familiar to you. On the Bureau of Land Management side of the federal partnership, Sarah Schlanger, the BLM’s national lead for the trail, works out of the New Mexico State Office in Santa Fe, while Brenda Wilkinson, Bureau of Land Management Socorro Field Office, David Legare, Bureau of Land Management Las Cruces District Office, and Paul Williams, Taos Field Office, head up local initiatives.

CARTA is one of our lead public partners. Over the last few years, the trail administration has been working with partners along the length of the historic route to raise public awareness and interest, and to document, research and protect important cultural resources along the trail. These projects are realized in part through federal financial support and involvement by the trail administration with partners in implementing projects and initiatives. Here are some of the highlights: In partnership with CARTA, a number of projects are being implemented:

- Work is nearing completion on the development of two interpretive trails in the Jornada del Muerto, the ninety-mile stretch of desert in south central New Mexico where some of the best vestiges of the trail still exist.

A number of wayside exhibits in the Jornada are being designed for Yost Escarpment and Point of Rocks. CARTA members have assisted in the field with Human Systems Research to conduct archaeological surveys with metal detectors at several critical points along the interpretive trail. This work helps us build a good archaeological record of trail use, and it serves to “harden” sites that are along the interpretive trails the BLM is developing. This project also includes a trailwide brochure, which will show the historic trail and the auto tour route, and provide information on places to visit along the trail; and on-site “bulletins” for visitors to take with them when they visit Yost Escarpment and Point of Rocks. Financial support for these initiatives is being provided by the BLM.

- An aerial reconnaissance, using a camera attached to a model airplane, of sections of trail in Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in central New Mexico is being funded in part by a NPS Challenge Cost-Share (CCS) grant. The project will assess the efficacy of low-altitude flights in documenting trail segments.

- The Village of Doña Ana has requested assistance in assessing preservation and interpretive needs. Doña Ana is one of the best examples of a mid-19th century settlement along the trail. Demographic growth in the county and deterioration of vernacular adobe buildings lining streets in the community are affecting the historic character of the village. [Editors’ Note: see de la O Saloon on cover.]
The transcription, editing and annotation of Dr. Rowland Willard’s diary, a primary source document addressing the subject of travel along the Santa Fe Trail and El Camino Real, is being enabled through a NPS CCS grant. Dr. Willard traveled the Santa Fe Trail and El Camino Real in 1825.

The federal partners also provide important financial support for CARTA administration, including funding for office rental space, the executive director, newsletter preparation and printing, translation services and the annual symposium.

Following are initiatives with other partners:

- Three wayside exhibits were designed, fabricated, and installed at El Rancho de las Golondrinas describing the historic ranch, environs, and its association with the historic trail. These exhibits were funded in part through a NPS CCS grant to the historic ranch. In addition, under a separate CCS grant, archaeological testing will be conducted on the historic ranch property to confirm the existence of a defensive torreón and to develop an archaeological management plan. The torreón could be one cited in a document that relates an attack on the ranch by the Comanche in 1776.

- Critical drainage problems affecting the structural stability of the historic San Miguel Mission in Santa Fe will be corrected in partnership with Cornerstones through a NPS Challenge Cost-Share grant. Archaeological mitigation will be conducted in conjunction with the drainage remediation. The building, some of its walls predating the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, is one of the most significant Spanish Colonial resources on the trail.

- An historic context for El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is being prepared through a cooperative agreement with the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division and the National Park Service. The work has been contracted to Tom Merlan, Mike Marshall and John Roney, three exceptional archaeologists who have been working on the trail since the 1970s. The team will develop nineteen National Register nominations for individual trail segments and will also write a Multiple Property Nomination Form. The nomination form will allow us to add additional trail segments and historic properties to the National Register as we are able to conduct more field research.

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, designated by the U.S Congress in 2000, is one of eighteen National Historic Trails that are part of the National Trails System.

*Michael Taylor is Cultural Resource Manager for the National Trails System, Intermountain Region, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico.*

*Sarah Schlanger is BLM lead, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro.*

*Editors’ Note: In future issues of Chronicles, articles on the projects and initiatives described here will appear in a regular column, “Federal Place.”*
“But nobody slacked off – everyone worked hard all day. I’ve worked on community service projects like Habitat for Humanity, but I’ve never done something like this before.”

Hard labor was not all the students contributed. Their involvement in the project actually began a year earlier in a visit to Satevo during spring break, when the students identified twenty possible projects and chose the bridge as the one most needed, most achievable and the one that could help the most people. They made detailed measurements and, with the head of public works for the town, sat at a table in a local restaurant and drew out informal plans and material specifications on a napkin. Subsequently, they spent many hours making formal plans for the project.

As the work progressed, the townspeople began coming by each day, the group soon growing to about thirty spectators. Some of them would bring food for the workers. A man even brought his donkey to see what these Americans were doing.
“I spent six hours a week, outside of group meetings, working on plans, and others in our group put in long hours as well,” said Dorothy Lanphere, a senior in engineering technology. “It was a great opportunity and we learned things we couldn’t learn in a classroom.”

In addition, the students held bake sales, car washes and other fundraising efforts throughout the year to make the $4,000 needed to purchase cement and rebar. The Rotary Club of Las Cruces-Rio Grande, Dr. George D. Alexander, Bill and Judy Stevens, D’Alamo Welding, Inc., Elks Lodge #408 of Las Vegas, N.M., and Arizona Public Service also helped with funding for the project.

“It was an amazing opportunity for the students,” said Sonya Cooper, engineering technology and surveying engineering department head at NMSU. “They had the opportunity to design a bridge, estimate and procure the materials, plan the sequencing of work and logistics. And best of all, they got to work and live closely with the townspeople and see it all come together.” Stevens and Cooper accompanied the group of seven engineering students and an education student. They were joined by community volunteers Wanda Tamez and CARTA’s executive director, Jean Fulton. “They learned how to build forms and tie rebar and work with the components used in reinforced concrete,” Cooper said. “They also learned how to use a water-level tube—a plastic tube filled with water that can be stretched over a long distance to determine level. It was all very low-tech, but these methods have been working for more than 200 years.”

The municipality of Satevo provided four skilled workers who transported materials to the bridge site and began digging the foundation a week in advance. Their progress was slowed when they hit groundwater, requiring design modifications and additional time to pump the water out. The bridgedeck was unfinished at the end of the week, but the local workers completed it later.

“This experience did a lot for the image of Mexico with all of the violence happening right now,” said David Jurado, electrical engineering student. “But we were treated so well and the people were so grateful. You can’t have an experience like this and not feel good about it.”

The day the group left, the head of the Satevo municipality thanked them with tears in his eyes and invited them to a pig roast at his home. It wasn’t the last time he saw them. The students were invited to return at the end of the school semester to see the finished bridge and join in a celebration.

All of the students are members of Engineers without Borders (EWB), an organization that focuses on projects that are sustainable and can be maintained by the communities where they are located. Although this was not an official EWB undertaking, the group plans to return for future projects, possibly two each year. “This was a great start. The best part was having the opportunity to see how it brought out the best in the students and faculty. We hope to be doing these projects for many years to come,” said Lanphere, president and founder of NMSU EWB.

“The town really needs a sewer system,” said Stevens who is planning to spend the spring 2010 semester in Satevo on sabbatical. “Even a low-tech, simple system would cost $50,000-$60,000,
which is a bit ambitious for us. We’d like to do something involving renewable technology, perhaps utilizing solar pumps.”

“It was awesome to do something to help people who are in need,” said Villasana who grew up in Juárez. “I could have done other things over spring break, but you have to sacrifice something to serve others.”

Reprinted with permission

Photographs by Jean Fulton

Editors’ Note: Planning is currently underway for a second New Mexico State University Engineers Without Borders foray into Mexico along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. During Spring Break (February 2010), the students will focus on the town of Mendocino, Mexico, south of Satevo. CARTA members are encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation by donating tools, materials, time, energy, expertise and/or financial support. CARTA’s Executive Director has been invited to volunteer again as camp cook and common laborer. Assistance in either regard would be greatly appreciated! Details to follow as they become available.

For further information, contact jeanfulton@earthlink.net

Group photograph: Environmental engineering graduate student Víctor Chávez, ETSÉ Professor Kenny Stevens, Wanda Tamez, Mechanical ET student Kenly Maldonado, President of Satevo Mario Álvarez Tarango, Director of Public Works for Satevo Jesus Manuel Lozano, chemical engineering student Alexandru Boje, electrical engineering technology student Dorothy Lanphere, Electrical Engineering student David Jurado, Mechanical Engineering student Steven Wooten, Elementary Education student Patricia Wooten. Bottom row: electrical engineering student Cesar Villasana, local mason Carmelo Gonzales, local mason Abel Abelardo, local mason Reynaldo Lozano. In the background, chief mason for Satevo, Jose Duran.
CARTA’S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Will Ticknor, Las Cruces, is Director of Museums for the City of Las Cruces. Will has degrees in education, art and marketing from the University of Akron, and received his Certified Public Management degree from Kentucky State University. Museum posts have included Art Director at Old Tucson Studios, Exhibit Curator at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and curator with the Kentucky State Historical Society. He is on the curriculum advisory council for the Certified Public Manager program at NMSU. Will was awarded the 2009 Excellence in Public Service to the Arts Award by the Doña Ana Arts Council.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Larry Broxton, Las Cruces, is the Executive Director of the Doña Ana Arts Council, which manages the recently restored 422-seat Rio Grande Theatre and two art galleries, in addition to hosting a variety of community events. He is also the owner of Dauntless Consulting Group, Inc., an eleven-year-old consulting firm serving business, government and community organizations in Florida, New Mexico and Utah. Larry is a neighborhood activist and experienced grant writer.

SECRETARY: Van Ann Moore, Belen, is known for her interpretations of historic personages, based on research partially derived from journals of women who traveled the Santa Fe and Camino Real trails, including Susan Magoffin and Mamie Aguirre. She was an Artist-in Residence for the New Mexico Endowment for the Arts, scholar/performer for the New Mexico Humanities Council and is on the Speakers Bureau for the New Mexico Historical Society.

TREASURER: Helen Geer, Santa Fe, has had a long career in accounting. A native “gringa,” she was born in Aztec, N.M. in a two-room adobe. Helen was a charter member of CARTA and served as its first treasurer; she also served in this capacity for both the End of the Trail and Corazon de Los Caminos Chapters of the Santa Fe Trail Association. Helen was awarded Civitan of the Year and Kiwanian of the Year in recognition of her civic contributions.

INTERNATIONAL LIAISON: Patricia “Tisa” Gabriel, Santa Fe, was raised in Venezuela and holds degrees in Spanish Literature and Latin American Studies. She has over ten years experience in international project management with particular emphasis on Mexico and Spain. While working at the Department of Cultural Affairs, Tisa initiated and managed projects with the Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia in Mexico, involving archaeology, history, natural history and folk art. Tisa helped initiate the Camino Real Project and lobbied for funds to build the Camino Real International Heritage Center. She was Deputy Protocol Officer for New Mexico, and currently, in her work for the NM State Land Commissioner, Tisa provides official translation.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms ending 2010

Richard Loose, Organ, worked as an archeologist for eleven years in northwestern New Mexico, including excavations and remote sensing projects at Chaco Canyon. He has worked with electro-optics and applications for high-energy lasers, while continuing as part-time archeological consultant and volunteer for the BLM, NPS and the Navajo Nation. Richard makes and flies radio-controlled airplanes capable of carrying digital and video cameras.

Claire Odenheim, Las Cruces, has lived in Las Cruces since 1979, where she was a librarian in the public schools and at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. Prior to moving to New Mexico, Claire lived in Mexico, Colombia and Puerto Rico. She holds a B.A. in Spanish and History from Michigan State University, an MALS in Library Science from the University of Michigan and an M.A. in Education from NMSU. Currently, Claire is a volunteer at the Farm & Ranch Museum.

Tom Harper, Socorro, is a retired electronics engineer from National Semiconductor Corp. and IBM, where he participated in the Apollo program. Since 2000, he has managed the annual Festival of the Cranes for the Friends of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. At the 10th Annual Camino Real Colloquium in Socorro, Tom presented the results of using camera-equipped, radio-controlled model airplanes to locate tracks and swales that may be associated with El Camino Real. He is a member of the Board of Directors of El Camino Real Heritage Center Foundation.

Joy Poole, Santa Fe, serves as Deputy State Librarian at the New Mexico State Library. She has a graduate degree in Library Science from Indiana University and a degree in Museum Studies from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Prior to her career as a librarian, she was a museum professional for twenty-plus years, working at El Camino Real International Heritage Center, Mesa Verde National Park, Hubbell Trading Post on the Navajo Reservation and City Museums in Fort Collins, Co. and Farmington, N.M. Joy co-founded the Santa Fe Trail Association.

Terms ending 2011

Roy “Ben” Brown, Ph.D., El Paso, received his M.A. in Anthropology from the Universidad de las Americas (Cholula, Puebla), and both an M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Arizona. His dissertation topic was, “The Paleoeconomy of the Northern Frontier of Mesoamerica.” In the spring of 1988, Dr. Brown began a five-year term directing the conservation of Paquimé, the largest adobe city in northern Mexico. Ben has directed a number of archaeological, historical, and paleontological projects in northern Mexico. In 2001, he joined the staff of the Museo Historico ex-Aduana Fronteriza de Ciudad Juarez. Ben served as CARTA’s International Liaison from its inception in 2003 until September 2009.

Harry Myers, Santa Fe, retired from the National Park Service in March 2007, after twenty-eight years of service. He was NPS planning coordinator for the Camino Real National Historic Trail Management Plan and team leader for the Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study. Harry graduated from Western Illinois University with a B.S. in Recreation and Parks. His particular interest lies in geographical history and early trail routes, the Hispanic trade on the Camino Real and Santa Fe Trails, and the impact of the arrival of Europeans on American Indian tribes. He has served on CARTA’s Board of Directors since 2007.

Catherine López Kurland, Santa Fe, is a historic preservationist and editor. She is collaborating with photographer Miguel Gandert documenting the mariachi culture of Los Angeles, and the heritage foodways of El Camino Real. Prior to moving to New Mexico, Catherine was co-owner of a New York gallery specializing in the Arts and Crafts Movement. She has a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation & Regionalism from UNM, and a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Southern California. Catherine is co-editor of Chronicles of the Trail.

Jerry L. Gurulé, Ph.D., Albuquerque, was a historian-linguist for the National Park Service’s Intermountain Spanish Colonial Research Center, where he worked until 2007. He received his Ph.D. in 1997 in Spanish Colonial Literature from the University of New Mexico. Dr. Gurulé was an editor for the Colonial Latin American Historical Review (CLAHR) and the New Mexico Historical Review. The most recent of his many published works is Between Two Countries: A History of Coronado National Memorial, co-authored with Joseph P. Sánchez and Bruce Erickson. Jerry is an accomplished Spanish-language translator.
Despite a formidable schedule, trip organizer Hal Jackson and his good-natured neighbor and driver, Dave Jones, both of Placitas, New Mexico, provided fearless, skillful, and knowledgeable leadership during the course of the 400+-mile, five-day, packed two-van trip along the full length of the U. S. portion of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. Given the logistics of organizing more than twenty high-energy Trail enthusiasts, it is conceivable that Hal and Dave can add “herding cats” to their long list of personal accomplishments.

The intent of the trip was to introduce, engage, educate and inspire guides and site stewards who work with the visiting public, with an eye toward encouraging expansive El Camino Real partnerships and future cooperative events. Generous funding for the unprecedented El Camino Real road tour was provided through a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Challenge-Cost-Share grant.

Passionate participants included Trail and site stewards Ben Sanchez, George Sanchez and Maria “Pilar” Muñoz with the El Paso Mission Trail Association (San Elizario); Arturo Garcia and Dora Martinez at Chamizal National Memorial (El Paso); Jean Fulton, CARTA (Mesilla); Gary and Nancy Goodger with the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum (Las Cruces); Mary Kay Shannon with the Branigan Cultural Center (Las Cruces); Jason VanCamp, an independent filmmaker (Las Cruces and Las Vegas); Rob Spence of Galactic Transport & Tours, (Hatch); Linda Gonzales and Rita Salazar with El Camino Real International Heritage Center (Socorro); Robyn Harrison with the City of Socorro and El Camino Real International Heritage Center; Cora Chavez and Elaine Reyes with the National Hispanic Cultural Center (Albuquerque); Pam Austin and Catherine Coggan with El Rancho de Las Golondrinas (Santa Fe); Michael Boyle and Marilyn Ereshefsky with the Palace of the Governors (Santa Fe); Alisanne Toomey with the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art (Santa Fe); and Michael Taylor with the National Park Service (Santa Fe).

Friendships were forged, fun was had by all, and future collaborations are in the works. For the best compilation of “ground-truthed” trail segments, auto routes and associated histories, please consult tour guide, cultural geographer and author Hal Jackson’s excellent, Following the Royal Road: A Guide to the Historic Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, published by the University of New Mexico Press (2006).

Jean Fulton is CARTA’S first Executive Director.
**EL RANCHO DE LAS GOLONDRINAS, La Cienega**

Originally a paraje fifteen miles south of Santa Fe on the Camino Real, today it is a living history museum of rancho life in the 18th- and 19th-centuries.

Left: The soterrano (rootcellar), a half-buried winter storehouse for fruits and vegetables.

Right: El Molino Grande de Sapelló. The largest mill at Golondrinas was originally built and used by the Pachecos in Sapelló, NM. The oak wheel was replaced in 1991.

Left: El Torreón (defense tower), one of the historic structures at Las Golondrinas: restored, authentically erected on existing foundations, or brought in from other sites. See the 19th-century morada (penitente meeting house) on the back cover.
Tomé Hill and Puerto del Sol sculpture. Tomé was named for the first pre-Pueblo Revolt settler, Tomé Dominguez. As the Rio Grande changed course, so did El Camino Real. The town of Tomé was resettled c. 1740 on a new alignment of the Trail.

Progress in the caravans was generally limited to twelve miles per day, the speed of the slowest traveler—the pig!

Group of Camino Real site stewards next to a bronze statue of Francisco Cuervo y Valdes, a founder of Albuquerque in 1706. Front row (L-R): Rob Spence, Pilar Muñoz, Mary Kay Shannon, Ben Sanchez, Nancy Goodger, Dora Martinez, George Sanchez, and Jean Fulton. Middle row (L-R): Dave Jones, Elaine Reyes, Marilyn Ereshefsky, Alisanne Toomey, Linda Gonzales. Back row (L-R): Rita Salazar (holding camera), Catherine Coggan, Michael Boyle, Pam Austin, Hal Jackson, Robyn Harris, Jason VanCamp, Arturo Garcia, Cora Chavez and Gary Goodger.

Photograph: Michael Romero Taylor
CHIMAYO (Plaza de Cerro)
Originally a fortified plaza built in the late 1700s

The conundrum: even small heritage tourism groups can impact fragile Camino resources, as seen here in this centuries-old northern New Mexico village.

Juan de Oñate and his vanguard arrived at San Juan (Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo) on 10 July 1598. Hal Jackson’s group makes its way down the road and up a slope toward the old Yunge pueblo mound. In 1964 the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a plaque and a cross here. (see photo on next page)
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE SITES:

SAN ELIZARIO, TX
San Elizario (San Elceario, San Elzeario) is located at the intersection of Socorro Road 258 and Church Street, fifteen miles southeast of downtown El Paso in southern El Paso County.

CHAMIZAL NATIONAL MONUMENT (EL PASO, TX)
800 South San Marcial St, El Paso, TX. For directions and hours of operation, call (915) 532-7273.

MESILLA/LAS CRUCES/DOÑA ANA, NM
Las Cruces is located at the intersection of Interstate Highway 10 (east-west) and Interstate Highway 25 (north-south). The Old Mesilla Plaza is situated along Avenida de Mesilla/NM 28, adjacent to Las Cruces. The village of Doña Ana is located six miles northwest of Las Cruces (Exit off of I-25).

TOMÉ PARK (NEAR LOS LUNAS, NM)
Take Exit 203 off of I-25 (NM 6). Head east toward NM 263; but stay left on Sand Hill Road. Park is on left.

EQUESTRIAN STATUE (ALBUQUERQUE, NM)
Statue of Don Francisco Cuervo y Valdes, the acting governor who was instrumental in the founding of Albuquerque (23 April 1706). Located at a small triangular park at the intersection of Mountain and Rio Grande near the historic Old Town Plaza.

EL RANCHO DE LAS GOLONDRINAS (SANTA FE, NM)
A living history museum located in at 334 Los Pinos Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507.
Phone: (505) 471-2261. To arrange guided tours during the off-season, call (505) 473-4169.

CHIMAYÓ, NM
Chimayó is located 40 miles south of Taos and 24 miles northeast of Santa Fe, about ten miles east of Española in the Sangre de Cristo mountains. It is on Hwy 76, often called the “High Road to Taos.”

OHKAY OWINGEH PUEBLO, NM
Traditional Name: Ohkay Owingeh. English Pronunciation: “O-keh 0-weeng-eh.” (formerly called San Juan)
I-25 north to Santa Fe, NM 84/285 North of Santa Fe 24.3 miles; junction with NM 68 in Española,
Four miles north on NM 68. Junction with NM 74, 1 mile west on NM 74. Phone: (505) 852-4400.
Early Colonial Military and the Camino Real

by Henrietta M. Christmas

The early Spanish soldiers, in heading north into new territories, likely never realized that their initial trek would later constitute a major road known as the camino real. After all, a road is just a highway between places. Presidio soldiers, from their vast travels in fulfilling their duties, probably knew every bump in the road.

The Presidio of Santa Fe housed at times anywhere from fifty to one hundred twenty-five soldiers. The southern Presidio of El Paso del Norte housed half that number and provided a way station on the camino real. Documents tell us that the camino real was a major part of a soldiers' lives, as they not only traveled on the royal road, but repaired it, secured it and lived on many parts of it.

Soldiers served in different capacities as required. Presidios themselves needed many soldiers to make sure that all necessary duties were performed. Most soldiers received on the job training and many of them were sons of soldiers. Besides defending the borderlands from foreign powers they also carried out many other jobs such as:

- Escorting supply caravans, which required 10 – 30 soldiers
- Carrying and delivering the mail
- Conducting military campaigns
- Guarding the military horse herd, which required up to 20 - 35 soldiers, relieved every four days
- Repairing the barracks and other fortifications
- Repairing the camino real

Soldiers did not always have time for target practice, tend to their families, or learn to read and write. Musters done at the beginning of each month noted whether they were present, a position was vacant, if there were any inactive soldiers and where they were serving. Other musters depict animals on hand. Each soldier was required to have seven horses and one mule, in addition to providing his own arms.

A soldado de cuera (leather jacket soldier) wore a knee-length leather jacket of multiple buckskins that protected them from spears and at times was used as a sleeping bag. These soldiers were integral in the military efforts of the New Spain, as their roles were vital to the safety of the villages and villas they protected. They also had to carry a flintlock rifle, saber, lance, adarga (oval shaped shield) and ammunition, and had to maintain their six to ten horses. At times not all soldiers had their necessary equipment as they had to provide their own. A fully equipped soldier might carry up to 160 pounds of additional weight. Horses were often worn down and needed replacements throughout the year. A muster for October 1779 at Santa Fe shows fifty cuera soldiers with seven officers.

In 1777, the Governor petitioned for a tropa ligera, or flying troop, to be ready at a moment's notice. The presidio was then strengthened to 120 men and the ligera soldiers were to be less armed than the cuera soldier. Consequently their duties were changed to their becoming exempt from guarding the horse herd, and they received less pay than the soldados de cuera. These ligera soldiers patrolled the camino real, remote areas, and often stationed in specific areas. The same October 1779 muster shows fifty ligera soldiers and five officers. As years went by, their duties sometimes overlapped, as later musters show that at times anyone could be ordered to guard the horse herd, comprised of up to two thousand animals.

Soldados de cuera

Three Santa Fe Presidio soldiers—Bernardo Bustamante, Manuel Delgado and Bernardo Miera y Pacheco—all had dealings with other presidios and ventured up and down the *camino real* as their duties were needed.

Captain Bernardo Bustamante y Tagle (1702-1773), a Spaniard from Santander, came to New Mexico in the early colonial days of the 1700s. By 1721 he was serving in the royal army in Santa Fe. In 1741 he was a lieutenant and in 1752 he was a captain, replacing Captain Alonso Victores Rubin de Celis at El Paso del Norte. He served as Lt. Governor from 1722-1731, and was listed in the 1750 Santa Fe Census. In about 1730 Bernardo married Feliciana Vega y Coca from a well-to-do family in La Cienega, a small *paraje* near Santa Fe on the *camino real*. Bustamante at some point must have asked the Viceroy for a new position and relocated to Guajoguilla, Nueva Viscaya, around 1758, and founded a presidio known as Santa Maria de la Caldes de Guajoquilla (Jimenez); he brought along thirty soldiers from Janos, Valle de San Buenaventura and Valle de Allende to help settle the area. He brought with him the Virgen de Santa Maria de las Caldas from his native Spain. She served him well in this founding of a new presidio. No service record to date has been found. His brother Jose Antonio Bustamante y Tagle arrived in Guajoquilla and served as a lieutenant under Bernardo. Bernardo’s wife Feliciana died in 1762, and she asked that some vestments be left to the *castrense* (military chapel) at the presidio of Guajoquilla. Captain Bustamante followed his wife in death in 1773 at the age of 71. His sacramental death record reads:

*January 1773*

*In this royal parish of Guajoquilla on the 17th day of January, 1772 (sic), I, Bachiller Jose Felix Bergara, the pastor buried in the chancel by the high cross, don Bernardo Antoñ Bustamante, Capitan, Founder and re-vitalizer of this Royal Presidio. He received all the sacraments and made a will and disposition of his estate, leaving as heir, don Juan Antonio Velarde in the Kingdom of Spain and ordered a piece of real estate for the perpetuity for the oils used in the church, monthly Masses, sung Masses annually and two novenas; one to Our Lady of Sorrows and the other to Holy Mary, Lady of the Light to be said at their respective altars. Also, requested two monthly Requiem Masses, one for his soul and the other for his wife doña Feliciana Lazo de la Vega. In the Pueblo of Atotonilco that two novenas be said annually, one to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the other to the Immaculate Conception and to this I sign.*

*Bachiller Jose Felix Bergara (rubric)*

The muster of December 1, 1779, shows thirty-three soldiers in Chihuahua under the leadership of Lt. *don* Manuel de la Azuela and 2nd Corporal Anacleto Miera. Governor and Captain Juan Baptista de Anza stayed in Santa Fe with the remaining men and oversaw the governing of New Mexico. On September 1, 1780, the muster again shows some soldiers in Chihuahua and some in El Paso del Norte; this time sixteen soldiers comprised of the *Tropa Ligera* under the leadership of Lt. *don* Jose Maria Cordero, 2nd Lt. *don* Salvador Rivera and Corporal Juan Luis de Herrera. On January 1, 1781, Governor and Captain *don* Juan Bautista de Anza was in Sonora along with sixty soldiers, remaining there until April 1, 1781, when the monthly muster showed them back in Santa Fe. From June—September 1781, another group of these soldiers were in Chihuahua, with some noted as being on “detached service.” The few musters that exist have the same types of entries, with many of the Santa Fe soldiers away in Chihuahua. The most interesting muster was that of December 1785—February 1786, when several soldiers were noted *en el camino a Chihuahua*, apparently having just left Santa Fe; and a year later the soldiers were on the road to Chihuahua again.
Their two daughters, Josefa and Rosa, remained in Santa Fe, where they married two Ortiz', father Nicolas and his son Antonio. It is not clear if there were any provisions made for the daughters besides their dowries, as no estate papers have been found. Since he had no sons, his legacy remained with the two daughters, who stayed in Santa Fe.

Lieutenant, acting as Captain Manuel Delgado (1738-1815), born December 1738 at the Royal Mines at Pachuca, Durango, enlisted in the royal army as a dragoon on July 22, 1761, at the age of 23. His parents were Antonio Delgado and Juana Xaviera Chабarria Bulton. He was married the first time in El Paso to Josefa García de Noriega (1767-1811) on March 22, 1779, and likely remained there until he showed up in Santa Fe in the 1790 Presidio Census. Delgado married a second time to Ana Maria Baca in 1814, daughter of Juan Domingo Baca and Ana Gertrudis Ortiz, a family, like the Delgados, in the merchant trade.

Manuel Delgado’s military career should not be taken lightly; he shines among leaders as his service record notes his tenure for 30 years:

...was involved in eighteen campaigns retrieving many horses from the enemy. He was noted as having good conduct, serving with valor, married, not in good health and ready to retire. Manuel served at the following presidios: Carrizal, Agua Verde, San Elizario, San Carlos, Principe, San Buenaventura and Santa Fe. He was then promoted to Corporal in 1767, Sergeant in 1768, Lt. in 1774 and Lt. Colonel in 1778; after that he served as a Captain until he retired in 1791.

Why he decided to retire in Santa Fe is not documented, but it is likely that his merchant skills came into play as he traded on the camino until his death. In 1804 he was noted as the Postmaster General for New Mexico; this might have come about as he traded up and down the camino at times carrying mail. In 1805, Manuel authorized a caravan to Sonora when he was alcalde mayor of Santa Fe. Delgado’s three sons, Marcos, Fernando and Manuel, all served in the Presidio of Santa Fe and acting as merchants like their father. His daughters married soldiers as well. Dying intestate in 1815 at the age of 76, Manuel’s personal goods take up the vast majority of the estate; real estate next; and lastly trade goods and a few pieces of military equipment. He died a wealthy man. In the inventory of his estate, a shotgun with a bayonet, a pair of pistols, one good gun, one long gun, three inferior guns and various knives were itemized. His trading equipment was vast, consisting of pack mules, burros, packing saddles, store goods and objects picked up from Puebla to Santa Fe, for a total amount of 23,887 pesos, 1 real and 6 centavos. Delgado’s children and grandchildren continued with his prosperous trading business and later generations would also trade on yet another camino, the Santa Fe Trail. The Delgado family rarely moved out of Santa Fe, and Manuel was the progenitor for this large family who are in New Mexico to this day.

Distinguished, Bernardo Miera y Pacheco (1713-1785), born August 4, 1713, in Valle de Carriedo, Cantabria, Spain, came to the New World after Governor Marin requested that he come to Santa Fe. On way north, in Janos, Mexico on May 20, 1741, Miera y Pacheco married Estefana de los Dolores Dominguez (1723-1783), a great-granddaughter of Tomé Dominguez and Elena Mendoza, early colonial settlers of New Mexico. His oldest son, Anaceto, was born in Chihuahua in 1742, and Bernardo was in El Paso del Norte by 1743 when his second son, Manuel, was born, and he remained there until at least 1749 when another child is noted as dead. Miera y Pacheco himself, like the other soldiers, came from a military family. His father, Luis Maria de Miera Villa, was the Captain of the Militia Cavalry for Cantabria, Spain, and his mother Isabel Ana Pacheco was also from a military line. Bernado did not enlist in the royal army until January 11, 1779 at the age of sixty-five, but up to that time he had traveled up and down the camino real, though major parts of New Mexico and had ventured with the Dominguez-Escalante group in 1776 to Colorado and Utah. His enlistment record is noted as:

Enlistment of Dragoon Lixero (Light Troop Dagon), “don Bernardo de Miera y Pacheco, son of the Cantabria Militia Cavalry Captain, don Luis de Miera and of Doña Isabel Ana Pacheco, native of the Valley of Carriedo, Montañas de Santander, in the Kingdom of Castile, dependent of the Gobierno of the Village of Laredo; a laborer by occupation, his height five feet; his age sixty-five years. His religion Catylico Apostylico Romano [Roman Catholic], his description as follows: Greying hair and eyebrows, blue eyes, color white rose, a regular native disposition, graying beard close cropped. He was awarded distinguished status in the Company by order of the troop’s
Commander General; and limited to the light dragoons in this new conscription in this Village of Santa Fe of New Mexico, on the 11th of January 1779, and he was read the penal laws that regulate the Royal Orders in vogue, and he signed it, being advised that this justification should not serve as any excuse, being witnesses the two company sergeants, Juan Abrego and Antonio Guerrero. He stated he was married and knows how to read and write.

Signed: Bernardo de Miera y Pacheco (rubric)

Nota: I approve this enlistment as noted by order of the Commander General

Signed: Jose Maria Cordero y Bustamente (rubric)

Nota: On the 11th of April, 1785, the soldier above-named died of natural causes.

Signed Anza (rubric)

Bernardo Miera’s son, Manuel, noted as a painter, enlisted the same day, and advanced to soldado de cuera on February 1, 1780; he retired in 1817. Anacleto Miera y Pacheco enlisted at the young age of twenty-six in April 1767, and retired in November 1795. Anacleto held the office of Distinguished Corporal. In the January 1785 muster for Santa Fe, all three men are noted—Anacleto as Distinguished Sergeant present, Manuel as a Carvinero (Carbonnier) Distinguished in Chihuahua and Bernardo as Distinguished. On the notas bajas for the muster dated May 1, 1785, Bernardo is noted as dying from natural causes at the age of 71.

Bernardo Miera y Pacheco is most famous for his cartographic skills in mapping New Mexico and parts of the Southwest. He created maps in 1756, 1760, 1777, 1778 and 1779. Along with those skills, he is attributed as having sculpted the altar screen for the castrense in Santa Fe, another in Santa Cruz, St. Michael at San Miguel Church and other various santos. He wrote three letters to the king asking for a title and favors for his sons, which resulted in his being noted “Distinguished” in the military musters.

His two sons, Anacleto and Manuel used the same title. Anza gave him special deferment from presidial duties in order to pursue these other interests of the crown. During the Dominguez-Escalante expedition which was to leave on July 4, 1776, Miera took ill and the party could not leave until the end of August. During this venture he named a canyon Miera’s Labyrinth and Lake Miera after himself in the maps he created, possibly still not happy that the king had cited him only as Distinguished and nothing else. Miera y Pacheco is the progenitor for the Miera family of New Mexico; his legacy lives on with his skills in cartography, painting and sculpture.

In summary, these three soldiers lived on the camino real almost all their lives. Their duty to the crown kept them ‘on the move,’ apprising themselves of the situations north and south of various presidios during the colonial period, 1721-1805. Traversing thousands of miles between presidios, they knew many parts of the royal road intimately. Their movement within New Mexico and northern Mexico help to open up trade, make passage safe and maintain a vital lifeline we can still see today.
ENDNOTES

1 Spanish Archives of New Mexico, New Mexico State Records Center & Archives, Santa Fe, N.M., series II, roll 11; Henrietta M. Christmas, “Military Records ~ Colonial New Mexico, Notas y Revistas,” (Albuquerque, N.M.: Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico), pp. 56-175.

2 Virginia Langham Olmsted, compiler, “Spanish and Mexican Censuses of New Mexico 1750 – 1830,” (Albuquerque, NM: New Mexico Genealogical Society) 3, shown as don Bernardo Bustamante; doña Feliciana Lazo de la Vega; Josepha de Bustamante; Rossa de Bustamante; Joseph de Vaca; Calletano; Maria Josepha; Antonia.


4 LDS Film #162514, Jimenez, Mexico. (Salt Lake City, UT). Death records for Feliciana and Bernardo Bustamante.

5 Virginia Langham Olmsted, compiler, “Spanish and Mexican Censuses of New Mexico 1750 – 1830,” (Albuquerque, N.M: New Mexico Genealogical Society), p.102, HH, #2, shown as don Manuel Delgado, 1st Lt., native of Pachuca, 51; wife, doña Josefa Garcia de Noriega, S, 23; two sons ages 5, 1; daughter age 11; four servants, male S, 45; his wife, 30; their daughters ages 18, 9; male, MU, 20; his wife, 19; male Indian, 22, male S, 20; female Indian, 10; female C, 8.

6 Archivos de Simancas, LDS Film #1156341, Simancas, Spain. (Salt Lake City, UT), Legajo 7278 C8.

7 Spanish Archives of New Mexico. (New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, N.M), Series 1, roll 2, Frames 365-387.

8 LDS Film 1297485, Santander, Spain, (Salt Lake City, UT).

9 Marin served as governor from 1754 – 1760.

10 Spanish Archives of New Mexico. New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, (Santa Fe, NM), Series II, Roll 23, Frame 831. Death Record, Series II, Roll 11, Frame 780, 782.

11 Spanish Archives of New Mexico. New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, (Santa Fe, NM), Series II, Roll 23, Frame 836.

12 Spanish Archives of New Mexico. New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, (Santa Fe, NM). Series II, Roll 23, Frame 831.

13 Spanish Archives of New Mexico. New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, (Santa Fe, NM), Series II, Roll 11, Frame 779, 782.

14 Ronaldo A. Miera, private collection.

Henrietta Martinez Christmas is a long-time member of the Historical Society of New Mexico, currently serving on the Board. A resident of Corrales, NM, she has been a respected historical and genealogical researcher for the past twenty-five years.

Editors’ Note: The Spanish Archives of New Mexico has in its holdings some 435 military enlistment records. These records are also available at the Family History Library (Salt Lake City, Utah). “Military Records of Colonial New Mexico Notas y Revistas (Notes & Musters)” and “The Santa Fe Presidio Soldiers—Their Donation to the American Revolution” collection are both available at the Family History Library, and for purchase from the Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Spanish Archives of New Mexico
New Mexico State Records Center and Archives
1205 Camino Carlos Rey, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
(505) 476-7900  FAX (505) 476-7901

Hispanic Genealogical Research Center
Lourdes Hall, St. Pius X Campus
4060 St Joseph Pl. NW, Albuquerque, NM
Phone: (505) 833-4197

New Mexico Genealogical Society
Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS)  
12th Conference on National Scenic & Historic Trails  

“Gearing Up for the Decade for the National Trails: Outreach, Protection and Capacity”  
July 12-15, 2009 - Missoula, Montana

Reminiscences and Recap  
Story and Photographs by Jean Fulton

Last summer, John Bloom and I were honored to attend the 12th Conference on National Scenic & Historic Trails sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) and hosted by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Association with assistance from the Nez Perce Trail Association and the Continental Divide Trail Alliance.

In his recent written recap of the event, John Bloom credits one individual in particular, Gary Warner (Director, PNTS, since its inception in 1995) for working tirelessly behind the scenes to solicit Congressional appropriations critical to filling the coffers of the PNTS federal partners, namely the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U. S. Forest Service, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Federal Highways Administration. [Editors’ Note: Please see John Bloom’s written recap on our website at caminorealcarta.org]

“CARTA would be very, very weak fiscally if it were not for generous dollar (and other) support from our federal government partners,” noted Bloom. He goes on to credit Ross Marshall, PNTS President, and many others who work alongside Gary to raise funding and awareness, and who traveled to New Mexico in 2003 to assist with the creation of CARTA.

The conference organizers, Julia Glad, and Wendy Raney, and the skilled Trail hosts deserve a tremendous amount of credit. Everyone involved in the planning and execution pulled off an impressive braiding of lectures, hands-on workshops, community service activities, youth involvement, cultural experiences, field trips and educational opportunities. My high expectations for the gathering (200 individuals strong!) were exceeded.

I am delighted to report that Gary Werner called last week and asked if I would serve on the national PNTS committee to oversee the upcoming Public Broadcast System (PBS) special series on the National Trails. PNTS and Kansas City Public Television have agreed to produce a pilot set of thirteen 30-minute television programs featuring one historic trail per episode. The series will be broadcast nationwide. He also asked if I would chair a planning committee for the national Historic Trails Workshop to be held in May 2010. The conference continues to nurture similar fruitful outcomes.

Created by the National Trails System Act in 1968, the federal trails system celebrates its 50th year in 2018. Last February, in Washington, D.C., I volunteered to serve on the “Decade for the National Trails” committee chaired by Jere Krakow. We are compiling and prioritizing a list of “Action Items” to accomplish the three substantial goals that PNTS and its myriad partners set out for themselves.

Accordingly, these same three “Decade Committee” goals also set the stage for the Missoula Conference:

- **Goal 1:** Expanding **Outreach** about the National Trails to all Americans
- **Goal 2:** Protecting the natural and cultural resources, and completing the on-the-ground trail
- **Goal 3:** Increasing the **Capacity** of public agencies and nonprofit organizations to sustain the trails and their resources.

I chose to pursue the “Capacity” conference track because it includes many aspects particularly relevant to CARTA: constituency building, the growth of vibrant volunteerism and the development of strong organizational competencies and staffing. Each broad conference track embraced a matrix of field trips and 90-minute workshops; each track moved with ease between informational lectures, brainstorming sessions, and action-oriented exercises, with a very healthy blend of indoor and outdoor activities.
Keynote speaker and Native American Roberta “Bobbie” Conner brought home for me the fact that when we stand on an historic trail, we are connected to every point along its length. Working with the students on a bridge in Satevo, Mexico, for example, we are culturally and physically connected with someone planting seeds at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo. When we walk the pristine length of El Camino Real in the Jornada del Muerto, we are tangibly connected to bustling crowds in Mexico City. Trails quite poignantly connect us to one another.

Other conference highlights for me included:

- A vigorous discussion session for nonprofit organization staff members to share their challenges, concerns, obstacles, successes and fundraising ideas
- The focus on involving younger people in our scenic and historic trails initiatives
- A community service project that replanted a modern road intrusion using native grasses, and included the installation of an irrigation system
- A mentorship program that paired experienced trail community members and youths

John Bloom made “PNTS business” his niche, attending the PNTS Board of Directors meeting with Aaron Mahr, NPS; Sarah Schlanger, BLM; Reba Grandrud, Old Spanish Trail and Anza Historic Trail; Liz Warren, Old Spanish Trail; Jere Krakow, NPS retired, and others. John noted that “a youthful Julia Glad” has been hired as communications specialist for the Partnership, and edits the PNTS “Pathways” magazine. Readers may access the Pathways magazine on-line via the PNTS Web site at www.nationaltrailspartnership.org. Julia used several of CARTA’s photographs from the conference in the Summer 2009 Pathways, and future collaborations with Julia are in the works. An electronic version of Pathways should be available soon, and will be forwarded to all CARTA members who would like to receive the periodical electronically.

I especially benefitted from listening to Dan Sakura and Gates Watson from The Conservation Fund, Maddy Pope from the Trust for Public Land, Rebecca Schwendler from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Bruce Milhans from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and Ashley Hansen from the Student Conservation Association. John and I both enjoyed meeting the new Executive Director for El Camino Real de los Tejas, Stephen Gonzales. It is nice to know that each is only an email or a phone call away.

We were treated on several occasions to meals collected and prepared using traditional methods by our Nez Perce hosts: bison stew, fresh herbs, and huckleberry cobbler. The Youth Scholarship Recipients, or “National Trails Apprentices,” as they later voted among themselves to be called, gathered from all over the country—from New Hampshire to Hawaii and Florida—making the mealtime discussions very lively and enjoyable. Spending time with the conference organizers and participants, and especially the scholarship recipients, generated within me a genuine sense of optimism for the future. The Partnership for the National Trails System is beginning to feel like family for me; a family that both John and I encourage our CARTA members to join.
Editors’ Note: CARTA’s Executive Director asked Rob Spence to serve as our Spaceport Liaison because he has a vested interest in both the success of the Spaceport and the protection of the Trail. The views Spence expresses are his own, and do not necessarily reflect an official CARTA stance.

SPACEPORT: Mind’s Eye

By Rob Spence

The Jornada del Muerto is one of the most intriguing parts of the Camino Real. First, the name draws attention, puzzling us with its translation and uncertain original meaning. Journey of the dead man? Perhaps; but the phrase more likely means “journey of death,” for hundreds of head of livestock perished along this particularly dry and difficult section of terrain. People also undoubtedly died along this rugged portion of the journey. In a 1993 essay published in El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, (New Mexico Bureau of Land Management Cultural Resources Series No. 11), Joseph P. Sanchez writes about the discovery of the remains of Bernardo Gruber, a German merchant who, following escape after two years of imprisonment for expressing a superstitious belief, was unable to negotiate this strenuous part of his escape (talk about a dramatic end to his reality show!). This unfortunate merchant had remained imprisoned while his Spanish Inquisitors argued by correspondence with their superiors in Mexico City about how best to save Senior Gruber’s soul. Although initially successful in his escape, Gruber’s remains were located later, his identity confirmed by his fancy fur-collared coat and the remains of his horse tethered nearby, presumably at what is called Alemán (German), near the entrance to Spaceport America.

So what does this have to do with a mind’s eye? My mind’s eye in particular? I can stand on the Camino Real at Yost bluff today, following the trail to the north with my eyes and, with a little imagination, I can see Mr. Gruber and his horse struggling toward me along a dirt road made into powder by the passage of thousands of head of livestock. I can for a moment imagine the despair of being alone, without water, struggling to take one more step. When I look out over the Camino Real from Yost bluff, it looks much the same as it did in the days of Conquistadors, Inquisitors and wagon trains. The wagon ruts are surrounded by mesquite and chaparral under the same vivid blue sky of the New Mexican desert. The Jornada del Muerto hosts the most pristine section of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro remaining in the United States.

Today Bernardo could follow the power lines until they intersected a road, or a railroad spur, but much of the environment would be very similar to what it was when he was fleeing his captors. The vast empty expanse is both lonely and beautiful, though the clouds of dust in the distance are raised not by livestock, carretas or mule teams, but by construction equipment building a runway from which space pioneers will launch their journey to witness the breathtaking beauty of Earth viewed from space.

Spaceport America is bringing the present to the Jornada del Muerto. During the construction phase, while standing on Yost bluff with an eye on the trail, dust and vehicles are in view. After construction it will be difficult picturing Gruber struggling with his horse through the sand while a Virgin Galactic plane takes off or lands, but where should your mind’s eye be during such a current event?

I periodically drive along the southern half of the Jornada from the Upham exit off Interstate 25 to the intersection of SR-51 at Engle. Except for planned rendezvous with CARTA associates, I have never observed any tourists enjoying the Jornada. The parking areas constructed by the Bureau of Land Management are empty, waiting for signage and patronage. There are possible archaeological losses from introducing twenty-first century activities near the oldest road in the land, but there are positive effects for the public to be considered as well. For example, the site explorations recently completed by Zia Engineering might never have been funded without such an enterprise. Additionally, the thousands of visitors attracted to the action at Spaceport America will also learn of the Camino Real and Jornada del Muerto as part of their guided tour experience. I believe that the influx of so many tourists will have a more negative effect on the Jornada del Muerto experience than either the view shed or launch activities from the Spaceport, but that is the price of sharing a National Historic Trail with its citizens.
As a CARTA member and Spaceport America enthusiast, I will attempt to keep CARTA members informed on the status of construction at the Spaceport in future issues. At present, archeological surveying is complete, allowing construction work to begin. Site preparation and runway grading are underway. Water, wastewater and fuel storage contracts are scheduled to begin work. The terminal and hanger facility, fire and maintenance facilities, and internal road contracts are still to be released for bid. The largest obstacle I’m aware of is lack of available water for construction (the Spaceport Authority decided to leave procurement of this crucial commodity up to each individual contractor via the “open market,” a decision they may yet regret).

I believe it is time for CARTA members to support this venture by joining the visionaries creating Spaceport America, and by offering ways for history lovers to join futurists in observing the past and the future merge in the present.

Rob Spence is the director of Galactic Transport & Tours LLC of Hatch, NM with “Service to Spaceport America and beyond.” He retired a Lt. Colonel from the U.S. Air Force Reserve after a twenty-eight year career in aviation.

Editors’ Note: “Spaceport” will be a regular feature in future issues of the Chronicles.

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in the Jornada del Muerto, heading south toward Point of Rocks. Photograph: Jean Fulton, 2009
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

12 October 2009

Jean Fulton

As some of you may know, I arrived at this destination early last year after serving two terms as CARTA’s Secretary (2005-2009) and as the Preservation Programs Coordinator with Cornerstones Community Partnerships in Santa Fe, a nonprofit organization which focuses on community revitalization through historic preservation. I am grateful for this extraordinary opportunity to serve as CARTA’s first Executive Director.

The Executive Director’s position is made possible through federal funding provided by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management, and is the result of the visionary stance of CARTA’s Board of Directors. I want to thank Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail; Mike Taylor, NPS Cultural Resources Manager for the National Trails System, Intermountain Region; Sharon Brown, NPS Chief of Trail Operations, Intermountain Region; Sarah Schlanger, BLM Lead, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro; and Pat Beckett, CARTA’s immediate past-President, for their expertise, support, advice, and unflagging goodwill.

My personal goal is to engage neighbors of all ages in a variety of hands-on projects that improve the quality of life for residents and visitors along the full length of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. As always, CARTA will continue to protect, educate, and advocate on behalf of El Camino Real, and will serve as a principle impetus and repository for scholarly research related to the trail’s prehistoric, historic, and contemporary cultural and environmental significance.

To that end, CARTA is actively involved in several projects rooted in community revitalization, including historic preservation, and efforts that will serve to inspire and encourage potential researchers. Although detailed updates on each will be provided in the January 2010 “Letter From the Executive Director,” a brief summary of each activity is in order:

National History Day and Rio Grande Historical Collection (RGHC):

Board member Claire Odenheim and I attended a free daylong NM Humanities Council workshop on the workings of National History Day, and learned how best to engage students in undertaking El Camino Real research as part of the event. We are also working with Rick Hendricks and Kristina Martinez (NMSU RGHC/Library) to see if CARTA can assist with two of their important long-term endeavors. For more information, please go to www.nhd.org and http://lib.nmsu.edu/depts/archives/rghc.

Documenting the Jornada del Muerto:

At CARTA’s request, several local filmmakers have been asked to submit scopes of works and budgets to work with film students to document the Jornada del Muerto before the Spaceport is fully operational. The intent is to capture the pristine nature of the Trail and its surroundings before the area is impacted. Several potential funding sources have been identified, including the National Trust for Historic Places. For more information on the Jornada del Muerto, please go to www.caminorealheritage.org.
Las Esperanzas Neighborhood Association: Signage and Oral History Projects:
I asked several local historic archaeologists to assist David Chavez, President, Las Esperanzas, with identifying the historic route(s) of the Camino Real through the historic Mesquite District. Once verified, CARTA will work with Las Esperanzas and Steve Burns, NPS landscape architect (Santa Fe) to sign the route. For more information on Las Esperanzas and other potential city and neighborhood partners, please go to www.downtownlascrucesppartnership.org.

Groundwork Doña Ana (GWDA) Rio Grande Trail and Spurs/Loops:
CARTA is partnering with Groundwork Doña Ana (a nonprofit still in formation), the City of Las Cruces, the Town of Mesilla, the County of Doña Ana, NM State Parks and the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), to assist with the planning and development of the statewide Rio Grande Trail Initiative. Ultimately, spur and loop trails to communities along El Camino Real are envisioned. For more information on Groundwork USA and the proposed Rio Grande Trail, please go to www.groundworkusa.net and www.emnrd.state.nm.us/prd/riograndeconcept.

Challenge-Cost-Share Grants:
Board members Joy Poole and Tom Harper successfully secured federal Challenge-Cost-Share grants to pursue two important passions. Joy is transcribing the diary of Camino traveler Rolland Willard (c. 1825); and Tom will be identifying Trail segments within the Sevilleta wildlife refuge from the air, using small planes he has constructed himself. The results of both exciting undertakings will be featured in future issues of the Chronicles. For more information, please go to www.npts.gov/ccsp.

I’d like to welcome all of our new CARTA members! Bienvenidos a CARTA to: Richard and Carolyn Jedlicka (Las Cruces, NM), Mary Helen Taylor Ratje (Mesilla, NM), Leslie Cohen (Santa Fe, NM), Terry Reynolds (Las Cruces, NM), Jody Schwartz (El Paso, TX), Susan C. Boyle (El Rito, NM), and a special ‘shout out’ to my Mom, new member Dorothy Fulton (Alexandria, VA). I encourage all of our members, long-standing and new, to stop by the CARTA office located inside the Southwest Environmental Center at the corner of Las Cruces and Water Streets. Or, please call for an appointment (575.528.8267) or e-mail me at: jeanh Fulton@earthlink.net.

What is the best way to help CARTA? Encourage your friends and family members to join! Please consider giving memberships as gifts. Sign on as a volunteer with the activities that most interest you. Above all else, please stay tuned. It is an exciting time for CARTA and El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro! I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best for you and yours,

Jean Fulton
La Morada, El Rancho de las Golondrinas