

Data Collection
on
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro

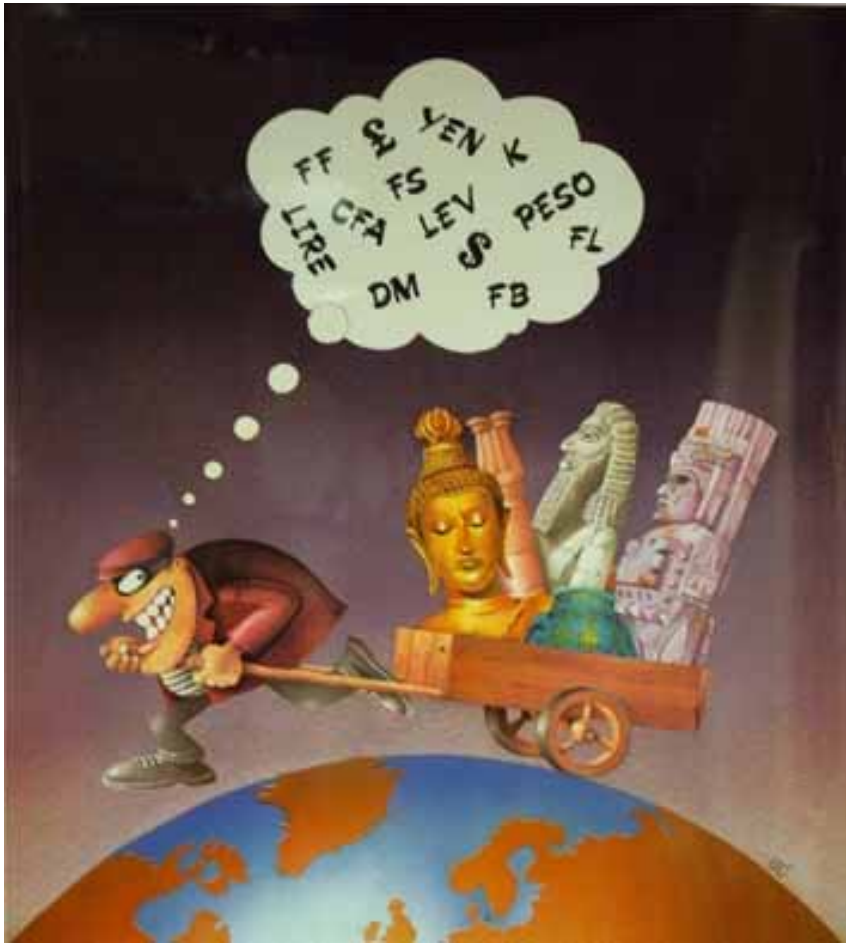
Metal Remains
A Tale of Breakage and Rust
Along the Trail

Karl Laumbach

And

David Legare

Illegal Collections



- Spring 2008 - Illegal metal detector collection was seen along El Camino.
- Pat Beckett observed that the trail should be “hardened”
- CARTA, BLM, and HSR undertake to collect data from the trail

The Project Takes Shape

- CARTA uses BLM Challenge-Cost-Share funds to contract with HSR.
- The Contract is for HSR to supervise volunteer labor conducting metal-detector survey on El Camino
- BLM supplies mapping services and sets out the areas to be surveyed

The Work Outline

- A 200 meter by 200 meter block of land is identified for inspection overlooking Yost Draw (Yost 1)
- In all, 72 items were recorded at Yost 1
- Nearly all of the items were within 25 meters of the centerline of the trail (50 meter wide area)

Some of the Cast First Yost Survey



Looking North toward Aleman at Yost 1



Flagged Artifact Locations

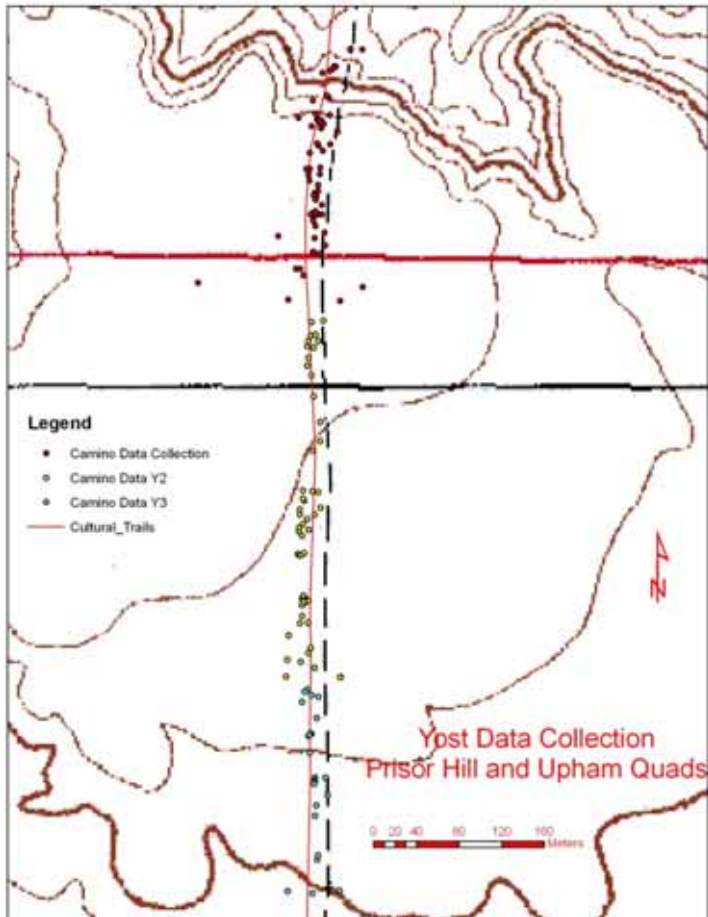


Trash on the Trail



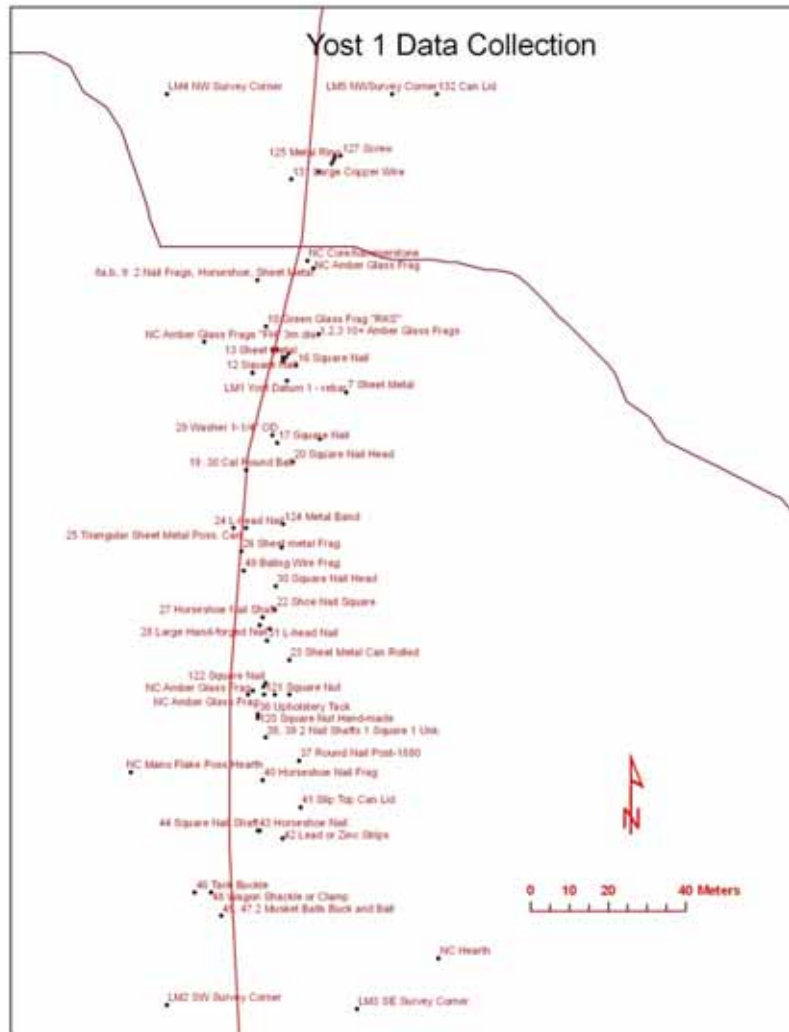
- Our interest is in the debris discarded from people's lives
- The distribution of trash along the trail tells the story of the trail and the hardships of travel on it

The Map of Our Work



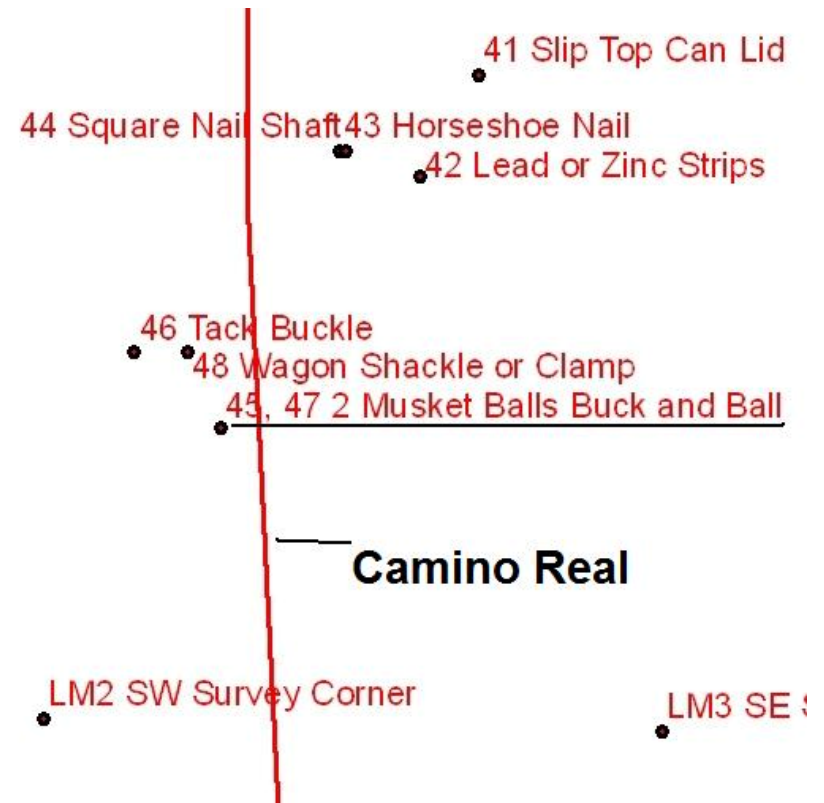
- Mapped artifact and feature locations reveal information about what happened at places along the trail

Yost 1 Map



- Artifacts and features (firehearths) were mapped using a GPS unit at each of the areas
- Yost 1 had more items than any other area

These items from this location



Mostly, we got nails



- I have seen this nail form before. I think it is a type of mule or ox shoe nail
- The widened head fits into the hole in the shoe

More Nails (this one's old)

- This is an L-head nail
- Charlie Haecker indicated that these date to the late 18th and early 19th centuries



Something that isn't a nail

- Harness or saddle buckle



And Something Not Collected



- This was a firehearth
- It indicates a campsite
- We don't know yet whether it was historic or prehistoric
- There was a mano with it
- That doesn't tell much because manos are still used

Yost 2

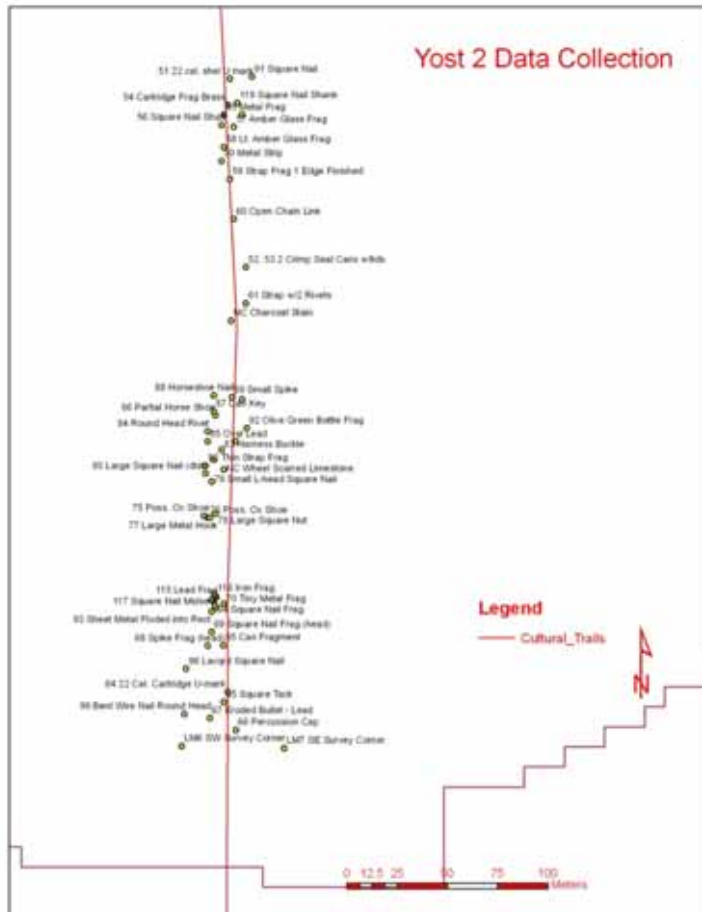
- Yost 2 was immediately south of Yost 1

- This is what it looks like



- The trail is doubled or tripled here

Map of Artifacts at Yost 2



- This is what the distribution of the artifacts at Yost 2 looks like
- This time we only looked at 25 meters on either side of the trail

We found a lot of these



- From horses, mules, and , maybe, oxen

- These were lost all along the trail



And – one of these



- Late in its life, El Camino was a stagecoach route
- This appears to be an upholstery tack

We also found some oddities



- In various areas, there were these pieces of lead
- They may have been carried to make musket balls



Household?

- This large metal hook may have been a kitchen hook that dropped to the ground in travel

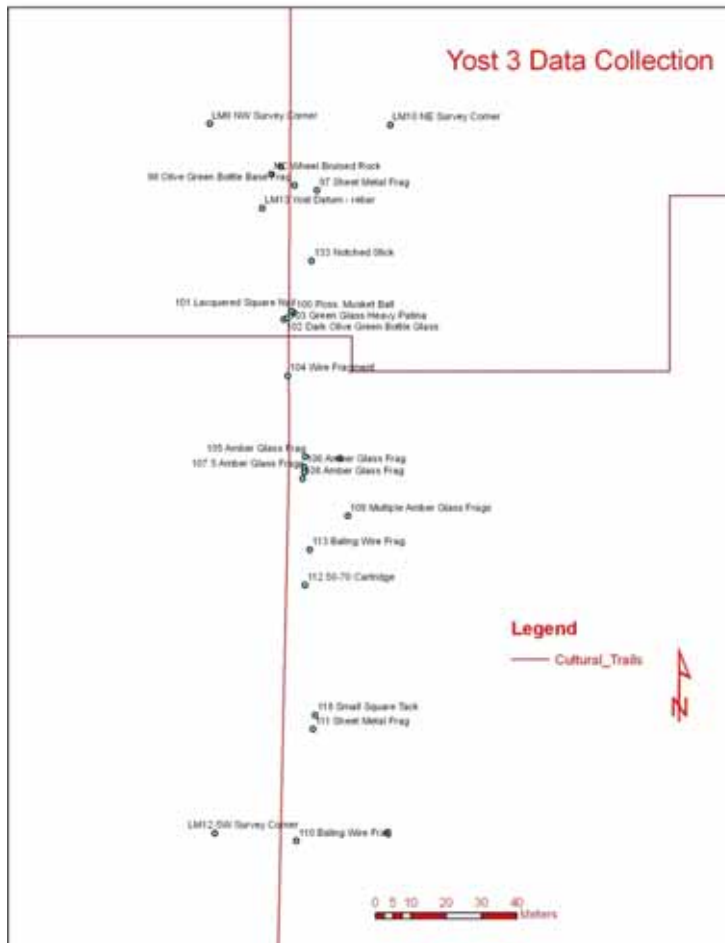


Yost 3



- Yost 3 was immediately south of Yost 2
- We are now working between 550 and 900 meters south of where we began
- Yost 3, again, was limited to 25 meters on either side of el Camino

Yost 3



- This is the artifact distribution map for Yost 3

Hard at Work

- The crew at Yost 3
- Note that Pinky and I are the ones who are actually working



There was also no shortage of these

- Believe it or not –
- This is an “old” beer bottle
- Probably from the late 1800s



Yost 3 also had some of the oddest pieces

- Folded metal
- We have no idea what this was



More oddities from Yost 3



- Thick, hollow tube
- Again, we don't know what it was

And another

- This is a notched stick
- We don't know what it was for
- If you do, please call and let us know



On the last day at Yost

- We made another pass through Yost 1 to be sure we didn't miss anything
- We found this



It was a button

- This particular button came from a uniform
- The uniform of a Mexican soldier from around the time of the US – Mexican War

Point-of-Rocks



- This is the area below Point-of-Rocks
- Despite the appearance of the photo, most of the trail here was heavily eroded

The Least Number of Artifacts

Perrillo Camino Real Metal Detector Survey Analysis Sheet			
Artifact #	Reading #	Date	Field Description
not collected	1a	3/6/09	prehistoric scatter
not collected	1b	3/6/09	prehistoric scatter
not collected	2a	3/6/09	roll end, fencing wire
1	2b	3/6/09	sheet metal, one perforation, "hut" shaped
2	3	3/6/09	Minie ball, Union-type, 58 caliber
3	4	3/6/09	44-40 or 45 caliber shell casing
4	5	3/6/09	bullet, lead, possible 38 caliber, possibly home-cast
5	6	3/6/09	cap, "Gebhardt's Eagle Chili Powder"
6	7	3/6/09	washer
not collected	8	3/6/09	sheet metal fragment, thin, large
7	9	3/6/09	nail, square, complete, hand-made, bent
8	10	3/6/09	mule shoe fragment
9	11	3/6/09	device, knurled knob on end
10	12	3/6/09	bail handle, lard can
11	13	3/6/09	object, dished surface with flange
12	14	3/6/09	mule shoe fragment
13	15	3/6/09	hook with mushroom cap on opposing side
not collected	16	3/6/09	telegraph line cross piece
14	17	3/6/09	glass fragment, olive
not collected	18	3/6/09	formed sheet metal; large, rectangular markings
15	19	3/6/09	nails (2), rounded heads, manufactured
16	19	3/6/09	nails (2), rounded heads, manufactured
17	20	3/6/09	tuff, worked, double X design on two sides

- We recovered the fewest and latest artifacts here
- It may be that the road was too eroded
- or
- The trail came through here late in its life

And, again, Unusual Pieces



- No idea what this was
- But interesting



As well as food items



- Gebhardt's Eagle Chili Powder
- William Gebhardt of New Braunfels, TX first packaged his "Chili" in 1894
- This lid is from a screw-top jar

And later than other places

- Civil War Era Minie Ball
- This 58 caliber ball was used in single shot, black powder rifles (really rifled muskets)



- May be a clothes hook



The Telegraph followed the Trail

- This is a crosspiece from a telegraph pole
- It was found in the trail



And really early



- There was a prehistoric site nearby
- This most likely dates from AD 1275 to AD 1450 (from associated pottery)
- It was made of volcanic tuff that probably came from the Jemez area

Overview

- As we worked from north to south
- There were fewer
- And fewer
- And fewer artifacts

Overview

- Nearest the north end we found:
- The most artifacts
- Firehearth
- And more materials farther from the trail

Overview

- As we moved south we found:
- Fewer artifacts
- And those were closer to or on the trail

Interpretation

- I believe, based on the kinds of artifacts
- And
- Where they were found,
- That Yost Escarpment may have been an unrecorded (perhaps expedient) passage

Disposition

- After the materials that we found are catalogued -
- Packed for archival storage -
- And shipped to the Laboratory of Anthropology in Santa Fe -
- I hope to entice local museums to take them on loan so that people here can see the things that came from here

The Plan

- We hope to return next year to continue working along the trail
- To find more “Small Things Forgotten”
- And – perhaps –
- To begin to understand a little better what was happening along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro