



CULTURA DE LAS MONTAÑAS

# NEWSLETTER

for the  
EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Second Quarter 2009

## *And the Band Played On*

Early arrivals to EMHS's spring talk on the East Mountains' role in the Civil War were treated to music played by the New Mexico Territorial Brass Band. Band members, dressed in Union costume, played marches on period instruments that harkened back to another age, and comments by the musicians set the tunes into historic context.

*Story on Pg. 2*

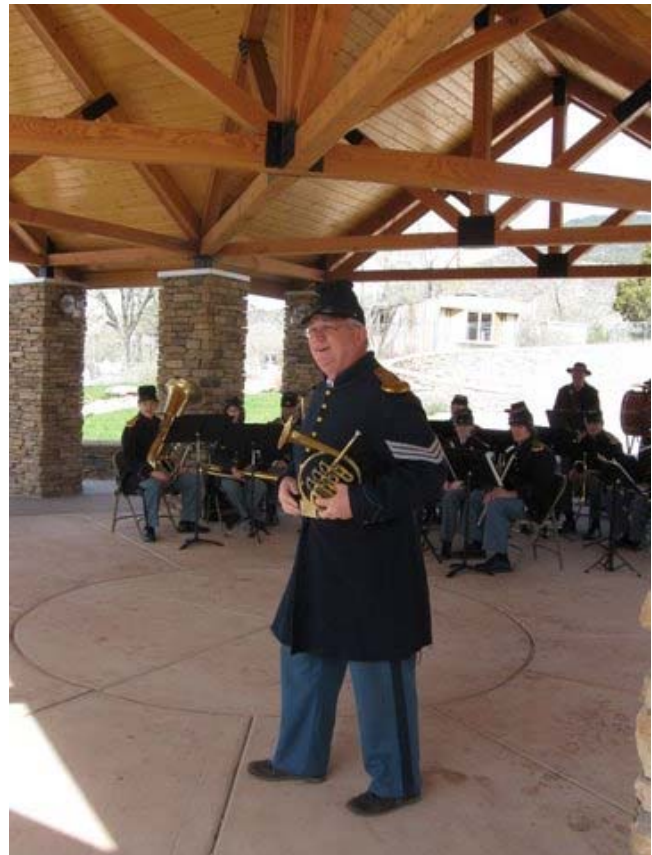


Photo by Andre Larroque

### **Inside This Edition of the EMHS Newsletter**

East Mountains' Role as <i>Civil War Site</i> .....	2, 3
<i>Field Trip to Pueblo Ruin</i> Scheduled for June 27.....	3
<i>Corrales Historical Society</i> Pays EMHS a Visit .....	4
Traditional New Mexico Music Will Flavor <i>EMHS Open House</i> in July .....	5
<i>Camel Talk</i> Is Well-Received.....	5
Couple Honored for <i>Saving San Antonito Schoolhouse</i> .....	6, 7
<i>News and Notes</i> ... of the East Mountain Historical Society.....	8
<i>SabinoCanyon</i> .....	9

*And more ...*

## ***East Mountains' Role as Civil War Site Is Detailed*** **Territorial Brass Band Primes Audience for Talk** Story and Photos by Andre Larroque

**D**r. Don E. Alberts, pre-eminent historian on the Civil War in New Mexico, spoke about the New Mexico Campaign of 1862 in the second public presentation of the year sponsored by the East Mountain Historical Society.



*Civil War expert Don Alberts*

Preceding Dr. Alberts' talk was an hour-long performance of Civil War-period music given by the New Mexico Territorial Brass Band. Band Master Ralph Harris, along with musician Colista Reynolds, gave entertaining and informative introductions to the musical pieces, which added a wonderful educational aspect to the performance.

The day's events were both held April 25 in the new Tijeras Village park complex adjacent to the East Mountain Library. The new gazebo served as the perfect venue for the musical performance, while Dr. Alberts packed the old Santo Niño Church in the talk that followed.

Many residents of the East Mountains are not aware of the part the villages east of the Sandias and Tijeras Canyon and Highway 14 played in the fascinating times leading to and after the pivotal Battle of Glorieta, sometimes called the Gettysburg of the West.

Dr. Alberts described how the mostly-Texan Confederate force, led by a somewhat flawed General Henry Sibley, fought past Union outposts on the Rio Grande and sent a sizeable detachment into the East Mountains on the way to Glorieta Pass.

It was in the villages of Tijeras, San Antonio, and San Antonito that this force of hundreds bivouacked among the inhabitants, waiting for orders that would eventually bring them face-to-face with Federal forces from Fort Union east of Santa Fe. The battle that followed lasted several days and ended in a stalemate, with the rebels retreating only after having their supply train destroyed in a surprise behind-the-lines attack finely described by Dr. Alberts, who has recently published a book about the battle. The Texans withdrew to Albuquerque and eventually reached what is now El Paso after a long and arduous journey made more hazardous by pursuing Federals and the hostile New Mexico desert.



*One attendee brought his musket.*

After the talk ended, Don answered a few questions from the audience.

## ***Civil War Talk continued ...***

One attendee brought a period musket, complete with bayonet, for Alberts to look over and offer an expert opinion on its pedigree.

In addition to the presentations, an Award of Recognition was presented to Sharon Marks and David Engelman for their outstanding renovation of the Old San Antonito School House on Highway 14 near Frost Road. Ms. Marks was present to receive the plaque honoring their accomplishment.

The East Mountain Historical Society greatly appreciates the generous participation of Dr. Alberts and the NMTBB in helping maintain high quality and informative public programs, which are free to the public.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Civil War in New Mexico, look for Dr. Alberts' new book "The Battle of Glorieta: Union Victory in the West".

Also check out the website of the New Mexico Territorial Brass Band at <http://sites.google.com/site/newmexicoterritorialbrassband/>.



*The N.M. Territorial Brass Band played period music under the new Luis Garcia Park gazebo.*



## ***Field Trip to Galisteo Pueblo Ruin Scheduled for June 27*** **Members-Only Event Will Visit Largest of the Galisteo Basin's Native Sites**

Archeology Chairman Chuck Van Gelder and State Land Office archeologist David Eck will lead members to a remote Galisteo Basin ruin site on the west end of "La Creston," or Devil's Backbone, during a field trip June 27. Chuck promises some amazing sights on this members-only field trip that will take us to an area normally closed to the public. We will visit Pueblo Blanco, the largest of the pueblo ruins in the Galisteo Basin, which is home to hundreds of significant archeological sites.

To attend, RSVP to Chuck at 264-1076. Because it will likely be hot, we're planning on an early start, meeting in Stanley, N.M. at 8 a.m. Those who prefer can meet up at 7:45 a.m. at the Turquoise Trail Market (formerly the Triangle) at the west end of Frost Road (behind San Antonito Church) and then carpool out to Stanley and the site.

The ruin is about an hour from Stanley. Bring a hat, sun protection, water and lunch.

---

East Mountain Historical Society  
**Newsletter**  
Published Quarterly

Denise Tessier.....Editor/Writer  
[newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org](mailto:newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org)

---

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](mailto: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.

---

Copyright 2009©

---

## ***Corrales Historical Society Soaks Up East Mountain History***

*(Editor's note: The East Mountain Historical Society hosted a visit by the Corrales Historical Society on May 21. EMHS Vice President **Anabel Sanchez** filed this report.)*

The day-long tour began with a visit to the historical church in Tijeras. The visitors were greeted by East Mountain Historical Society members **Margaret Garcia**, **Beverly Neville** and **Anabel Sanchez**. Anabel gave a short presentation on the history of the church building and the East Mountain Historical Society. After viewing the photo exhibits in the church building, the group visited the veterans' memorial and the park on the church grounds and enjoyed some refreshments.

The next stop was Holy Child Parish, where they were met by EMHS member **Marie Dresser** and **Irene Aragon** from the parish office. Marie gave a short presentation on the history of the church and led the group on a tour of the church grounds. The group loaded the bus and headed to San Antonito. There they were met by EMHS member **Dorela Perea**. They walked around the cemetery with Dorela answering all of their questions. Dorela invited everyone into the church, where she shared the many memories she has growing up in San Antonito and being involved in the many traditions that have been passed on to her and her family. Everyone then walked across the highway to visit the old San Antonito schoolhouse. Owner David Engelman gave a tour of the building and shared some history and old photos.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal at the Greenside Café and ended their day in the East Mountains with a tour of Tijeras Pueblo.

## ***Traditional New Mexico Music and Its History Provide Theme for Open House in July Volunteers Needed to Help Put on This EMHS Community Event***

Refreshments and traditional New Mexico music will flavor the East Mountain Historical Society's Open House at the Historic Tijeras Church the afternoon of Sunday, July 19. Anabel Sanchez has lined up music historian Francisco Chavez and his brother James to play music that is traditional to the East Mountains in a 90-minute program that will feature Francisco explaining the history and origins of each song.

A resident of Torreon, Francisco Chavez combines old Spanish Colonial music and Old Time Fiddle music. Chavez attended school in Ewing, half way between Willard and Estancia, where he became familiar with music introduced by homesteaders from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas settling in the area in 1862. This music would come to life Saturday nights at the Ewing school.

Chavez plays the fiddle, accompanied by James on guitar. The Chavezes promise to inspire us with music that motivated the farmers to work on their crops and traditional Spanish colonial music that has been passed down through generations, played at fiestas and for *matachines*.

The music will start at 2 p.m. Please contact Program Chairman Bev Neville at [wbneville@aol.com](mailto:wbneville@aol.com) to learn how you can help us put on this event, as we will likely need help rounding up chairs and refreshments, like *biscochitos*, coffee and lemonade.



### **Route of the U.S. Camel Train**

*Camel expert Beverly Neville demonstrated the U.S. Army's use of camels between June and December 1857 along the "Camel Train" that traveled through New Mexico – starting from El Paso, Texas to the south and continuing west from the Albuquerque area to Arizona. Bev shared her knowledge of the Camel Train during an EMHS free public talk March 21. Bev, who has owned camels for a quarter of*

Photo by Andre Larroque

*a century, recently joined EMHS as a member, along with her husband, Bill, and is now serving as EMHS Program Chairman.*

## ***Couple Honored for Saving Old San Antonito Schoolhouse*** Story and Photos by Denise Tessier

The East Mountain Historical Society has recognized David Engelman and Sharon Marks with an Award of Recognition for their efforts in saving the historic stone schoolhouse in San Antonito, marking the first time the Historical Society has bestowed such an honor.



Marks accepted a plaque on the couple's behalf during EMHS' April 25 public program. In deciding to make the award, EMHS noted that the couple was not obligated to restore and preserve the 90-year-old building, located at 12504 State Highway North 14, just north of Frost Road, yet they did. In fact, Marks and Engelman say they bought the building and surrounding property – littered with weeds, trash, and abandoned cars and a mobile home – intending to tear the old school down and build an office for their custom home-building business.

But Marks thought the old stone schoolhouse might be worth saving, an idea confirmed when neighbors started showing up and reminiscing about the 1920s, '30s and '40s (when the building was the village's school), and bearing photos to prove it. In those days, official school group photos were commonly taken outside – with the school's distinctive stone walls in the background – with children lined up in front of the wide stone buttresses at the building's ends.



*Inside the old schoolhouse. At left an easel holds photos, information about the building's history.*

The Historical Society was impressed with the care the couple took in trying to retain the stone building's character, accomplished in part by using local stone and keeping the massive corner buttresses, repeating them on the building's addition.

EMHS President Andre Larroque said the couple's efforts embody the goals of the Historical Society. The preservation in turn "helps establish the identity of San Antonito as a historic village," he said.

The finished building was shown off to the public in October 2008 during the Homes of Enchantment Parade, and will become the Old Schoolhouse Gallery, according to Marks. In a flyer written for the October event, Engelman and Marks wrote:

## *Schoolhouse ...*

*... The fact that many local residents who had actually attended the school approached us and told us their stories, made us commit to saving the structure. ... All debris was removed from the schoolhouse and unstable sections, which had been added on later, were removed.*



*Concrete footings reinforced with steel were poured under the existing walls to provide a*

*solid foundation for the old building. Concrete footings and a slab were also poured for the new adjoining addition. All of the existing stone work was re-grouted to ensure the stability of the old walls. We were incredibly fortunate to have Julian Chavez, a master stonemason and lifelong resident of San Antonito, to guide us in our renovation and in constructing the addition. ...*

*New stone in front is pinker than the gray stone in back, but is local and helps retain the feel of the original house.*



*Engelman in his office at the west end of the building.*

– a challenging proposition that involved about 18 months of work, at a cost of about \$125,000.

Engelman and Marks are commended, too, for actively imparting the building's history to the public, and for planting lilac bushes along the highway fence line to replace the heirloom lilacs cut down during construction.

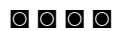
EMHS board members became actively interested in the school when it went on the market because of its central location, its history and because there are so few historic buildings still standing in the East Mountain area.

It is this last aspect that makes this restoration effort so significant. The society has been impressed with the restoration effort and is greatly relieved that Engelman and Marks ended up the buyers in 2006, saving and improving this historic structure

The New Mexico History Museum is now open. For more information, visit [www.nmhistorymuseum.org](http://www.nmhistorymuseum.org).

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

**Anabel Sanchez** is working with Bernalillo County Open Space to secure the historic Hubble House in Albuquerque's South Valley as the site of our monthly board meeting August 1. A one-hour tour of the renovated farmhouse and grounds will be open to all members after the 10 a.m. board meeting, which is also open to members who would like to attend. Details will be sent to members as soon as they are available.



A hearty welcome to our new members: **Helen Springer** of Sandia Park, **Margaret Carroll** and **Sylvia Pierce**, both of Cedar Crest and **Jan and Earl Gale III** of Tijeras.



Member **Becky Schnelker** participated in a three-day trail-building workshop in the Sabino Canyon Open Space off south N.M. 337 (Old South 14 May 11-13. Those trained will help maintain the open space as volunteers.



Historian **Chris Wilson's** seminal survey of historic buildings in the East Mountain villages and their significance is now available for purchase through EMHS. "*Historic Resources Reconnaissance Survey of the Manzano and Sandia Mountain Villages*" includes text and photos and can be purchased for \$10 a copy at the Open House in July (see story on Pg. 5).



Holy Child Parish has announced the following dates for village fiestas at historic churches in the East Mountains. They are: San Antonio, June 13 at 11 a.m.; Chilili, August 8 at 11 a.m.; Cañoncito, August 15 at 11 a.m.; and San Antonito, September 19 at 11 a.m. Thanks to member **Gus Winter** for providing this information.



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](mailto:vicepresident@eastmountainhistory.org). Please contact her also if you are interested in conducting oral histories for EMHS.



Member **Becky Schnelker** is contributing an article about EMHS each month for inclusion in the Village of Tijeras's monthly newsletter. The village has linked the East Mountain Historical Society to its Web site. Check out the village's history page at [www.villageoftijerasnm.com](http://www.villageoftijerasnm.com) and click on the "history" bar.



The Cañada Alamosa northwest of Truth or Consequences, once a frontier site of interaction between two of the Southwest's major prehistoric cultures -- the Mogollon and the Ancient Pueblo -- is the subject of a feature-length story in the Spring 2009 issue of *American Archaeology* by EMHS Newsletter Editor **Denise Tessier**.



## Sabino Canyon



Photo by Denise Tessier

*Members of the EMHS board visited Sabino Canyon June 28 of last year. From left, Chuck Van Gelder, Margaret Garcia, Andre Larroque and Anabel Sanchez look over what are believed to have been old rabbit cages.*

Under a contract with Bernalillo County, EMHS has prepared a history of Sabino Canyon, located off Juan Tomas Road on South N.M. 337 (Old South 14). The county will use the report to prepare historical interpretive signs for the area, which is now county Open Space.

While the Open Space does not include the town of Sabino, it does include ruins of a fox farm that was situated across from the village, which EMHS board members toured on June 28 of last year. During the tour, member **Marie Herrera Dresser** remembered that a store and school existed in Sabino in the early 1940s. She also said she and her family used to stop at a water hole in the area, and that there was once an old wagon trail.

**Chuck Van Gelder** said the meadow where the county is creating handicapped-access

trails was once planted in pinto beans for Sabino. Colleen Langan of the county Open Space Division said the area will be kept as an open meadow.

The area's most distinctive feature was the Reidmont Fur Farm. According to the EMHS report, prepared by **Mike Smith**:

“During Riedmont Fur Farm’s apparent peak in the early 1930s, at least 300 and perhaps as many as 500 silver foxes were kept there; but the Depression left even many well-to-do Americans unable to spend money on such luxuries as fur coats and stoles, the fur market imploded, and the effort at Riedmont was eventually discontinued. Following that attempt, according to the 2005 *Sabino Canyon Resource Management Plan*, ‘mink and rabbits were raised until each of their market values also crashed.’”

## EMHS Lends Support To Preservation of 60 Acres

The EMHS board has agreed to endorse efforts to preserve 60 acres of land at the mouth of Tijeras Canyon – as long as requests by the Carnuel Land Grant to maintain traditional access through the area are honored.

According to the Trust for Public Land, which is facilitating the acquisition, the 60-acre property will add the last piece of unprotected land in a six-mile stretch of public open space along the Sandia foothills south to the Manzano Mountains. “With running water, towering cottonwoods,



*Rendering courtesy Trust for Public Land*

*Conserving the 60 acres also will provide the southern footing necessary to build a pedestrian bridge as pictured above.*

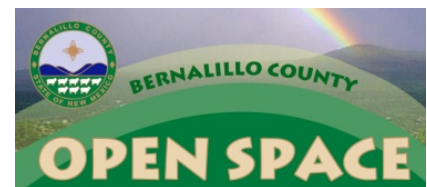
scenic uplands and dramatic rock outcroppings, this is a little-known gem just steps from historic Route 66 with access from I-40,” The Trust’s fact sheet states.

The Trust says conservation of this property protects a historic property within the Land Grant and the area could be a crucial step in future Central Avenue transit plans. Being a short distance from the Tramway exit, it could house a visitor center or site for a Historic Route 66 museum, as envisioned in the Albuquerque East / West Gateway report, The Trust says.

TPL’s Project Manager Greg Hiner confirmed that the land in question does not include the Selva Site, which is further east. EMHS is looking into ways to preserve this significant ancestral pueblo site, the preservation of which has been long championed by EMHS co-founder Louise Waldron.

## Bear Walk and Talk

As part of its Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration, the Bernalillo County Open Space program will host a Bear Walk and Talk from 10 a.m. to noon August 29 at *Ojito de San Antonio*, the open space site behind the San Antonio Church, about a mile north of Tijeras.



One may learn about bears, their habitat, and habits at the site, which is frequented by bears due to an *acequia* system fed by a natural spring and an orchard that dates back to the 1800s.

*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"

## Join Us!

To join EMHS or to renew your membership, 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 11*).

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](http://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](http://eastmountainhistory.org/newsletters/2008_Issue_3.pdf))



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