

FINAL SENT TO NMDOT

Official Scenic Historic Marker Program



CPRC meeting: CPRC Approved 4/13/07
FINAL Approval August 8, 2008

Name of Marker: (Repeat on both sides of Marker)

Lea County Cowgirls

Dessie Sawyer (1897–1990) & Fern Sawyer (1917–1993)

County: Lea

Review: Original Text/Replacement Marker
 Move of Existing Marker

Revised Text
 New Marker

NMDOT District: 2

NMDOT Highway: U.S. 380

Suggested Site for Installation: On U.S. 380 at the turn-out by Caprock (not currently an official turn-out)

Existing or Proposed Text

Front of Marker

Dessie Sawyer was a rancher, philanthropist and political activist. Her work with community and charitable organizations advanced her into politics. She became the National Committee Woman of New Mexico's Democratic Party. Her advocacy of the western way of life was recognized by her induction into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 1981.

Word Count: 53

Back of Marker

Dessie's daughter, Fern Sawyer, became a celebrity cowgirl. She was the first woman to win the National Cutting Horse world title. She also became the first woman appointed to the State Fair Commission and the State Racing Commission. She was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 1976.

Word count: 50

Total Word Count: 102

Previous Title and Text: N/A

Researcher/author: Dr. Thomas E. Chavez

Source(s): Library of Congress Congressional Record, Article 57 of 109.
Honorable Bill Richardson, House of Representatives.
Democratic Hall of Fame
Cowgirl Hall of Fame: Fern in 1976. Dessie in 1981.
Lovington Leader (several articles).
Enchantment Magazine, November 1990

Text Approved by CPRC on Date: April 13, 2007, rewrite approval 8.8.08

CPRC Comments: Yes

For Referral to: NMHWMI; Dee Beingessner, NMDOT GO

revised 4/07 TC

revised 4/08 TC