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# Trailmark Caravan

**Creator Name:** Lynne Smith

**Hold Contact:** Kadanzer SAT

**Current Holder:** Caravan Master Edmon

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

**Hold Beholden to:** None

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

**Last Updated:** January 2003

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*Trailmark Badge by Lynne Smith*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The caravan is an extended family in which each member plays an important part in the overall prosperity and protection of the whole. Their numbers fluctuate between around 30 adult members between the ages of 21 and 50, with many younger and older members. While births are frequent, the average lifespan of the holdless is much shorter than in Hold, Hall, or Weyr.

Unlike most people of Pern who are specialists in their chosen crafts or professions, 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 caravan's wagons, 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.

While the caravan has no fixed location, they do have their familiar haunts, most of which are based in Cibola Territory (specifically, around 43°). The caravan also services the Dawn Sisters and Izmir Holds.

The sight of Trailmark folk at gathers in Cibola 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...

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 reliable 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 (ages given in 2858)

**Celia** -- Edmon's wife, A=37, mother of Lian, Elline, and several others.

**Cordelia** -- Edmon's grandmother, A=76, and matriarch of the entire clan. Grandmother of many!

**Edmon** -- Caravan Leader, A=43. Husband of Celia, father of Lian, Elline, and several others. Grandson of Cordelia.

**Velor** -- weyrbred son of a greenrider; joined Trailmark at age 21, marrying into the family. Father of five (three boys, two girls), including Ladria.

**Lian** -- Edmon's son (17)-- M, H=brown, E=brown, HT=5'5" Lian is clever young man 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. His father is currently looking to arrange his marriage. Older brother of Elline, cousin of greenrider Zellie; owner of a bronze firelizard, Fletch. (Adoptible NPC)

**Elline** -- trailbrat/Edmon's daughter (15) -- 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. (Adoptible NPC)

### WEYR CONNECTIONS

**Ladria** --F, A=19, H=Brown, E=Hazel, HT=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, daughter of Velor. (Persona of Amy Waller)

**Syrenni** --F, 16, 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. Raised in a trading caravan. Weyrling soulmate of blue Trianth. (Persona of Aimee Holmes)

**Unaleali** -- F,A=15, H=black E=brown, HT=5'1". Unaleali is short-tempered and has difficulty managing her temper when angry; means well but as self-absorbed as most girls her age; a poor listener once she's decided she thinks she *knows* what someone else is saying. Crafty and intelligent this girl takes action and leaves deep thought and pondering to those older than herself. Her parents and four siblings are part of the Trailmark Caravan. Candidate/herder apprentice; (Persona of Jennifer Bragg)

**Zellie** -- F, A=21, 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 (Adoptible NPC)