



# NEWSLETTER

of the  
EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 106, Tijeras, NM 87059

Spring 2006

## ***We're Incorporated!***

The East Mountain Historical Society is now incorporated as a non-profit organization with the state of New Mexico, thanks to the efforts of Anabel Sanchez. This is the first legal hurdle we needed to cross in getting federal tax exempt status, which will be critical when we start taking donations toward setting up a headquarters for the society and our archives. One of our greatest challenges is to find a permanent building of our own to house our extensive collections and give us a place to interview and photograph East Mountain families.

Originally a subcommittee of the East Mountain Area Association, EMHS has also revised its bylaws to reflect its status as an independent, nonprofit, educational group. The April board meeting was our first as a New Mexico corporation.

## ***... And We're Going Online!***

In other history-making news, EMHS is about to go online with an official Web site. EMHS now owns the domain name ***eastmountainhistory.org*** and should have a Web presence any day now.

Expected to have about seven pages, the site will showcase EMHS's preservation efforts and mission, and will include a short history of the East Mountain area, a listing of EMHS events and programs, recent newsletters, a membership form, contact information and links to other history and genealogy-related sites. The Web committee, comprised of Denise Tessier, Andre Larroque and Gus Winter, met and has been working with Web expert Don Gradner, who has volunteered to set up the site for EMHS.

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### ***Upcoming Events –***

- May 7:** ***Sunday, Noon to 6 p.m.*** EMHS hosts a booth at the East Mountain Celebration, Los Vecinos Community Center in Tijeras. Help out or just come and visit. Bring friends interested in joining.
- June 17:** ***Saturday.*** Group trip to the Salinas Mission. Meet at 9 a.m. at Wells Fargo Bank in Tijeras to caravan.
- July 15:** ***Saturday.*** Group trip to Petroglyph Park west of Albuquerque. Meet at 9 a.m. at Wells Fargo Bank to caravan.
- Aug. 12:** ***Saturday, Time TBA.*** Public talk by professor Stanley M. Hordes on *the Crypto Jews of New Mexico*.
- Aug. 19:** ***Saturday, Noon.*** Walking tour of native plants and herbs at Tres Pistolas in Tijeras Canyon. (Behind Louise Waldron's house.)

***-- Details Inside This Issue***

**Join the Celebration:  
Visit the EMHS History Booth  
12 to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 7  
West of Los Vecinos Community Center in Tijeras**

The EMHS items most popular with East Mountain residents and visitors alike -- the scrapbooks, historic photographs of people and places, school yearbooks and more -- will be on display at the East Mountain Historical Society booth during this year's East Mountain Celebration. The annual Bernalillo County and Parks and Recreation event will also honor the memory of one of our group's biggest supporters, Tomás "Tom" Herrera, as an Outstanding Citizen.

Anabel Sanchez, Dorela Perea, Margaret Garcia, Pat and Dot Rich and Tom's sister, Marie Herrera Dresser, will be working the booth, and would be glad to have members come by to help or just visit. Call Marie for more information.

### **Historic Tours Scheduled**

Join your fellow EMHS members and bring a friend or two on two field trips this summer: The first is Saturday, June 17 to the Salinas Mission south of Tajiue and Torreon, where two ancient southwestern cultural traditions -- the Anasazi and Mogollon -- overlapped in the Salinas Valley to produce the societies at Abo, Gran Quivira and Quarai. The second is Saturday July 15 to the Petroglyph Park west of Albuquerque. Both events will commence by meeting at 9 a.m. at the Wells Fargo parking lot in Tijeras for caravans. Lunch will follow.

#### **Tom Herrera Honored as "Outstanding Citizen"**

This year's East Mountain Celebration will honor the memory of Tomás "Tom" Herrera, one of our most beloved members, as an "Outstanding Citizen."

Truly a native son, Tom was one of the area's most knowledgeable residents in terms of history and an integral part of East Mountain history himself. Tom grew up in Tijeras Canyon and Juan Tomas, then served four decades as a sheriff's deputy. For the first 30 of those years, he was the only deputy, and is credited with bringing law to what had been a truly wild and lawless region. And it was a vast region: During the earliest years of his service, he was responsible for an area that stretched from San Mateo Boulevard in Albuquerque to Edgewood.

While a member of the East Mountain Historical Society, Tom was a valuable resource whose sharp memories about the area included recollections passed down from his father, Alejandro Herrera, a century ago. Tom was just a month short of 85 years old when he died on Feb. 16, 2001.

**“A History of the Crypto-Jews of New Mexico”**  
**Former State Historian Stanley M. Hordes**  
**Saturday, Aug. 12, Time TBA, Tijeras Public Library**

“In 1981, while working as New Mexico State Historian, Stanley M. Hordes began to hear stories of Hispanos who lit candles on Friday night and abstained from eating pork. . . . Hordes realized that these practices might very well have been passed down through the centuries from early crypto-Jewish settlers in New Spain.”

Thus reads the Columbia University Press synopsis of Hordes’ book, “To the End of the Earth: A History of the Crypto-Jews of New Mexico.” In a free talk, open to the public, Hordes will explore how some Jewish traditions survived in some form over the last 500 years in Mexico and New Mexico, practiced by those who fled the Inquisitions of Mexico and Spain. Hordes wrote his book after review of individual biographies (including those of colonial officials accused of secretly practicing Judaism), family histories, Inquisition records, letters, and other primary sources.

Stanley M. Hordes is adjunct research professor at the Latin American and Iberian Institute at the University of New Mexico. He earned his Ph.D. in Colonial Mexican History at Tulane University, where he received a Fulbright Dissertation Fellowship to perform research in Mexico and Spain. He is the author of numerous articles on the history of crypto-Judaism in Mexico and the U.S. Southwest, and is cofounder of the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies. He has also written “Historical Markers in New Mexico” and the “New Mexico Directory of Historians and Historical Organizations.”

***News and Notes ...***  
***of the East Mountain Historical Society***

Mike Smith, local resident who is writing a book about East Mountain history, gave a lengthy and fascinating presentation to the EMHS board and steering committee at its Feb. 13 meeting about his research, complete with numerous photographs he has found for his book, “Towns of the Sandias,” to be published this year. EMHS agreed to help Mike as much as we can, and he in turn offered to let us write a forward to the book and be credited for any photographs he uses from our archives. EMHS will schedule a presentation with Mike as featured speaker sometime in the near future.



On a related note, the East Mountain Historical Society was mentioned in the article, “Sandias in the Viewfinder,” in the March 2 edition of the *Albuquerque Tribune*. The article quoted EMHS newsletter editor Denise Tessier as saying she looks forward to the publication of “Towns of the Sandias”, adding that EMHS would like to sell copies of Smith’s book when EMHS gets its own location.

### ***Dates of East Mountain Fiestas***

Carnuel – April 28, 29      Escobosa – May 12, 13      Sedillo – May 12, 13  
San Antonio – June 9, 10      Chilili – August 4, 5      San Antonito – Sept. 15, 16  
Cañoncito – Aug. 11, 12

Fiestas start with *vespers* Friday nights at 7 at each of the villages, where the patron saint is carried in a procession and returned to the church. Saturday fiestas generally commence with mass at 10 a.m., except for Sedillo, which will start at 11 a.m. because its fiesta days coincide with those of Escobosa.

### **EMHS Officers Elected**

Officers and steering committee members for the 2005-2006 year were elected at the annual meeting October 22, 2005. Re-elected at the April meeting for purposes of incorporation were Louise Waldron and Anabel Sanchez, co-chairmen, Anne Dacey-Lucas as secretary and Yolanda Stribling as treasurer. Anabel will continue to handle membership. Steering committee members are Marie Herrera Dresser, Andre Larroque, Chuck VanGelder, Pat Rich, Dot Rich, Bay Stevens, Dorela Perea, Denise Tessier, Gerry Garcia, Margaret Garcia and Gus Winter.

Members are welcome to attend EMHS steering committee meetings, usually held at 10 a.m. the second Saturday of the month (except this month, which will be held May 6) at the Tijeras Library.

**The newsletter of the East Mountain Historical Society, published quarterly, aims to inform members and prospective members of EMHS events and endeavors, including committee work, and to serve as a record of society activities. It is also a forum for stories about the area. Please send your ideas for future newsletter items to Denise Tessier at P.O. Box 379, Cedar Crest, NM 87008, or contact her by email at [newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org](mailto:newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org).**



East Mountain Historical Society  
P.O. Box 106  
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**Come by our booth at the East Mountain Celebration Sunday afternoon, May 7, outside Los Vecinos Community Center in Tijeras. It's a great way to see the memorabilia in our archives and to visit with other members!**