



CULTURA DE LAS MONTAÑAS

NEWSLETTER

for the
EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fourth Quarter 2008/ First Quarter 2009

*It's a
Hit!*

*History
Display
Draws
Crowds*

Story on Pg. 2



Photo by Denise Tessier

Special Double Edition of the EMHS Newsletter

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History Exhibit a Hit

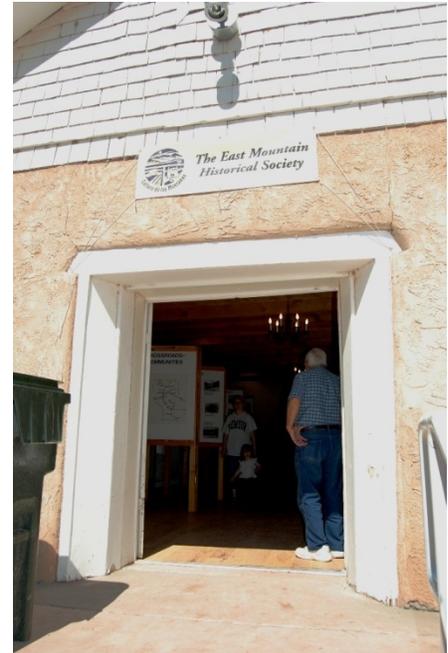
Crowds View Photographs, Take Part in Tijeras Celebration

Story and Photos by Denise Tessier

By the time the fall morning parade celebrating Tijeras' 35th anniversary had wended its way to the village's new park, folks were already lined up at the historic Santo Niño Church to see the East Mountain Historical Society's panels of photographs depicting life in the early days in the East Mountains. Visitors continued to linger over the exhibits and share nostalgic stories and remembrances throughout the day.

The date – Sept. 20, 2008 – was a convergence of milestones for the village, local Vietnam veterans and the volunteers of EMHS. The day's host of ceremonies – Tijeras – was dedicating Luis Garcia Park as it celebrated its anniversary of incorporation. Vietnam veterans left a line of motorcycles along old Route 66 as they arrived to witness what was for many an emotional dedication of a Vietnam Veterans Memorial behind the church at the back of the park.

For EMHS, the milestone was being able once again to display in historic Santo Niño Church the series of history panels group volunteers had designed and created specifically for that space more than a decade before.



Pat Rich surveys the room full of visitors inside the Tijeras church.



Members Kathleen and Dot Rich were ready to scan visitors' historic photos and documents.

A number of EMHS volunteers helped Tijeras celebrate its “birthday” by cleaning up and restoring the photo panels in preparation for the event (see story in the last newsletter at www.eastmountainhistory.org).

Also in celebration of the event, **Anabel Sanchez** wrote up a history pamphlet about the village after reviewing government records and interviewing locals – from cement plant workers to Roosevelt Middle School staff. The little history was printed by the village and distributed by EMHS in the church.

Throughout the day, a number of visitors recognized friends or family in the photographs and then called others to come to the church and see the exhibits themselves. Among them was Melba Scott, formerly Melba Gonzales, who found a family photo among those on the “Religious Events” panel. She called her sister Irene over to see the panel, which prompted a bit of reminiscing (see photo at right).

The Historical Society plans to have regular museum hours at the historic Tijeras church once a new fence is up, probably sometime in May.

Thanks to the team who helped make the September event a success. A number of volunteers helped prepare and set up the panels, including Marie Herrera Dresser, Margaret Garcia, Denise Tessier, Becky Schnelker, Andre Larroque, Chuck Van Gelder, Joyce Mendel and Pat Rich. Others staffed the oral history and photo tables (Anabel, Margaret, Pat, Dot, Becky and Denise), wrote up publicity (Denise) and created flyers (Pat). Anne Dacey Lucas created “East Mountain Historical Society” buttons, which let visitors know to whom they could direct questions. Kathleen Rich brought a scanner to copy historic photographs and documents brought by visitors to the event.



Area residents Melba Scott, left, and her sister, Irene Aragon, pose beneath a historic family photo. In it, Father Ralph Herrera is baptizing Irene’s baby, Tomás Herrera (no relation), in the presence of the baby’s godparents, Corina Gonzales (who is Melba and Irene’s mother, in white hat) and Billy Gonzales (their brother).



Tijeras Mayor Gloria Chavez (right of center) and her husband, Jimmy, stopped by to visit with EMHS volunteers at one of the two EMHS display tables. At left are Anabel Sanchez and Andre Larroque.

East Mountain Historical Society
Newsletter
Published Quarterly

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The EMHS Newsletter 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, P.O. Box 379, Cedar Crest, NM 87008, or by email: newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org Deadlines for future issues of the newsletter are April 30, July 31, Oct. 31, and Jan. 31.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the East Mountain Historical Society is to identify, preserve and present to the public the history and culture of the East Mountain area. EMHS will assist in protecting historical buildings and landscapes, artifacts, records, or any item considered to be of historical significance. EMHS will also identify, collect and archive historical material of significance to the area.

Message of Appreciation

Outgoing President Anabel Sanchez Looks Back on 2008

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all who have made 2008 a very successful year. We held election of officers and board members at the annual meeting on October 26. I am very happy to say that **Andre Larroque** will be taking over the position of President. I will assume the role of Vice President, **Anne Dacey-Lucas** will continue as Secretary and **Pat Rich** will continue as Treasurer. We are very happy to have **Kathleen Rich** as a new board member. A big thank you to **Denise Tessier** for her contributions as Vice President during the last two years. **Denise** helped keep me on track many times and has given many hours of her personal time to the historical society. Among other things, she was responsible for the Website, which is up and running, as well as the wonderful newsletter we have all enjoyed during the last several years.

Gus Winter, Lowell Wagner and Bay Stevens will not continue as board members. Thank you for all your efforts and contributions to the EMHS. I hope we can continue to count on your expertise. I also want to thank board member **Manuel Garcia y Griego** and the University of New Mexico for allowing us to use the space at the Project House of the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute to store our collection and for giving us a work area.

One of the highlights for the new year is the possibility of having a permanent EMHS exhibit at the historical church in Tijeras. We are working with Tijeras Mayor Gloria Chavez and the Village Council to make this happen. We need your help in making 2009 a *greater* year for EMHS. Thank you, everyone, for your hard work.

--- *Anabel Sanchez*

When Camels Walked New Mexico

“Camel Experiment: U.S. Army Camel Corps” Subject of EMHS Talk

“The Camel Experiment” – the U.S. Army’s use of camels in the mid-1800s – is a fascinating bit of history that will come to life when camel expert Bev Neville gives a free public talk on the subject from **11 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 21**, at the East Mountain Library in Tijeras, sponsored by the Historical Society.

A camel owner for a quarter century, Bev started researching the history of the animals so she could better answer questions people asked when riding her camels at various zoos. During that research, she learned about the U.S. Army Camel Corps, which operated in the Southwest prior to the Civil War.

Bev will explain how the idea came about, describe the route of the Camel Train and talk about some of the interesting people and stories related to the 1st American Camel Train, 1857-1858.

Bev Neville has been an East Mountain resident since 2000 and recently joined the East Mountain Historical Society along with her husband Bill. She is a part-time instructor in communications at CNM and has a special interest in history. Bill and Bev are owners of Pachy Enterprises, Inc. and conduct camel rides and promotions.

Officers, Board Members Elected for 2009

Outgoing President Anabel Sanchez, right, reflects on the past year’s accomplishments during the EMHS annual meeting, held next to historic Santo Niño Church in Tijeras on Oct. 26. At left is Andre Larroque, who was elected president at the meeting. Anabel will serve as vice president for 2009; Pat Rich and Anne Dacey-Lucas were re-elected treasurer and secretary.

Affirmed as 2009 EMHS board members were: Marie Herrera Dresser, Manuel Garcia y Griego, Kathleen Rich, Chuck Van Gelder, Becky Schnelker, Margaret Garcia, Dorothy “Dot” Rich, Denise Tessier and Louise Waldron.



Photo by Denise Tessier

Childhood Resident Returns to Carlito Springs

Gloria “Glory” Weinrich, at right in the pictures below and to the right, lived what some would consider a dream childhood – she lived at Carlito Springs in Tijeras Canyon. “We had to walk by the (trout) ponds to get to our tent,” she recalled.



Glory at Carlito Springs in the 1930s with her “Uncle Doc” Mechem.



Glory, at right, with Anabel Sanchez. Photos, text by Denise Tessier

On August 3, Glory, her daughter Susan and a friend returned to Carlito Springs – now under management as Open Space by Bernalillo County -- to reminisce about Glory’s childhood spent there for health reasons, thanks to the generosity of her parents’ friends – “Uncle Doc” Mechem and “Aunt May.” During the visit, Anabel Sanchez videotaped an oral history with Glory, who, among other anecdotes, talked about her husband Ed’s work at the fox farm near Sabino Canyon off South 14. She said he didn’t work there very long because Ed didn’t like the fact that its operators shot wild horses and fed them to the foxes.



Carlito Springs is named after Carl Jr., son of its former resident Carl Magee, above, who was editor of the Albuquerque Tribune and inventor of the parking meter.



At left, Glory rides by the main house with open space volunteer Ted Rettinger.

EMHS Needs You . . . To Join a Committee

By Andre Larroque, president

On Feb. 7, a special EMHS planning meeting was held to help improve organization and increase member participation. This meeting was open to all members and was expertly facilitated by member Susan Clair. The session commenced with the reading of the society's mission statement. A brief discussion of the organization's goals followed, and a free-flowing conversation of ideas for projects, programs, and priorities related to our mission was held. Susan then helped the group organize these items into categories that might indicate which committee might handle them. If there was no existing committee, then the need for a new committee was identified. It was decided that each committee will initially have a "convener" who will be responsible for getting the first committee meetings organized. In summary, this process revealed that changing needs, new technology, and member interests demand a new approach in implementation. As a result, the group decided the following committee structure should be established:

EMHS Home Committee will help find and manage a new meeting, exhibition, and storage space for the organization.

Programs Committee will plan and organize a minimum of four public programs per year and an unlimited number of members-only programs and events.

Special Project Committee will be responsible for creating, coordinating, and completing special projects in accordance with the priorities of the organization/

Preservation Committee will identify, support, and preserve historical and cultural traditions, lands, buildings, photos, artifacts, etc. relevant to the mission of the organization.

Communication Committee will coordinate and implement publication of the newsletter, maintenance of the web site, media relations, announcements, the telephone tree, e-mail, and other communications.

Outreach Committee will coordinate and implement plans to retain and expand membership, and network with other organizations.

Funding Committee will create and coordinate plans to raise money for the official purposes of the organization.

With this structure, it is hoped that members will find participation and involvement within the East Mountain Historical Society much more convenient and fulfilling! Please respond to us with your committee preference within the next two weeks. A form is attached which can be mailed in to **P.O. Box 106, Tijeras, NM 87059**. Thanks for your response!

Detach form and mail to address below

**EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2009 COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION FORM**

Member Name _____

Phone number and/or e-mail _____

Yes, I am interested in joining and participating in the following 2009 committee(s) of the East Mountain Historical Society. Please contact me at the address above.

COMMITTEES (Check as many as you wish)

- **EMHS Home Committee** will help find and manage a new meeting, exhibition, and storage space for the organization.
- **Programs Committee** will plan and organize a minimum of four public programs per year and an unlimited number of members-only programs and events.
- **Special Project Committee** will be responsible for creating, coordinating, and completing special projects in accordance with the priorities of the organization/
- **Preservation Committee** will identify, support, and preserve historical and cultural traditions, lands, buildings, photos, artifacts, etc. relevant to the mission of the organization.
- **Communication Committee** will coordinate and implement various committee tasks including publication of the newsletter, maintenance of the web site, media relations, announcements, the telephone tree, e-mail, and other communications.
- **Outreach Committee** will coordinate and implement plans to retain and expand membership and network with other organizations.
- **Funding Committee** will create and coordinate plans to raise money for the purposes of the organization.

I am also interested in being a convener for the following committee(s) listed on the line below:

Please mail to: **P.O. Box 106, Tijeras, NM 87059** Attention: "Committees"

Saving Carnuel Cemetery

EMHS Member Secures Land through Sale of Hand-Made Quilts

By Denise Tessier

When Marie Herrera Dresser's father, Alejandro Herrera, died in January 1987, he was buried in Carnuel Cemetery. Afterward, Marie says, she spent two weeks cleaning the cemetery and making repairs. And while she was working she kept thinking, "We are going to need a new cemetery. This one is getting pretty full."

As a member of the Carnuel Land Grant, she had approached the grant officers the year before, asking if they would acquire land for a new cemetery, she says. They were not able to help until 1992, when a new board set aside some land for that purpose, she says, but the officers told Marie she would have to come up with the money to fence it.

Marie started out by trying to collect \$10 from each family who had loved ones in the cemetery or who lived in Carnuel. Despite the good will of those who

responded, she says it was not enough. So, she says she returned the \$10 donations and started making quilts. In all, Marie made 11 quilts, each of which took about six weeks to make. "I made quilts until there were holes in my fingers!"

Each time she made a quilt, she would raffle it – at church events, fiestas – "anywhere there was a gathering." Raffle tickets sold for \$1 each, and eventually she raised \$5,000, which eventually was used to fence the new cemetery in Carnuel.

Marie says a group of Carnuel women is in charge of maintaining the cemetery now, and that her work is not done. Her next project will be to conduct an inventory of those buried in the original Carnuel cemetery – the resting place of her father, her brother Tomás and other family members and friends.

Wild horses couldn't drag us away from Carlos LoPopolo's talk on the history of the Mustang – defined in Spanish dictionaries as a "horse without owner" or "wild horse." LoPopolo, at far right, is executive director of the New Mexican Horse Project and a cowboy who has written numerous books. At left is Paul Polechla Jr., tracker/ biologist and wrangler. Together they protect at Campbell Ranch off North N.M. 14 "more than 15" horses proven by DNA evidence to be descendents of Don Juan de Onate's historic herd from the 1500s. More than 40 people turned out for the EMHS-hosted talk by the duo. Look for EMHS to host a follow-up visit to the horses later this year.

Caption and Photo by Denise Tessier



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

A big thank you goes to board member **Becky Schnelker** for hosting the December holiday party at her beautiful straw-bale home.



A hearty welcome to our new members: **Shelley and Michael Williams** of Cedar Crest; **Chuck Huber, Don Lemke,** and **Der Stefan**; all of Tijeras; and **Dianna and Gerald Jones** of Albuquerque.



The East Mountain Historical Society is mentioned on Page 11 of the Fall/Winter 2009 issue of *East Mountain Living* magazine, available free at a number of East Mountain locations. Writer **Mike Smith** quotes **Denise Tessier's** January 2001 EMHS newsletter in his article about South NM-14's "Monkey Cave," which in turn had quoted EMHS archaeology chairman **Chuck Van Gelder** about monkey sightings in the area in the 1970s.

March 6 is the deadline for nominations of individuals, projects, organizations, businesses and publications for the annual Heritage Preservation Awards, conducted by the state Historic Preservation Division. This year's awards ceremony will be held Saturday, May 2, in conjunction with the New Mexico Historical Society's anniversary and history conference, April 30 to May 2. Forms and more information: www.nmhistoricpreservation.org.



Do you know of a neighbor or person worthy of being interviewed for an oral history related to the East Mountains? Please contact **Anabel Sanchez** at 275-3388 or at vicepresident@eastmountainhistory.org. Please contact her also if you are interested in conducting oral histories for EMHS.



The village of Tijeras has linked the East Mountain Historical Society to its Web site. Check out the village's history page at www.villageoftijerasnm.com and click on the "history" bar.



"*Sacred Places*" is the theme and focus of New Mexico Heritage Preservation Month in May. "In troubled times our sacred places – trails, land formations, churches, *moradas*, chapels, grottos and *capillas* (small chapels) – provide solace and meaning to our lives." So says the literature from the Historic Preservation Division of New Mexico in honor of this year's theme.



New Mexico Press Women has awarded **Denise Tessier** second place in the newsletter/nonprofit category for newsletters she wrote for EMHS in 2008. She will receive the award at the NMPW annual conference in Santa Fe in April.

Santa Fe Hopping With History Events in 2009

By Denise Tessier

It's a historic year in New Mexico in terms of history.

Plan now to visit Santa Fe in April and May to participate in events that mark three historic milestones of historical importance to New Mexico:

- The grand opening of the New Mexico History Museum.
- The 100th birthday of the Museum of New Mexico.
- The 150th anniversary of the New Mexico Historical Society.

The Museum of New Mexico was established by the N.M. Territorial Government in 1909, three years before New Mexico became a state. As part of the museum's century status, a symposium – free and open to the public – will be held April 30 in the St. Francis Auditorium at the New Mexico Museum of Art. It also serves as the kickoff event for the 2009 New Mexico History Conference, May 1-2.

Co-hosted by the New Mexico Historical Society and the Museum of New Mexico, the symposium will feature scholars and historians “discussing the intertwined origins and histories of the Historical Society (at age 150) and the Museum (at 100 years),” according to publicity about the event. For more information, visit www.hsnm.org.

The Grand Opening of the New Mexico History Museum – on the Santa Fe Plaza at 113 Lincoln Ave. – kicks off at noon Sunday, May 24, and continues until 6 p.m., starting with a ribbon cutting, followed by musical and Chautauqua performances, book signings with New Mexico authors and historians and entertainment on the Plaza. All events are free.

Events the following day -- Monday, May 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- start with an Interfaith service at St. Francis Cathedral (which, as any visitor to Santa Fe has noticed by now, has been shrouded in plastic like a Cristo art project for some months as it undergoes renovation). The service is followed by a procession to the New Mexico History Museum, where visitors can enjoy a historical and ethnic fashion show, an ice cream social with music in the Palace of the Governors courtyard, Chautauqua performers, music, period costumes and entertainment on the Plaza. All is free.

For more information, visit www.nmhistorymuseum.org.

Scholars & Historians Symposium: April 30

N.M. Historical Society annual conference: May 1-2

New Mexico History Museum Grand Opening events: May 24-25

Where: Santa Fe

Join Us!

To join EMHS or to renew your membership, *use the special insert in this newsletter* to send your name, address, phone number, and email address to:

**East Mountain Historical Society, P.O.
Box 106, Tijeras, NM 87059**

Annual dues:

**Student, \$10 / Individual, \$15 / Family, \$20
Sponsor, \$25 / Corporation, \$50**

Please tell us your interests and if you would like to work on one of our committees (*see form on Page 8*).

EMHS is a 501(c) 3 non-profit and dues are tax deductible as allowable by law.

Honorary members – those who've lived in the East Mountains more than 50 years – do not pay dues.

Already a member? Don't forget to mail in your 2009 dues renewal to Treasurer **Pat Rich** at the address at left.

Donations are welcome. Does your employer match **charitable donations**? Please remember EMHS.

Visit our Web site at:

www.eastmountainhistory.org

Read the early history of the East Mountain Historical Society by co-founder Joyce Mendel. Click on the Newsletters icon and select 2008 Issue 3, Page 4 (http://eastmountainhistory.org/newsletters/2008_Issue_3.pdf)



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