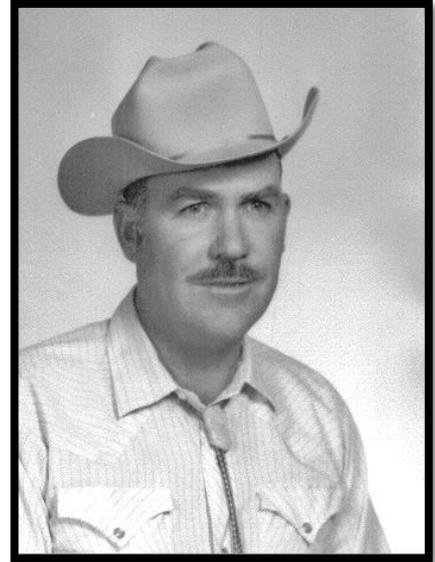


Garrett E. “Pete” Gaines (1924 – 1999)

Garrett Edward “Pete” Gaines grew up and lived all his adult life, except for his military service during World War II, at his family’s Point of Rocks Ranch, New Mexico, on the Santa Fe Trail. He and his wife Faye recognized the important history of the Trail and welcomed everyone who was interested to visit their ranch, see Trail remnants, and observe the geology of this Point of Rocks, one of the major landmarks on the entire Cimarron Route of the original Santa Fe Trail. They compiled the history of this important Trail campsite and gladly shared those stories with visitors. They assisted with the National Park Service survey of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail in 1988 and became active members of the Santa Fe Trail Association.



Pete served in the Second Armored Tank Battalion during World War II and fought at the Battle of the Bulge. He organized a Boy Scout troop, was a community leader, served on county agricultural boards, and was Colfax County Commissioner for eight years. He explored every nook and cranny of the Point of Rocks and enjoyed sharing that information. Pete and Faye welcomed publicity of the Point of Rocks, agreed to have interpretive signs placed there, and created a welcome center for Trail travelers. As someone wrote at the time of Pete’s death, it was noted as part of the tribute, “As the Santa Fe Trail ran through his property, so too did it run through his blood.” Pete’s remains are buried at the Point of Rocks, and Pete is now part of the land he loved so well. As people visit the Point of Rocks they will still be welcomed by Pete Gaines, whose spirit now forever resides there.

Because of their efforts to preserve the Point of Rocks Ranch and historic site, Pete & Faye Gaines were two of the first recipients of the Santa Fe Trail Association Heritage Preservation Award, created in 1997. In 2015 the name of the award was designated as the Pete & Faye Gaines Memorial Heritage Preservation Award by the Santa Fe Trail Association Board of Directors.