



*“Sharing The Legacy of a Transportation Empire”*

NSFWA Newsletter

## **President’s Message**

May I send a Hearty Greeting to each of you!

With a long winter behind us, spring time is a very welcome sight. Activity can again come alive. I am hoping that you are planning a fun filled spring, summer, and fall. We also hope that you and your family are able to plan to attend at least one of your scheduled events. Our “schedule of events” you will find listed in this Newsletter. The National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association has chosen to postpone the annual Conference for the 2021 season, due to letting the threat of the virus subside. However, we are planning several smaller gatherings that will be organized in the safest manner possible. A great percent of our events are scheduled to be held out in large open areas. The membership is invited to attend a very informative “Fun Days” to be held on April 30 – May 2, 2021 at the home and surrounding area of Mr. Patrick Goodknight, located at Oronogo, Missouri. In September, we also will be working with the Santa Fe Trail Association to help them with 2 events and share our legacy of “A transportation Empire.” You are invited and encouraged to attend these two Santa Fe Trail’s 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary events. Both will be enjoyable and informative. Again, please see the Event Schedule page of this Newsletter for more information.

Please remember your Board works for you, it’s members. Please know that we each welcome a phone call, or an email to [email@nsafwa.org](mailto:email@nsafwa.org). We also are proud to mention that our web-site is constantly being updated, so give it a try <http://www.stagecoachfreightwagon.org> We last but not least have a Facebook site that is changing daily. It is very interesting. We have a Facebook button to click on our web-site, which will quickly get you to NSFWA Facebook.

Your Board of Directors, Jeff McManus, Rawhide Johnson, Kathryn McKee, Cameron Bean, Doran Degenstein, Frank Burkdoll, and Patrick GoodKnight each wish you a very prosperous 2021. Hope to see ya soon.

**-Jeff McManus, NSFWA President**

## 2021 NSFVA Schedule of Events

### 2021 Fun Days Agenda

#### April 30-May 2 in Oronogo, Missouri

Thursday Night- early arrivals can have hotdogs at the Chuckwagon

Friday

7-8 AM Biscuits and Coffee at the Chuckwagon

8-9:30 AM Discuss and Identify wagons

10 AM Blacksmith demonstration

11 AM Drive wagons or cars to Miller Implement Co. to review wagon and implement collection

2 PM Refreshments and snacks- possibly a food truck at Keltoi Winery

3 PM Return to the Goodknight's

Grand Ave Pizza in Jasper, MO for supper- return for casual conversation around the fire at the Goodknight's

Saturday

7-8 AM Biscuits and Coffee at the Chuckwagon

**\*\*All Day Event\*\***

8:30 AM Take wagons to Carthage, MO- Ft. Scott Kansas wagon/stagecoach road; continue on to Nashville, MO to see other historical points

Group is on their own for Saturday meals

Sunday

8:30 AM Invitation to drive wagons to church

Those unable to drive to church may return home

For more information please call Patrick Goodknight 417.529.5638

### Santa Fe Trails Association Events

#### September 17-18, 2021 in Council Grove, KS

To commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail, Council Grove is holding multiple events throughout 2021. The "Signature" event is called "Rendezvous at Council Grove" and will be held on September 17 & 18, 2021. As part of this historic weekend, a wagon show will be held in Council Oak Park, which is located on the Santa Fe Trail. There will be no entry or admission fee for the event. The show will include a schedule of speakers and times will be announced at a later date.

The wagons will be divided into three categories: Farm, Military and Freight. Total prize money of \$1500.00 will be split evenly between the three divisions. NO rubber tires allowed. No animals allowed, unless approved by the Wagon Committee.

Jeff MacManus and Rawhide Johnson, President and Vice-President of the National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association plan to attend. The National Stagecoach & Freight Wagon Association (NSFWA) is a not-for-profit organization created to help detail the triumphs, struggles and day-to-day operation of these legendary vehicles within the extremely competitive, early commercial empires

they supported. The Association was founded in 2008 by a group of people who saw the need for an organization that focused on the commercial stagecoach and freight wagons. McManus, a skilled blacksmith, will give blacksmithing demonstrations throughout the event. Johnson will be a guest speaker.

David Sneed, a noted historian of horse-drawn wooden wagons, will be a guest speaker and judge. With more than two decades of personal research, today David Sneed is the founder of the country's largest private collection of western vehicle archives. Inside his sprawling files are countless original catalogs, photographs, patents, promotional materials, and related ephemera. Records in his "Wheels That Won The West" compilation span nearly two centuries of horse-drawn vehicle manufacture. Focusing on the specific farm, freight, ranch, coach, business, and military vehicles, Sneed is an avid writer and curator of thousands of artifacts. His research and articles have been published by the American Chuck Wagon Association, Santa Fe Trail Association, National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association, U.S. Dept. of the Interior/Arizona Bureau of Reclamation, MoDOT Archaeology Division, The Carriage Journal, Farm Collector, Wild West, and Driving Digest magazines, as well as his own Wheels That Won The West website and numerous other traditional and on-line publications.

The Wagon Show is also delighted to have the author of *Wagons for Santa Fe Trade* and award-winning historian, author, and musician Mark Lee Gardner as a speaker and judge. Gardner has appeared on the History Channel, PBS American Experience, ABC World News, AMC, the Travel Channel, American Heroes Channel, Encore Westerns Channel, Book TV, NPR's All Things Considered, Irish National Radio, and BBC Radio. He writes for both popular and scholarly audiences, having published with numerous periodicals and websites such as *The Daily Beast*, *National Geographic History*, *American Heritage*, *Wild West*, *American Cowboy*, *True West*, *New Mexico Magazine*, and *Journal of the West*. His op-eds have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* and on Fox News. Mark's previous books include the critically lauded *To Hell on a Fast Horse: The Untold Story of Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett* and *Shot All To Hell: Jesse James, the Northfield Raid, and the Wild West's Greatest Escape*. He is currently researching famed Lakota leaders Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull for a dual biography to be published by William Morrow/Harper Collins. Katie Gardner, who is the Great-Great Granddaughter of Malcom Conn, who was at one time the wealthiest trader in Council Grove, is scheduled to speak. A career museum curator, she has worked at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, the Colorado State Historical Society, the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, and is currently curator at the Ute Pass Historical Society in Woodland Park, Colorado. She studied the Winterthur Program in early American Culture at Winterthur Museum and Gardens and at the University of Delaware. She also studied Art History at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Co. Conn built a stone trading post along the Santa Fe Trail in Council Grove, Kansas in 1858. Although it has been modified, the building still stands today on the southeast corner of Neosho and West Main Street.

Dr. Leo Oliva, the leading expert on the Santa Fe Trail, will present a program on the history of the trail. Dr. Oliva became interested in frontier military history during the 1959 centennial celebration of the founding of Fort Larned KS and has been researching and writing about frontier military posts, western trails, and Indian-white relations ever since. A graduate of Fort Hays State University, he earned a Masters Degree in American History and a Ph.D. in American studies at the University of Denver. He is the author of several books (including *Soldiers on the Santa Fe Trail* in 1967 and six of the eight books in the Kansas Forts Network Series) and many articles about the frontier west and Kansas. He was editor of the Santa Fe Trail Association quarterly, *Wagon Tracks*, for 25 years and writes a weekly newspaper column on "Our Kansas Heritage." He is a member of the Humanities Kansas Speakers' Bureau.

Don Werner, of Werner Wagon Works, is a skilled wagon maker and Wagonwright. He will be giving demonstrations on wheelwrighting and will also be a judge. Don Werner of Horton, Kansas, along with his wife, Connie, have been in the wagon building business for 24 years. When Don was a little boy his dad farmed with a wagon and he would ride in the back listening to the corn hit the bang boards. From this memory came the desire to build his own wagon and from that desire Werner Wagon Works was born. They have products in almost every state, Canada, and Japan. Besides building small buckboards and grand stagecoaches, the Werners also do restoration of horse drawn wagons. Don is a wheelwright and is able to build new wheels or restore old ones. The Werners are unique in that they build everything from the ground up. In the U.S. today there are only a handful of these craftsmen. Their vehicles are housed in museums and historical sites, used on living history farms and on ranches, have been selected to be in a historical presidential inauguration parade, have traveled a number of the historical trails and are used privately by individuals that love the era of these horse drawn conveyances.

The Santa Fe Trail Association will be attending and will have a booth at the Wagon Show. The Santa Fe Trail Association is composed of people of all ages and walks of life who are bound together by an interest in the fascinating saga of the Trail, and an interest in preserving its many physical traces and landmarks that still exist upon the face of the American West. While many of them live in the immediate vicinity of the Trail, the SFTA is proud to claim members from all over the United States.

In 1821, the Santa Fe Trail became America's first great international commercial highway, and for nearly sixty years thereafter was one of the nation's great routes of adventure and western expansion. Mindful of this, the Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA), a non-profit association with a 501 (c)(3) status, was created in 1986 to help protect and preserve it. The U.S. Congress likewise recognized the significance of the Trail to American history by proclaiming it a National Historic Trail in 1987.

For more information on Rendezvous at Council Grove or to register for the Wagon Show go to **<https://www.santafetrail200.com/>** Or contact Mark Brooks at [brooks.mark.sharon@gmail.com](mailto:brooks.mark.sharon@gmail.com) or 785-466-1460.

If members would like to contribute stories, images, upcoming events, or other information to future newsletters, please send material to Kathryn McKee before September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

## Yellowstone-Western's *CONGRESS*

Member Eli Anderson has completed a project to restore a 1910 Yellowstone coach. Those who attended the conference in Utah may remember seeing the work in progress. Eli says, "After all these years, CONGRESS is finally fixed! It's a miracle. Thanks to everyone that helped."

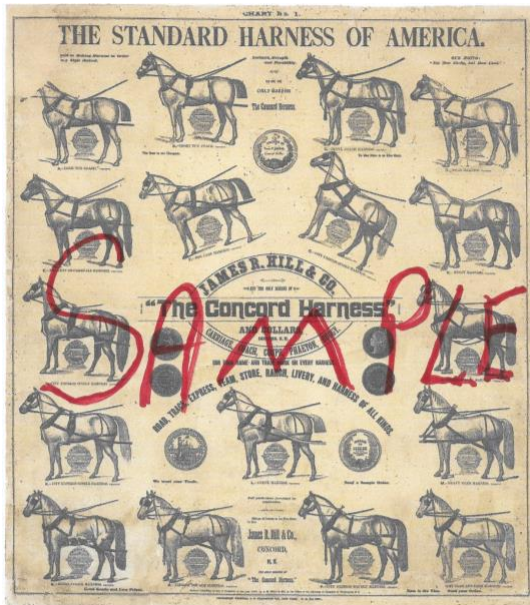


# JR Hill Harness Poster Preservation Project

James R Hill & Co of Concord, New Hampshire produced all of the harness for the stagecoaches produced and sold by The Concord Coach Co. Each stagecoach included a set of harness as part of the coach order. The original poster is dated 1883, and is the only known surviving example of this early advertisement. It was displayed on the wall of the Jos Sullivan Saddlery in Ft. Benton, Montana before moving to its current place in Nevada City, Montana. Joseph Sullivan was in the saddlery business at Fort Benton from 1881 until his death in 1940.

Charles Russell, the famous western artist, spoke of visiting Jos. Sullivan Saddlery numerous times in his writings and books. There are also pictures of him in front of the shop. Charlie Russell moved to Montana from St. Louis Missouri in 1880, so this advertisement was most likely observed by Charlie.

To western collectors and enthusiasts this poster will make a real conversation piece and great addition to any collection. All of the proceeds from your purchase of this poster will support the National Stagecoach & Freight Wagon Association in its efforts to interpret, educate, and preserve the legacy of commercial stagecoaches and freight wagons, which were integral to the development of the western United States in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Poster size: 24" X 27 3/8"

---

## JR HILL HARNESS POSTER ORDER FORM

Please make check to: National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association

\_\_\_\_\_ poster(s) each at \$130/member or \$150/nonmember Total Included: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Send Order Form To:  
NSFWA Attn: Kathryn McKee  
237 E. Corbin St.  
Hillsborough, NC 27278