

Aug 24, 2012

Old West and Trail History  
by Raymond Stober  
Sidney, Ne.

As we watch the time go by in all our lives, we surely must be aware also that too much of our great American history is vanishing as well.

I believe anyone should feel an urgency to do all we can to change this ongoing loss. I've always believed for us in history of our country <sup>we</sup> have the treasure others want. They in many cases know not where to find it, and we have it, at least a kernel of it. Thus it appears our task to take it to them.

May I impart ~~at~~ a bit, I've been <sup>Privileged</sup> ~~privileged~~ to do this spring and summer of 2012. I was asked ~~to~~ by the N.E. FWA ~~set~~ to be at the "Historic Virginia Dale" spring celebration and speak to them. To say the least it was a great event and attended by 250-300 people in my estimation, many very attentive re-enactors. Including "Marb Turpin", "Jacob Lake", "Virginia his wife, and others. I spoke to a great group at 11:00 <sup>AM</sup> with a great interest to the crowd. My subject was high-lited <sup>for</sup> ~~on~~ each of the families and people to take every opportunity possible to learn and acquire this history.

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While it's available, and for their ~~the~~ children and grandchildren. My subject focused on the vehicles of the old west and that included the early pioneer wagon of all sorts, the coaches, and curiously the Chuckwagon. One of the main board members, Mary Wells said to me later by that was one of the very good addresses they have had. In short this is what we as N.S.F.W.A. historians must do. They have already invited me back for next year with my chuckwagon. We also had a table and booth for the N.S.F.W.A. and much interest, and exhibited all our literature. I ~~was~~ count it very special that I was asked by all the N.S.F.W.A. members to represent them at this great celebration.

Another event of the season was with young people of the Sidney, Mo. Schools summer program. The first week of June I had 3-1hr. sessions with school children grades 3 to 6<sup>th</sup> telling them of the Old West history ~~to~~ they were preparing to learn in the summer. Their theme was the "Wild Wild West of Nebraska". What great interest do they have. The on Aug 3 the climax of their program was at a park for a fine

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Camp-out supper and hear an ~~old~~  
"O'l Cowboy Chuckwagon Cab" blow them some  
great "History Smoke" of the West.

To begin, I sang some old "Cowboy  
Song and talked them up the trail  
with songs and stories of the west.  
Their moms & Dads were ~~there~~ also  
and they got into it until they  
actually tent the dust from the herd  
and smell the biscuits and coffee on  
the chuckwagon. The response was  
great, and I ~~was~~ <sup>in other towns too</sup> was asked to come and  
talk to other schools, ~~and~~ their young  
people. This is I believe what we are  
after and it does work.

Folks the "moms + pops" are as in need  
of this information as are their kids.

Thank you,  
Ray Stokes