



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association Newsletter

May 2021

Fire and Equine Evacuation – Put May 26 Meeting on your Calendar Now!



Unfortunately, these are especially timely topics, so we are pleased that experts Cheryl Nigg and Kit Weidner will present their experience and thoughts at our meeting this month. Yes, we're still in a "Zoom mode," so details for the **Wednesday, May 26, 6 pm**, meeting will be sent as the date nears.

Cheryl and Kit are active members of the Pecos Chapter of Back Country Horsemen, as well as the East Mountain Emergency Response Team (CERT). Educational outreach is a major focus of CERT, and they regularly share reliable information at workshops and presentations for animal owners to encourage all of us to have a plan, be prepared and stay informed in the event of a local emergency.

The public is welcome, so if you have family or friends (with or without equines), please share this information.

Horses, Mules Were Integral to Success of Santa Fe Trail, Said Meeting Speaker

Thanks to a pocket diary kept by an enterprising young doctor, we know the significant role that the Santa Fe Trail and other trails played in the settling of this area. Of

course, equines - whether pulling wagons or carts, carrying packs or serving as mounts - played an almost equal role.

Last month, our speaker, **Joy Poole**, gave us a lively presentation of highlights of the diary, including illustrations of the early years of the Santa Fe Trail, written first-hand by this early traveler.

Adventurer Seeker

Born in 1794 in New York, Dr. Rowland Willard began his working life as a carpenter, heading westward to St. Louis. The city was a bustling riverfront economy where he kept busy building homes. There, he also performed with a Harmonic Society and was a member of a Masonic Grand Lodge. At the time, Dr. Willard's appetite for adventure included joining a river exploration company of young men for a short time.

The Panic of 1819 forced a career change, and he found an opportunity to apprentice with a medical doctor who provided access to his large medical library and medications of the day. By 1825, as a physician, Dr. Willard was looking for more opportunities. At the time, he was also serving as a postmaster, so the lively stories about travel from customers to his post office stirred his desire to head west on the Santa Fe Trail in search of adventure and fortune.

The Santa Fe Trail expedition that he joined in 1825 included 105 men, 34 wagons and 240 mules and horses. His personal possessions included guns and pine trunks, some filled with medicines. The trail opened in 1821, when Mexico took control of the territory from Spain. The change in government allowed trade with anyone, not exclusively Spain as had been the case.

His diary covers the years 1825-1827, capturing his camping experiences along the way (he admitted to not caring for that) and crossing rivers in "bull boats" (made of buffalo hides). The horses and mules swam.

Maps, Pancakes and Buffalo

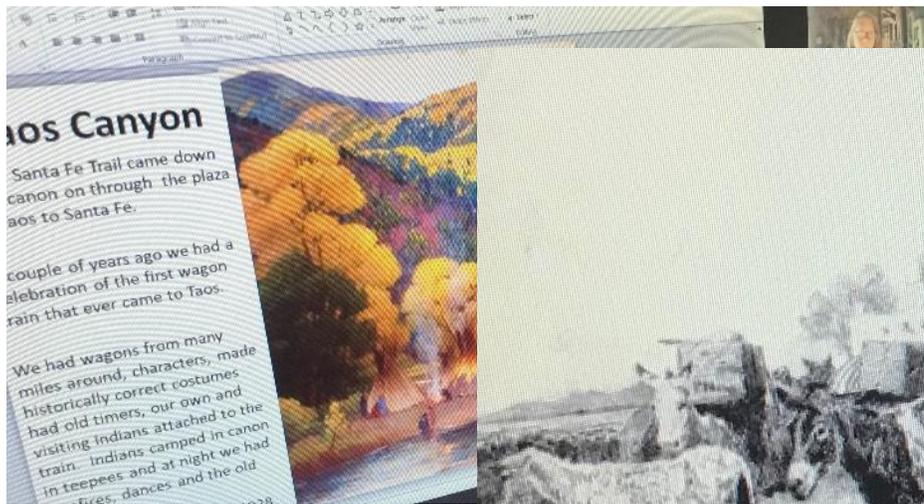
Dr. Willard also wrote of maps, including one showing Clayton, NM, artwork done by expedition artists, eating corn tortillas (he called them pancakes and wasn't sure how to eat them without utensils) and buffalos along the way. "The whole face of country we passed today was covered with Buffalos...it would probably be a moderate calculation to estimate their numbers at 100,000 that were seen this fore noon," he wrote. "This day has exhibited a great theater of nature."

Admitting to being a “green horn,” Dr. Willard was probably glad to reach Taos, the planned destination of the expedition. There, as elsewhere, he wrote of a busy market for horses and mules. This was true throughout the life of the Santa Fe Trail and other trails.



Dr. Willard didn't settle in Taos, and over the next few years he practiced medicine in NM and Mexico.

Ultimately, he returned to the Midwest and East, with a treasure trove of tales to delight us for decades to come.



Story about a Favorite Mule



A favorite mule of Dr. Willard was given to him by the Mexican governor of the territory of Santa Fe de Nuevo Mexico, Antonio Narbona. Traveling near Carrizal, Chihuahua, Mexico, he writes, “At 12 was awoken by the running of horses. I immediately aroused my man when we salied fourth to rescue our beasts.

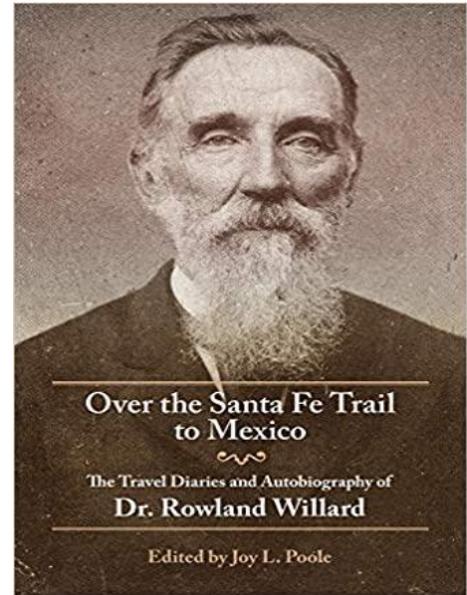
“I mounted one horse in my drawers & my man the other and pursued a mile or two but without success & returned. We found the horses but my mule was missing. My man arrose (sic) again at daybreak and went out and in half an hour returned with my mule.”

About our Speaker, Joy Poole

Joy Poole is Deputy State Librarian for the New Mexico State Library, an author and a co-founder of the Santa Fe Trail Association.

Her book, **Over the Santa Fe Trail to Mexico: The Travel Diaries and Autobiography of Dr. Rowland Willard**, can be purchased at Collected Works bookstore or on amazon.com.

If you wish to support a cause important to her, you may donate to the Myeloma Foundation. For more information, email Joy.Poole@state.nm.us.



Mules, horses and more, oh my! So, tell us what topics or speakers you would'd like for meetings, or speakers for our monthly programs. Please contact any Board member with your suggestions.

Member Feedback from Survey Helps Board Plan, Prioritize for the Future

Thanks to all members who responded recently to the Board's survey about which topics and events are important for NNMHA to support. Health and maintenance and training are important topics to both members and, members believe, to the greater equine community in northern New Mexico. Also important are trail rides, shows and clinics. However, other areas, including history and culture, safety, equipment and tack and social events also received member support. Members also provided helpful suggestions about speaking topics and their volunteer interests.

Together, feedback from the survey and input from phone calls made by Board members to members provide a substantive base of information for a plan outlining programs, issues and events we should support.

Board, Member Committees

To that end, committees will be established to provide direction to the Board on related initiatives. Each committee will be headed by a Board member and comprised of interested and willing member volunteers. Tentatively, it was decided that the committees will focus on four key areas: programs and speaker meetings; shows,

clinics and trail rides (events and advocacy); youth scholarship/education; and, partnerships. “We’ve been doing a lot of this for many years,” Board President Howard Gershon said. “But now we can fine tune our resources to support these areas, as we set forth a strategic plan and annual budgets.”

A separate committee continues to develop vision (“what we will look like when we are successful”) and values statements (“why we care so much about what we do”). And, the NNMHA website is being enhanced with increased functionality and, to come, information and even new graphics that reflect our status as a charitable, nonprofit organization.

Collaboration with Others

The Board emphasized the importance of advocating for equine issues and concerns, perhaps with other, like-minded organizations. It was also noted that with the sale of the Grounds, we need to find properties for events at member locations or those of others. Finally, the Board approved establishing a written process to help support horse shows in our area that meet specific criteria.

Arena Riding Opportunities in County

Good news! Open and private riding reservations are now being taken at the Stanley Cyclone Center. Located at 22 W. Kinsell Ave. in Stanley, the 51,000 square foot livestock arena is available and following safe COVID practices. For more information on reserving a time to ride, call Terri Werner, 505 417-9380.

Plus, the Edgewood Equestrian Center is also open for riding, and all fees have been temporarily waived. Call Tavery Moorhead, 505 573-1892.

You can also check the Santa Fe County website for more information and updates.



Spring Cleaning Tips for Medicine Kit



At least once a year, take a few minutes and tidy up your supply of medications and related supplies. Take prescription meds to a pharmacy or a drop-off site - don't flush these - if they are old (way past expiration) or have changed or discolored in appearance.

Old ointments, salves and other over-the-counter meds should be disposed of, as well as even slightly used bandages, gauze, wraps, and the like. Still using rusted scissors or sad grooming tools? Treat

yourself and replace them with new ones!

Member News – Anna Sochocky

Congratulations! Anna was a presenter at the Equine History 2021 Equine Ecologies and Economies Conference in late March. Her topic was based on an article she wrote about the packhorse librarians that was published in **The Chronicle of the Horse Untacked** magazine several years ago.



The conference, hosted by the Equine History Collective, was held at the Cal Poly Pomona & University Library. The Collective promotes the horse as a lens for trans-regional history and serves as a connective body for related historical research.

Call “It” What You Want

Manure, poop, horse apples, little green golf balls. The question is: What do we with “it” when it lands on property other than our own. Yes, it's organic, naturally beneficial, digested balls of vegetation that host nourishing insect meals for birds and game fowl while also providing valuable minerals for butterflies, moths and dragonflies. To others, it's foul-smelling, icky underfoot and an unpleasant surprise along an otherwise beautiful trail, especially for non-equestrians.

On unimproved trail treads (grass, dirt, rock), manure will break down in about two weeks with a little help from sun, rain, dung beetles and foraging birds. Further, manure is not considered hazardous or toxic and carries no pathogens of concern.



We know manure is unavoidable on trails, at staging areas/parking lots and in camp sites. So, whether to remove or leave it can be confusing for both equestrians and non-equestrians.

Additionally, various parks and trail owners or agencies may have established and posted clear guidelines. Unless otherwise posted, the standards listed here are appropriate expectations for riders:

Parking areas, staging areas and trailheads

- Trailer manure – take it home, *do not* toss trailer manure into the woods, fields, parking lots and definitely do not pile it around the base of trees.
- Grass or dirt parking lot - if while tied to your trailer or hitching post and there is grass or soil beneath their hooves, leave it but consider spreading it out or taking it home.
- Gravel parking lot - if there is gravel beneath their hooves, take the manure home.
- Paved parking lots – take manure home!
- If a manure bin is provided - use it.

Natural trail treads

- Leave it - in about two weeks it will breakdown benefitting birds, game fowl and insects during decomposition.
- At trailside rest stops - scatter piles with your foot before remounting.

Camp sites

- If a manure bin or bunker is available - use it. Be sure to remove uneaten hay, as well and generally pick up after yourself and yours.
- If there is no collection bin – take it home. Plan ahead and bring extra muck buckets. On average for 1 horse + 2 nights camping = 1 full mucket bucket.
- Back country (wilderness) camping and packing on USDA land - Forest Service guidelines require removal or scattering.

A few more thoughts about “it”

Horse manure on shared-paved trails does not break down as fast as it would on natural tread (dirt, sand, clay). These trails are often linear, somewhat narrow rail trails, frequently used by cyclists, inline skaters and walkers with or without dogs

and/or strollers. Dismount, then kick it off the trail. Plan ahead for help, if you need a leg up, for example. If riding alone, consider choosing routes that don't include shared-paved trails.

Find manure someone else left behind? Whether you are hiking, biking or horse riding, remove it if you can; push it off the trail with your foot. Count this time as good-neighbor thing to do!

It's up to us, to set a good example as equestrians. Unfortunately, non-equestrians often prevail when distressed over manure on trails, and that can lead to us horse people being excluded in new and existing trail opportunities.

Adapted from www.americantrails.org, "Trail Etiquette: What to do with horse poo," Lora Goerlich

Do You Know...

Horses should eat, in general, 1.5-2.5% of their body weight daily? When feeding on the ground with no feeder, inedible hay waste is about 13%. Using baskets, hayracks or feeders result in only 1-5% of hay waste. Plus, these devices typically pay for themselves within 9-12 months.

University of Minnesota Extension Horse Newsletter, March 2021

Classifieds

Do you have something equine-related to sell or services to provide? Short classified ads may be placed by any member in good standing. Please send an email with exact wording for your ad to: Sandra, smithcom@goldengate.net, or Karen, redmule@kdtt.net.

STUART H. GARBER, DC, PhD, AVCA

Animal chiropractor with 39 years of experience. Certified in animal chiropractic by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association. Equines and canines, but also happy to treat any critter with a spine. By appointment: 505 913-7493.

TERRY BERG

Trainer offers lessons, training, show coaching. Specialty: ranch riding, reining and ranch trail. Contact: sfcolores@sprynet.com, 505 473-4147.

LYNN CLIFFORD

The Ride of Your Life Horsemanship instruction and The Inner Equestrian Life coaching/counseling, Santa Fe. By arrangement: www.lynnclifford.com, 505 231-5353.

THE TRINITY RANCH

Santa Fe's premier horse facility. Boarding, training, lessons, indoor arena, 150x300 jump course, 20x60 dressage court. Absolutely beautiful facility, exceptional staff, positive atmosphere. More info: www.santafehorse.com.

NORTHSIDE BOARDING

Ride out on miles of trails, five minutes from NM599/La Tierra Rd. Reasonable rates, relaxed atmosphere. Prices from \$300-\$375 for pens 12x60 and larger. Arena, round pen, three tack rooms, wash rack, trailer parking. Horses fed grass mix or alfalfa twice daily. Boarders provide extras, we feed. Owner lives on premises. Contact: Carolyn, Centaurus Ranch, 505 474-0821.

BOARD YOUR HORSE

At the "Happy Horse" place, RANCHO MARIPOSA. Horses fed quality hay three times a day, grain twice a day. Turned out regularly in large pasture and ring, blanketing. Every stall and shed has a paddock and shavings. Indoor arena, sand riding area, dressage ring, round pen, trails available. Caretakers live on site. Lessons and training available. Manager has 40 years professional horse experience and cares for your horse the same way she does her own. Please come and visit us! We're located on "Ranch Road" off of 285, just SE of Eldorado. Call Barbara at 505 466-1005.

Board and Committees

Officers of the Board

President	Howard Gershon	howard@reach-newheights.com	505 690-8433
VP	Kristina Flanagan	omdurga108@gmail.com	415 271-8560
Treasurer	Helen Newton	sfcolores@sprynet.com	505 470-1396
Secretary	Joyce Davis	bjmrkitty@gmail.com	505 490-5390
At-large	Gary Clendenen	gclendenen@yahoo.com	518 225-9935
	David Marks	david.marks.sf@gmail.com	505 466-0306
	Piar Marks	prsantafe@gmail.com	505 466-3306

Committees

Ridge Riders	Open		
Programs/speakers	Joyce Davis	bjmrkitty@gmail.com	505 490-5390
Facebook Manager	Open		
Website Manager	Betsy Walker	betwalk@cybermesa.com	505 466-1643
Newsletter/ membership	Karen Denison	redmule@kdt.net	505 469-2698
	Sandra Smith	smithcom@goldengate.net	505 983-0144

Website <http://www.NNMHA.net>

You are welcome to contact any Board member with questions or comments about our plans or activities. Board meetings are held each month, and members are invited to participate in board meetings. Due to the pandemic, meetings are online. Please contact any Board member for more information.



***A friend is someone who knows
all about you and still loves you.***
Elbert Hubbard