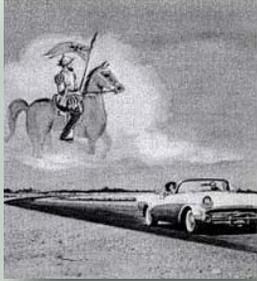


The Old Spanish Trail: Coast to Coast



Conceived in 1915 as the shortest route between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the Old Spanish Trail (OST) connecting St. Augustine, Florida and San Diego, California, took nearly fifteen years to construct at a cost of more than

\$80,000,000. Unlike other Southern transcontinental highways that stitched together existing roads across the continent's relatively flat and dry midsection, much of the Old Spanish Trail was forged over formerly impassable swamplands in the Southeast, including five major outlets into the Gulf.

Finally opening for travel in 1929, the OSTA billed the highway as the most expensive and most

highly engineered of all the transcontinental trails. As the progenitor of today's Interstate 10, the OSTA deserves recognition for boosting the first southernmost transcontinental highway.

Several issues back we looked at Route 66, then the "Palms to Pine" highway and Highway 80. As we travel, finding these gems can be more interesting than an Interstate.

Special points of interest:

- The joy of travel pre-Interstate
- No doubt many "...are we there yet" from the backseat.
- Look at the articles about the OST in AZ, and that bridge over the Colorado in Yuma



State Rally comes to Wickenburg, AZ

From the mid twentieth century into the current time, the Dude Ranch or guest ranch is the epitome of a Western holiday and providing both the time and environment to foster good health. Surrounded by spectacular beauty, far from the noise and crowds of fast-paced cities, serenity comes easy to each guest.

Today, many describe Wickenburg, Arizona as the "Dude Ranch Capital of the Country". That's because the area exudes the aura of its historical old west days.

Lured by the dream of discovering gold, Henry Wickenburg was handsomely rewarded in the early 1860's by the discovery of the

Vulture Mine and its rumored production of over \$30 million in gold.

We too, will be drawn "Out Wickenburg Way" during the HRRVC AZ & NM State Rally. Dates are October 25—28. Location is the Wickenburg Community Center. Much more in later newsletters.

Inside this issue:

OST & AZ	2
Quartzsite	2
That Bridge in Yuma	3
Inside Story	3
A Final Word	4
WIR Form	5

AZ and the Old Spanish Trail

“...plenty of vintage roadside architecture in the form of relic motels, gas stations and classic neon signs”

Between New Mexico and California, the Old Spanish Trail traverses a diverse geography, contrasting long stretches of stark Sonoran desert scenery with slow crawls through some of Arizona’s largest towns.

Despite the predominantly desert landscape, the OST in Arizona boasts an impressive collection of historic highway bridges.

The OST begins in the east on a scenic section of road passing through low volcanic hills with the majestic Chiricahua Mountains looming to the west. Bisbee, provides memora-

ble accommodations with its grand old Copper Queen Hotel and the nearby Shady Dell RV Park, offering lodging in a campy collection of restored Airstream and Spartan travel trailers.



Both Tucson and Phoenix have plenty of vintage roadside architecture in the form of relic motels, gas stations and classic neon signs lining old US 80.

Beyond Phoenix, the OST follows the curve of the

Gila River through the Salt River Valley, where irrigation has turned the harsh desert into fields of cotton and deep green alfalfa. Yuma, a sprawling city, doubles in size every winter with snowbirds arriving in search of warmer weather, inexpensive dental, eye care and prescription drugs available across the border.

Unlike the states to the east, Arizona never became an Old Spanish Trail booster. Evidence of the OST name is confined to a decaying motel in Tucson and the ersatz named section of the road east of the same city.

Quartzsite Outing

Thirty three units rolled into the Rice Ranch RV Park for five days of shopping, eating, sharing stories and wandering around the desert.

Under the leadership of Neil & Kay Honn along with Thom & Barb Feit the sixty plus campers enjoyed campfires, sky lantern ascensions, renewed friendships. For the third year, we welcomed two dozen units from Texas & Cali-

fornia HRRVC chapters. So glad to see them again.

Prior to the Rice Ranch camping, there were twenty-four RVers dry camping on BLM land south of the town. Chapter members from 407, 309, 71 with others enjoyed the clear evening air pungent with smells of the campfires. The days were sunny,

however the evenings were brisk, hence the large fire pit. Thanks to Emery & Roberta Olson for leading this portion of the outing.



Ocean-to-Ocean Highway Bridge, Yuma

Constructed in 1915 as a joint effort between the Office of Indian Affairs and the states of California, Arizona and New Mexico to promote traffic along the Ocean-to-Ocean Highway, the bridge became the only highway span over the Colorado River for 1,200 miles.

Because of the often unpredictable behavior of the Colorado River, the bridge

was erected without a center pier; instead the builders slid the deck on a barge to meet the embankment on the California side.

Briefly during the 1930s, California erected a checkpoint on the west side to prevent jobless "Oakies" from entering the state.

The venerable bridge carried transcontinental traffic until 1988, when it was deemed structurally un-

sound and restricted to foot traffic. More recently it received a \$2 million dollar upgrade, and reopened in 2002 to limited one-way traffic.

The "Ocean-to-Ocean Highway Yuma" sign was restored and now illuminates with a gentle white light every night at dusk.



When Bad Things Happen to Good People

Neil & Kay Honn are wonderful people, but the week in Quartzsite tested their mettle. They were going off to Blythe to get supplies. A long wait and cold food at a fast food chain, then a broken inside car door

handle, followed by an early onset of pneumonia. An overnight stay in the Blythe hospital and more drugs. All this would have taxed even Job. But there is more - while out, a wind came up and ripped their

large coach awning right along the seam. With assistance, the arms were secured with rope and duct tape allowing them to return to Tucson after a taxing, yet rewarding stay in the desert.



Sunset at Quartzsite is a great way to end the day.

Waddell Dam and Lake Pleasant

As campers and fishermen enjoy Lake Pleasant, north of Phoenix, they may not know the history of that reservoir.

The "Carl" Pleasant Dam, later renamed Waddell Dam, was constructed between 1926 and 1928, creating the upper portion of Lake Pleasant. At the time,

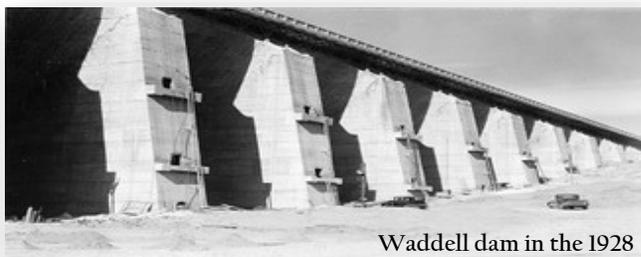
it was the largest Multiple Arch Dam in the world.

The dam stood 176 feet in height and 2,160 feet in length. It created a Lake with 3,706 surface acres of water having a shoreline of 50+ miles.

The new dam was completed in 1993 and raised

the water level by 100 vertical feet and increased the water surface to 9,966 acres. The raise buried the old dam under water fed

by the Agua Fria River, Central AZ Project and Colorado River. It feeds agrifarming in the western valley and south.



Waddell dam in the 1928

Contact for AZ

Thom Feit (114992)
 State Manager AZ & NM
 HRRVC
 Thom & Barb Feit
 911 W Laguna Azul Ave
 Mesa, AZ 85210-7109
 Thom: 317.507.3557 - cell
 Email: thomfeit.az@aol.com
 Barb: 480.495.5947 - cell
 barbfeit1@gmail.com

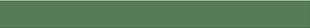
Contact for NM

Dawn MacPherson (90258)
 Assistant State Manager NM
 Dawn & Les MacPherson
 922 Lantana Ave
 Las Cruces, NM 88005
 575.644.6435
 Email:
 dawnmacp@comcast.net

National HRRVC Office

Christina Crist, CFO
 547-295-9800
 christina.crist@hrrvc.org
 HRRVC
 PO Box 3028
 Elkhart, IN 46515

AZ & NM Newsletter Editor:
 Thom Feit



Visit the AZ website
 for more information
www.AZHRRVC.org



<p>Chapter 309 Valley of the Sun</p> <p>President Nancy Joy (85873) grantjoy86@gmail.com</p> <p>Vice President Ray Zeek (104190) zeekstrophy@gmail.com</p> <p>Secretary Kay Honn (88530) knhonn@yahoo.com</p> <p>Treasurer Larry Laursen (19685) ljlaursen@aol.com</p> <p>Membership Barbara Laursen (19685) bjlaursen@aol.com</p>	<p>Chapter 71 Grand Canyon Ramblers</p> <p>President Hilda Nichols (62633) chelanview@q.com</p> <p>Vice President Neil Honn (88530) knhonn@yahoo.com</p> <p>Secretary Tom Simester (73188) tsimester@aol.com</p> <p>Treasurer Richard Roberts (85832) rhjsroberts@gmail.com</p>	<p>Chapter 407 Cactus Wrens</p> <p>President Reba Lucy (58971) rylucey@aol.com</p> <p>Vice President Dave McPhaden (89581) D-L.McPhaden@att.net</p> <p>Secretary (105482) Ann Minick aminick42@gmail.com</p> <p>Treasurer Lynne McPhaden (89581) D-L.McPhaden@att.net</p>
---	--	---

A Final Word

The latest word from Yuma indicates that Chapter 407 President Reba Lucey is still suffering. Mike Miranda notes: "Reba is still in pain, her left leg is really swollen." She is now at her Yuma home, with health care. David McPhaden has assumed the duties of Chapter 407 President. We offer our thoughts to Reba for a full and healthful recovery.

Chapter 71 in Tucson inducted their officers for 2016. Hilda Nichols, Neil Honn, and Richard Roberts took the oath. Simester was traveling. The chapter announced their schedule for 2016, including a campout early March at the Diamond J RV Park. There will be dinner around the campfire, a cow hand breakfast, along with a tour of the Old Tucson Movie

Studio. Good plans, and Barb and I shall be there.

In the Phoenix area, Chapter 309 will travel up to Lake Pleasant in late February. This manmade reservoir, created back in 1927, is a major agricultural water source for the valley area. The campout will be held at Pleasant Harbor RV group camping area as it overlooks the lake. Emery & Roberta Olson are the wagonmasters. If interested contact the Olsons - rojaolson@yahoo.com. There are still openings for this event. This is also an outing we will not miss.

Many have asked how Barb is progressing. In December she had the two shots into the spine area to deaden a nerve that caused her pain. The pain specialist says it may take six weeks

to "deaden" the nerve. That date will be at the end of January. We are awaiting that to happen.

On the 8th, I talked with Joe Richey as he had settled in at an RV park in Benson. There he was welcomed with 3" of new snow. After coming out of a heavy snow storm in Odessa, TX and then greeted with more snow in Hobbs, NM it was his thought that AZ offered only sunshine. We shall try to improve.

Do hope you are making plans for the Western International Rally during early April in Yuma. Plans are coming along, it should be a great way to begin the Spring weather here in the Southwest.

Until next time, safe travels.



HOLIDAY RAMBLER

RV Club



2016 Western International Rally Arrive on April 3 – Depart on April 8

DIRECTIONS

Going East or West on I-8, take Araby exit to 32nd Ave then turn left on 32nd to South 7, turn right to Palm then turn right into the park.

RALLY FEE INCLUDES

Five nights of parking (full hookups 50 amp service), one Taco Bar, three dinners, two breakfasts, two hospitalities, vendors, seminars, competitive games, entertainment, ice cream,

The Palms RV Resort
3400 South Ave 7E
Yuma, Arizona 85365
928 341-4646

HRRVC# _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Cell _____

E-Mail _____

Handicap Parking Yes: _____
(include State Handicap Authorization)

First time at any Rally Yes _____ No _____

First time at an International Rally Yes _____ No _____

Will play Golf Yes _____ No _____

HRRVC assumes no responsibility or liability, nor is any Officer, National Director, State Manager or any other person authorized to assume responsibility or liability for any personal injury or property damage suffered by its members and or guests in attendance at or on the road to or from an event

Registration Fees (Includes 5 nights of parking)

Two adults in one unit	\$355	_____
One adult in one unit	\$265	_____
Guest in unit	\$ 90	_____
Child 5-12	\$ 50	_____
Total Cost		_____

Arrangements for early and late parking must be made with the Resort. Call 928-341-4646

Registration is also available on line by going to hrrvc.org or call the office at 1-877-702-5415 or

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: HRRVC and mail to HRRVC; P.O. BOX 3028, Elkhart, IN 46515

Rally Coordinators:
Bernie & Joyce Clements 719-649-3523 bjclements@aol.com
Mike & Mairiann Miranda 928-580-8051 mmyuma@yuma.com