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# Trailmark Caravan

**Creator Name:** Lynne Smith

**Hold Contact:** Kadanzer BOD

**Current Holder:** Caravan Master Edmon

**Badge and Colors:** Two red traveler's staves crossed on a black roundel

**Hold Beholden to:** None

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**General Region Serviced:** Cibola, Izmir & Dawn Sisters

**Last Updated:** December 2004

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(badge art by Lynne Smith)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The caravan is an extended family where each member plays an important part in the overall prosperity and protection of the whole. The caravan's numbers fluctuate around 60 members; while births are frequent, the average lifespan is much shorter than in Hold, Hall, or Weyr.

Unlike most people of Pern who are specialist in their chosen crafts, caravan members have a wildly eclectic bag of tricks to draw from; new members (almost always married in) will find themselves besieged from all sides to teach the oldsters and children any useful skills they brought with them.

The typical repression of females on Kadanzer's Pern is present, but to a lesser degree. While women may not own herds and do not enjoy the same status of men, they are considered to own the individual family wagons of the caravan, and in the privacy of those caravans, their word is law. (An angry wife might well punish her husband by temporarily banning him from their family's wagon!)

Children grow up quickly; they have to in order to ensure their personal survival, as well as take their place as a supporting member of the caravan. From the time they can toddle, young girls are typically taught such crafts as needlework, basket weaving, cookery, and healing/herbal skills, all highly portable, by the aunties of the caravan, while boys focus on droving, tracking, hunting, and skinning.

The Trailmark family caravan serves a trade route that circles between the main holds of Cibola, Izmir & Dawn Sisters. The sight of Trailmark folk at gathers in Cibola, Izmir & Dawn Sisters territory is a familiar one; enough so that holderfolk instinctively grip their purses and count their marks. Caravanners are known as fierce hagglers... and then there are those rumors of items plain getting up and jumping in their pockets... (NOTE: for the most part, this is just a rumor. While some members of the caravan are skilled pickpockets, Gran Cordelia and the Caravan Master disapprove most strongly of theft, since it hurts the family's reputation. Likewise, the consequences of theft within the borders of Cibola Hold are a consequence justly feared by the entire population of the caravan...)

Most of the caravan's wealth resides in its herds: goats, herdbeasts, and runners derived from the mixing of feral stock with domestic breeds. The varied stock share the hardy disposition of mixed bloods along with an uncanny Thread sense and bombproof temperaments.

A well-known tale circulates about one of the caravan's runners: A scattering of green Turnlings from Lord Morgav's herds broke loose from their pastures a few days before Thread was due to fall. Inexperienced and flighty, the creatures quickly got themselves lost instead of returning to their feedbins as an older, wiser runner would have, and were given up as a loss.

An elderly grandam of the caravan not only nosed out the flutter-brained Turnlings; she bossed them right back to Trailmark's own herds. After balancing the chance that they'd be able to sell off the Turnlings against the very real threat that Morgav's men would 'disappear' them if they were found out, the caravan drove the animals back... an act that more than paid off.

When the Lord heard his ambulatory sacks of marks had returned home, he granted the caravan official trader status in his territory, a valuable commodity when dealing at gathers.

Trailmark caravan tends not to stay too close to Cibola proper, however -- Morgav isn't exactly known for his even temperament, and they feel they'd rather not risk being brought to his attention a second time.



## IMPORTANT PEOPLE

Includes: Edmon, Caravan leader (49 in 2859), Celia, Edmon's wife (38), Cordelia, Edmon's grandmother (77 -- one tough old biddy!)

**Lian** -- trailbrat/Edmon's son (19 in 2859)-- M, H=brown, E=brown, HT=5'5" Lian is clever scamp with his fair share of youthful arrogance. He has all the strut of a bantam rooster and no qualms about displaying it. Though he thinks himself quite the rebel, he's actually an old-fashioned guy at heart. Older brother of Elline, cousin of greenrider Zellie; owner of a bronze firelizard, Fletch. (Adoptible NPC)

**Elline** -- trailbrat/Edmon's daughter (17 in 2859) -- F, H=brown, E=brown, HT=5'4". Normal teen angst aside, Elline is a friendly, likable scamp with a definite playful streak, especially when teamed up with her brother. She's the 'straight-man' of the two, and can summon up a look of pure, sweet (completely faked) innocence on less than a heartbeat worth of notice. Younger sister of Lian, cousin of greenrider Zellie; owner of a brown firelizard, Pip. (Persona of Wendy Enos)

**Ulenek** -- M, 41 (in 2859), H=black, E=brown, HT=5'9". Ulenek is a lean, wiry herder who married into the caravan; father of Unaleali, and secretly an agent of Lord Morgav. (Adoptible NPC).

**Unaleali** -- F, (17 in 2859), H=black, E=brown, HT=5'1". Unaleali is short-tempered, crafty, intelligent, and self-absorbed. A member of the Trailmark Caravan; was a Candidate, but was returned to her caravan in disgrace. (Persona of Beth Loiselle)

#### CONNECTIONS TO THE WEYR

**Ladria** -- F, A=20 (in 2859), H=Brown, E=Hazel, 5'6" Generally friendly to all, Ladria loves arguments and debates. She can be stubborn and is sometimes arrogant, but honestly doesn't want to alienate people. Rider of green Peleth. (Persona of Amy Waller)

**Syrenni** -- F, A=17 (in 2859), H=red, E=green, H=5'4". Syrenni is a free-spirited, outgoing, open-minded, and trusting young woman. Always speaks her mind and follows her heart. Exhibits a certain flakiness. Rider of blue Trianth. (Adoptable NPC)

**Zellie** -- F, A=22 (in 2859), H=Blonde, E=Gray, HT=5'8". A very self-sufficient young woman. Loves to play games of all kinds, and have fun. Tends to be a thrill seeker, and is very flirtatious by nature. Truly enjoys the company of men both socially and intimately. Rider of green Grenneth. (Persona of Wendy Enos)



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