



# Locomotion

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## Santa Fe Trail

William Becknell was in dire straits. He owed creditors more than \$1,200 dollars (over \$20,000 today) and only a year to pay them or the judge would send him to jail. So, in September, 1821, he left Franklin, Missouri, "for the purpose of trading for horses and mules and catching wild animals of every description."

On November 16, 1821, Becknell arrived in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with \$300 worth of goods to trade. Mexico had recently shaken Spanish control and was open to trade from outsiders.

He made such an enormous profit, stuffing \$6,000 in coin into sacks on his pack horse. Understandably, he made plans to return the next year over the route that became known as the Santa Fe Trail, this time with a wagon train instead of a pack horse.

The second trip, though it nearly cost him his life in the Cimarron Desert, proved even more profitable than the first. This time, he traded about \$3,000 in goods for \$91,000. Investors in the trip reaped great rewards.

On his third trip, he helped map the trail for U.S. Congress surveyors, thus becoming known as the *Father of the Santa Fe Trail*.

The trail was 900 miles of arid plains, desert, and mountains that crossed *Comancheria*. The Comanches demanded

compensation for granting passage to the trail, but rather than pay the fee, Americans fought back, eventually driving them from the area. In 1825, Congress voted to protect the Santa Fe Trail, although much of it was within Mexican territory. Weather was also unpredictable and livestock were easily spooked by storms. Many

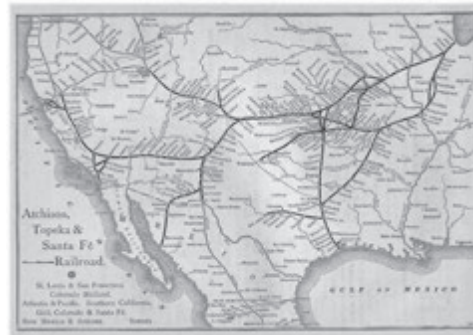
people died due to rattlesnake bites.

In 1863, entrepreneurs had set their sights on the American Southwest. Originally chartered to join Atchison and

Topeka, Kansas, with Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Santa Fe railway opened Kansas to settlement, gaining much revenue from wheat and cattle drives. Within Kansas, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway (ATSF) paralleled the Santa Fe Trail.

When the economy turned against the ATSF, the railway began selling off the land grant it had received from Congress. The property along the trail began to bloom with new towns and businesses. Of course, this brought more business to the ATSF.

Throughout its years of service, however, the ATSF never actually reached Santa Fe. The terrain was too difficult. Santa Fe had to be reached by a branch line from Lamy, New Mexico.



# Invasion of the Marshmallow People

Temperatures plummeted to below freezing Tuesday night. As we arrived Wednesday morning, they still had not risen above freezing.

We all multi-layered to try to stay warm.



Special shout out to Tadpole. Three months without smoking. Looks like the Life Savers are working. Congratulations!



## Next Week

**November 17** is Homemade Bread Day. Good day to resurrect those old-fashioned homemade bread baking skills. Sure smells good.

**November 18** is National Vichyssoise Day. Vichyssoise (pronounced "vee shee swahzz") is a thick soup made of puréed leeks, onions, potatoes, cream, and chicken stock.

**November 19** is International Men's Day. This day began in Spain in 1999 to focus on men's health and role models. It is also World Toilet Day. I'm sure that is just a coincidence.

**November 20** is National Peanut Butter Fudge Day. The Incas mashed peanuts into paste about



3,000 years ago. American fudge can be traced back to recipes from women's colleges in the late 19th century.

**November 21** is the Great American Smokeout, sponsored by the American Cancer Society. If you need a distraction while giving up cigarettes for 24 hours, **November 21** is also World Television Day.

**November 22** is National Cashew Day. Native to Brazil, the cashew has been widely cultivated since the 16th century.

**November 23** is National Espresso Day. The espresso coffee machine was invented in Italy in 1901. Just don't pronounce it "expresso." It is also Eat a Cranberry Day.

## Happy Birthday

**November 23 - Jennifer Savage**



# MP&ES

If you have any newsworthy items, such as weddings, anniversaries, births, adoptions, or if your crazy uncle is going on "America's Got Talent," let me know: [bbyars@mpes.us.com](mailto:bbyars@mpes.us.com)