



# NEWSLETTER

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

Second Quarter/ May 2008

## A Preservation Milestone



Key players in the Turquoise Trail / Gutierrez Canyon Expansion Coalition stand with the city's sign designating the new open space. From left, Greg Hiner of the Trust for Public Land; EMHS Preservation Chairman Andre Larroque; Members Eric Hazlewood and John Peterson; and legislative liaison for the coalition, Susan Loubet.

**Historical Society Members Join in Celebrating John A. Milne /  
Gutierrez Canyon Open Space**  
*More Photos, Story Inside*

## Milestone at Milne

EMHS Members Join in Celebrating John A. Milne Open Space

*By Denise Tessier*

Smiles were in great supply when the Trust for Public Land hosted about 100 people to celebrate creation of the Albuquerque area's newest open space: the John A. Milne/Gutierrez Canyon Open Space near Cedar Crest.

Many East Mountain Historical Society members were in attendance and were thanked for their support in helping secure the now more than 700-acre site for future generations. Member John Peterson was singled out for special recognition for coming up with the idea of expanding the original Gutierrez Canyon Open Space and taking that idea to the Greg Hiner of the New Mexico office of TPL.

Sen. Sue Wilson-Beffort said it "wouldn't be long" before residents could not only hike the area's trails, but bike to the trailheads and go to a "visitor's center."

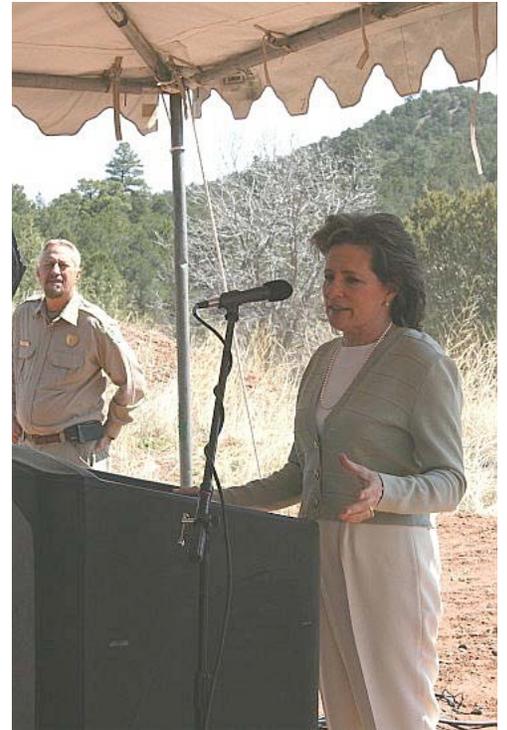
The EMHS board, guided by architect Andre Larroque, is coming up with the details of what an **East Mountain Historical Society Meeting and Exhibit Center** at the trailhead site might entail. The site lies between the Cedar Crest post office and Tom and Jerry Plaza off north N.M. 14.

Susan Loubet, an area resident who on her own free time worked the Legislature on the issue, said the Milne Open Space "was a special project for everyone involved." Loubet has worked many legislative projects and had "never seen anything come together like this."

She also said the project was "special" because of the East Mountain Historical Society's involvement. Mountain communities need a "place that shows the history of the East Mountains" and allows the EMHS collection to be "shared with people who come up here."

EMHS wrote letters of support and members actively worked to help secure the area as open space, appearing at the Legislature and at City Council meetings in Albuquerque to show support. The city will manage the space, as it has the adjacent Gutierrez Canyon Open Space, which was acquired in 1963.

Councilor Isaac Benton, who with former councilor Martin Heinrich sponsored the bill to manage the site and provide \$500,000, said he has a warm place in his heart for the East Mountains because he designed the Tijeras Library. He represents Downtown Albuquerque, but said, "When you're an urbanite, you really need to get out. This is for all of Albuquerque."



*Photo by Becky Schnelker*  
Sen. Sue Wilson-Beffort, right, with city Open Space Director Matt Schmader.

Winds were so strong the area fire department parked its truck near the refreshment table as a buffer, but the spring blasts of dirt had little effect on the enthusiasm and spirit of cooperation at the event.

After the speeches, nearly 75 area residents and supporters hiked a trail, mostly created by horse riders, in the newly minted open space that features cliffs and canyons of fir and Ponderosa pine. Sandia Mountain Natural History Center volunteer Julie Hall told hikers the trailside barbed wire was a remnant of days when cattle ran the land.

“There’s a magic that can happen when people come together,” Jenny Parks, state director of the New Mexico TPL office said in welcoming the crowd. The Milne space is “now a 700-acre preserve property for you to use for the rest of your lives ...”

Wilson-Beffort said timing was as important as cooperation in securing funds from the Legislature. The Sandia Park resident called the East Mountains “Albuquerque’s last frontier,” adding, “We don’t want it to be the next Coors (Blvd.). If you want to go shopping, go to town.”

Rep. Kathy McCoy, an early supporter who also helped secure funding for the space, said it was “not an easy project” but once it got to Santa Fe, “it moved through the Legislature in record time.”



*Photo by Andre Larroque*

Others commended for their help in securing funding included the governor, lieutenant governor and the Energy and Natural Resources Department. The Milne family was praised for their patience as the money was cobbled together to make the purchase.

Several EMHS members who worked on the project are pictured in the fall newsletter of the New Mexico office of TPL, which can viewed at [http://www.tpl.org/content\\_documents/nm\\_newsletterfall07.](http://www.tpl.org/content_documents/nm_newsletterfall07.pdf)

[pdf](#) (on page 2). A map of the area is available at

[http://www.tpl.org/content\\_documents/nm\\_guitierrezcanyon.pdf](http://www.tpl.org/content_documents/nm_guitierrezcanyon.pdf).

EMHS plans to host a tour of the area for members this summer.

## **Field Trip to Hagen and Tejon May 10**

Join us the day before Mother's Day to tour the early 20<sup>th</sup> century mining town of Hagen and the 19<sup>th</sup> century Spanish farming village of Tejon in our first members-only field trip of the year.

Archeology Chairman Chuck VanGelder will lead the tour. To attend, meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 10, in the San Antonito Elementary School parking lot. Bring water, good shoes, sunscreen and a lunch. The group will car-pool in high-clearance vehicles to the sites. The group will return at about 1 or 2 p.m. Chuck has obtained permission from the Diamond Tail landowners for this field trip, which is limited to EMHS members.

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

The **East Mountain Celebration**, originally scheduled for April 20 at Los Vecinos, will instead be held in August at Vista Grande Community Center. EMHS will have an informational booth at the celebration. More information will be forthcoming.



*New Mexico Genealogist* magazine is looking for unpublished articles about Albuquerque's founding families for inclusion in its March 2009 issue. Papers are due by Jan. 1. For more information, visit the New Mexico Genealogical Society web site at [www.nmgs.org](http://www.nmgs.org).



Through September, the **Sandia Mountain Natural History Center** is opening up its trails and exhibits to the public on the first Saturday of each month. The center, which has served as an outdoor classroom for Albuquerque Public Schools since 1967, has a 128-acre site near Cedar Crest. One-hour education sessions are held from 10 to 11 a.m. and the trails and exhibits are open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each of the designated Saturdays. The June 7 topic is geocaching and July 5 offers plant identification. Orienteering will be offered Aug. 2, ending with a guided hike Sept. 6. For more information, visit [www.nmnaturalhistory.org/smnhc](http://www.nmnaturalhistory.org/smnhc), or call 281-5259.



Does your employer match **charitable donations**? Please remember EMHS in your giving.

## Caring for Family Treasures – A Primer

When handling family treasures – photographs, old papers, and art work – there are a lot of prohibitions: Don't let your treasures touch newsprint, brown paper, masking tape, mailing tape, duct tape, markers, pens, "magic" tape, strapping tape or greasy fingers!

Those are some of the tips EMHS member and Tamarind Institute curator Becky Schnelker shared at the EMHS public talk, "Caring for Family Treasures," on Feb. 23.

Schnelker offered a litany of things to do in storing treasured items. Do:

- Keep them dust and dirt free.
- Keep them insect and critter free.
- Store in a place that is dry and cool and as stable as possible.
- Store paper flat.
- Avoid all glue and most tapes.
- Avoid "air tight" containers. Plastic containers are good in a flood, but they hold moisture in; plus, insects can get in and are unable to get out. Use containers that are clean and dry and not air tight.
- Avoid use of staples and paper clips.
- Avoid acidity and oil/grease.
- Avoid direct sunlight.
- Know your storage materials are acid free and safe.

Because "most of our environment is getting more acidic – air, everything", Schnelker said the average family archivist should be aware of simple measures which can be taken to keep items safe from acidity and environmental changes.

When marking photographs on the back use only a medium-weight pencil, she said. Photo albums should be of a neutral Mylar or polypropylene. Some clear laminates will stick to photographic prints and negatives. Photocopy fragile documents on paper that is at least 20 percent cotton bond, as most regular paper is inherently acidic and self destructs. To preserve an image on deteriorating paper, make a digital copy before placing it in a Mylar sleeve.

Scan family photographs, save them on CDs and store the CDs upright. Scan the backs of photographs to preserve any information there as well.

Old photographic albums may also have materials which will damage the photographs. Gently, and perhaps with the use of a small, flat spatula, remove photographs from brittle, yellowed papers and pressure sensitive tapes. Replace albums with those clearly marked as having only archival quality materials.

For more tips on protecting documents and treasures, Schnelker recommended the Library of Congress website: [www.loc.gov/preserv/familytreasures/ftprotect.html](http://www.loc.gov/preserv/familytreasures/ftprotect.html).

## ***Don't Forget To Pay Your Dues!***

Membership is by calendar year. Please send your name, address, telephone number, and email address to the East Mountain Historical Society, P.O. Box 106, Tijeras, NM 87059.

Annual dues categories are:

**Student**, \$10; **Individual**, \$15; **Family**, \$20; **Sponsor**, \$25; **Corporation**, \$50. Donations are welcome. Honorary members who have lived in the East Mountains more than 50 years do not pay dues.

EMHS is a 501(c) 3 non-profit and dues are tax deductible as allowable by law. Please make checks payable to: **East Mountain Historical Society**.

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### **VEGETARIAN GREEN CHILE STEW**

**By Carol Larroque**

*(Editor's note: Several members asked our holiday party hostess Carol Larroque how she made her vegetarian green chile stew. Here is her recipe.)*

Vary ingredients as you please:

- 2 13-ounce containers of frozen chopped green chile (Buena Autumn Roast is good)
- 2 or 3 potatoes (depending on size)
- 2 or 3 fresh tomatoes (depending on size).
- 1 can pinto beans (15 oz.)
- 1 can navy or black beans (15 oz.)
- ¼ cup fresh or fresh or frozen corn kernels (optional)
- Garlic powder or minced garlic.
- Salt
- Cheese (Colby, Jack, or Cheddar) Sharp Cheddar is good

Directions:

- Partially or fully defrost chile and place in large soup pot.
- While chile is defrosting and heating up, clean potatoes, pierce multiple times with a knife or fork

and microwave until the potato is partially cooked (still firm, but a fork goes in easily.)

- Season chile with salt and garlic powder to taste.
- Add can of pinto beans with liquid to cooking chile.
- Drain and rinse navy beans of liquid and then add beans to pot.
- Slice potatoes and cut into chunks. Place in pot.
- Cut up tomatoes and add to chile mixture.
- Cook for 20 – 30 minutes, allowing flavors to blend and all vegetables are soft.
- Adjust seasoning
- Place in individual bowls, sprinkle with grated or shredded cheese and serve hot with warm tortillas.

Bon Appetit!

**East Mountain Fiesta Schedule**

The following East Mountain villages have upcoming fiestas:

*Escobosa* -- Vespers – 7 p.m. Friday, May 16  
Fiesta Mass and celebration – 9 a.m. Saturday, May 17

*Sedillo* -- Fiesta Mass and celebration – 11 a.m. Saturday, May 17 (No Vespers)

*San Antonio* -- Vespers – 7 p.m. Friday, June 13  
Fiesta Mass and celebration – 10 a.m. Saturday, June 14

*The newsletter of the East Mountain Historical Society, published quarterly by editor Denise Tessier, 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 the editor at P.O. Box 379, Cedar Crest, NM 87008, or contact her by email at newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org.*

**Deadlines for future issues of the newsletter are July 31, Oct. 31, Jan. 31, and April 30 .**



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