

Learn from history

Robert Nott's evocative series on the bicentennial of the Santa Fe Trail offers a welcome reminder of how fortunate we are to reside in a community that features such multitalented reporters. It was a continual delight to read about the adventures and challenges of the pioneers who made the trek from Missouri to Santa Fe. And it was particularly refreshing to hear the voices of old-timers along the route who remain connected in various ways to the complex resonance of that iconic journey.

What made Nott's narrative particularly effective was the warts-and-all approach he took in each of his articles. Among other things, he kept us aware that what happened between 1821 and 1880 prepared the way for many of the conflicts that continue to challenge our community, our state and our nation. In the process, he and *The New Mexican* reinforced one of Gertrude Stein's most memorable observations. "Let me recite what history teaches. History teaches."

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