

Anna Belle Campbell Cartwright (1929 – 2001)

Anna Belle Campbell Cartwright was born December 5, 1929. Anna Belle grew up in Springfield Missouri and worked at the Springfield Art Museum where she developed a lifelong interest in sculpture. She worked at a number of museums in the Midwest. In 1950, she was commissioned to create a sculpture at the Prairie Village Kansas shopping center. The 12-foot sculpture “The Homesteaders,” representing families who settled on the prairie during the mid-19th century.

Anna Belle was a SFTA director and member of the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter. Among her many endeavors, she served as the curator of the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence, Missouri from 1990 – 1998.

In 1998, Anna Belle was asked to design a survey of all museums along the Santa Fe Trail as part of a grant from the National Park Service. Anna Belle found the perfect name for the program: “Compadres Project”. As a follow-up to the initial project, her column, “The Caches,” was introduced to *Wagon Tracks* in the November 1999 issue.

Anna Belle was twice honored by SFTA with an Award of Merit. She received the award in 1997 for editing the Hinchey Diary for *Wagon Tracks* and the second award was presented in 2001 for the Compadres Project. Anna Belle’s contributions to the Missouri River Outfitters chapter and the SFTA board as well as her tenure as curator at the National Frontier Trails Center further exemplify an outstanding career.

