



CULTURA DE LAS MONTAÑAS

Newsletter

EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EMHS Celebrates Two Milestones and Honors the “Living Treasures” of the East Mountains

New Mexico’s statehood centennial and the East Mountain Historical Society’s 20th anniversary were celebrated June 3 in Tijeras— although the stars of the show were 15 “living treasures”: long-time residents who shared their stories for posterity.

“Great People, Great Stories” was a pilot oral history project conducted by EMHS with a Bernalillo County Neighborhood Association Outreach grant, obtained by partnering with the District 5 Neighborhood Coalition.

The “living treasures” of the East Mountains, most of whom attended the celebration with their families, were Lois Cavasos, Rita Davis, Marie Herrera Dresser, Ciria Gonzales, Lillian Lincoln, Rachel Maldonado, Rita Loy Horton Simmons, Mike Anaya, Juan Candelaria, Andy Gonzales, Angie Gutierrez, Jim Hanlon, Eloy Jaramillo, Lewis McComb and Fidel Padilla.

Among those attending the event in the historic Santo Niño Church and adjacent Luis Garcia Park were Christine Smith, president of the District 5 Neighborhood Coalition.

Música tradicional was performed after the program by (from left) Jim Hanlon, Jake Armenta, Eddie Herrera and Joe Armenta. Angie Gutierrez sang along.



All Eleven Great Celebration Photos by Becky Schnelker

More on the EMHS Celebration



Tijeras Mayor Gloria Chavez (photo on left) welcomed guests to Santo Niño Church.

EMHS Vice President Anabel Sanchez (left in photo on right) was seated next to her mother, Rachel Maldonado, one of the afternoon's honorees.



President Denise Tessier reminded the standing-room-only audience that the East Mountain Historical Society started in 1992 as a subcommittee of the East Mountain Area Association, “of which our treasurer, Pat Rich, once served as president.”

Tessier recognized EMHS founders Joyce Mendel and Louise Waldron, noting, “One of Louise’s greatest accomplishments is serving for a decade as head of a coalition that saved from development the 460-acre Tres Pistolas open space in Tijeras Canyon.”

Mendel had previewed the EMHS oral history project with her newspaper interviews of East Mountain residents.

Next came recognition for subsequent EMHS presidents Kathy Hanlon, Marie Herrera Dresser (who coined the slogan *Cultura de las Montañas*) and Anabel Sanchez.

Tessier then said that while the Village of Tijeras did a beautiful job restoring the Santo Niño Church, EMHS helped preserve it back in the 1990s by securing a \$32,000 federal grant through the efforts of Kathy Hanlon.

“Then in 2006 we became incorporated, thanks to Anabel’s efforts,” Tessier continued. “She also did the paperwork that got us our tax-exempt status and arranged for our current office in the Tijeras visitor center.

“Our next president was Andre Larroque, our preservation chairman, who led us in championing the Gutierrez Canyon open space designation in 2007.”

(A note from the newsletter production manager: Tessier is in her eighth year of writing stories for the newsletter. She also wrote the text and got the group’s web site on line, preparing the way for Kathy Rich, the current webmaster.)



Jean-Paul Larroque, son of past president Andre Larroque, showed his film “Acequia,” about the San Antonio orchard’s water source following the ceremony honoring the East Mountain’s “living treasures.”

EMHS Twentieth Anniversary Scrapbook



The June sun glowed in the doorway of the Santo Niño Church, shining on three stalwart members: Kathy Hanlon, left; Louise Waldron, center, and Christine Smith, right.



A surprise after the program was the announcement that the “Great People, Great Stories” oral history project had received the top award for 2012 from Origins and Legacies Historical Services. Rose Diaz, right, president of Origins and Legacies, presented the award to Denise Tessier, center, and Kris Thacher, coordinator of the oral history project.

Videos and transcripts of the oral history interviews, as well as photographs (including those below), will eventually be archived at the University of New Mexico Center for Southwest Research.



Scenes from Luis Garcia Park

The pavilion in Luis Garcia Park was jammed as honorees and their guests enjoyed refreshments, browsed the book auction and read the "Great People, Great Stories" book.



A silent auction of New Mexico-themed books was part of the centennial-and-birthday event, along with biscochitos and cakes, one with the New Mexico seal and the other honoring the oral history participants.

One of the honorees, Maria Herrera Dresser, was standing in front of a panel from the EMHS historical display.



EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS AND NOTES

Save the date: Our general membership annual meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28. After a brief business meeting, at which we will hold our annual elections, singer-actress **Van Ann Moore** will present her one-woman show in which she becomes New Mexico's legendary Doña Tules.



East Mountain events will be held on three Saturdays this fall at Bernalillo County Open Space areas. They are:

Carlito Springs: Traditional Plant Uses, Preparations, and Seed Saving, Aug. 11, 9–11 a.m.

Carlito Springs: Historic Route 66 Lectures, Music, and Book Signing, Sept. 8, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Ojito de San Antonio: First Settlers and Pioneers of the East Mountains, a talk by EMHS President **Denise Tessier**, Oct. 20, 10 a.m.–noon.

Contact **Colleen Langan McRoberts** for more information and to RSVP: 314-0398 or clangan@bernco.gov.



A huge thanks to EMHS member **Carla Ward**, who contributed seven new books from her Tinkertown gift shop for our Centennial event silent auction, helping make our first auction a success. We will hold our next auction of New Mexico-themed and/or history-related books during the annual meeting Oct. 28.



The EMHS display of historic photos of the East Mountains was exhibited for about a month after the grand opening of the addition to the Tijeras Senior Center June 9.



EMHS has had a lot of press lately, with several stories in both the Mountain View Telegraph and The Independent related to our 20th anniversary, oral history project and Centennial celebration. A story about the oral history project also appeared in the Spring/Summer edition of East Mountain Living magazine.



Cedar Crest resident **Nicole Barker** was perusing “The New Hunter’s Encyclopedia”, copyrighted in 1966 and 1972, when she came across a photo of **Dale Goens**, also of Cedar Crest, in the “Custom-Built Rifles” section. “He was a neighbor and a friend of my husband’s grandparents, **Orville and Joyce Schurr**,” she wrote. “I thought it was too neat to have a Cedar Crest resident in an Encyclopedia!” We think so, too, and thank Nicole for sending us a copy of the page with Goens for our records.



The Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library web site now has a page dedicated to the genealogy library, according to New Mexico Genealogical Society blog reports. The site is at <http://library.cabq.gov/genealogy>.



El Palacio Magazine, published by the Museum of New Mexico for nearly 100 years, celebrates the digital age just as the state celebrates its centennial, by putting the first ten years of the magazine online, free to all at <http://archives.elpalacio.org>.



From the New Mexico History Museum in Santa Fe: Since the Civil War, photographers have tried to capture the lives of Native American peoples, resulting in some of the most beautiful and elegant portraits in the collections of the Palace of the Governors Photo Archives. More than 50 of these images will be on display through Nov. 4.

Welcome New Members:

Carmelita and Francisco Griego of Albuquerque, Laurie Frantz of Santa Fe, Katherine Beebe of Tijeras, Carol and Keith Frederick of Edgewood and Greg and Suzanne Allen of Sandia Park.

Statehood Centennial Observance Continues

County History Exhibit

EMHS President Denise Tessier will speak at the unveiling of Bernalillo County's history mural and display of historic photographs on August 3.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. with music and refreshments on the sixth and tenth floors of the county building Downtown. At 5:30, Tessier will begin an illustrated talk on courthouses on the third floor of the old Bernalillo County Courthouse at 415 Tijeras. Next the county's Bernadette Miera will lead a tour of the courthouse, including the old holding cells in the basement.

The 80-piece exhibit will be on display through Halloween. Organized by the county's Cultural Services Department, it includes photographs of life "back in the day" along with historical maps and artifacts.

On-line Family History Project

Bernalillo County is collecting family histories to be compiled and viewed online.

October 1 is the deadline for submitting two or three photographs and up to 350 words to www.bernco.gov/

Information is available from the county's Cultural Services Department at 468-1279.

Special Collections Library

The Special Collections and Local History Library at Edith and Central NE has reopened after extensive renovations and improvements. According to a city press release, the

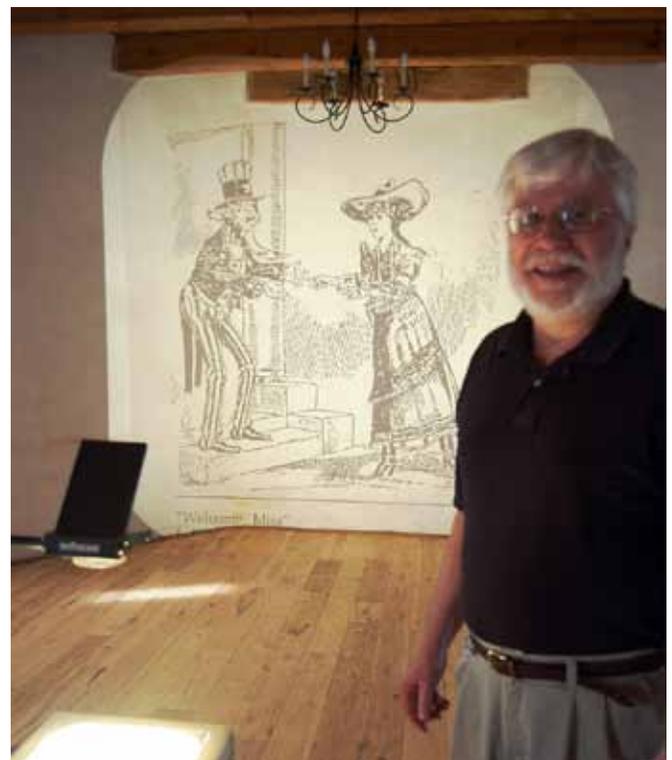
1925 Pueblo/Spanish Revival-style building, a registered historic landmark, has new exterior stucco, refurbished doors and windows and other improvements. ADA-compliant restrooms have been added, and Gustav Baumann's decorative paintings have been restored.

The ceiling and light fixtures in the building, also known as Botts Hall, have been restored and a projection and sound system has been installed.

Throughout 2012, Special Collections will be hosting Centennial lectures; information can be found at <http://library.cabq.gov/specialcollections>.

The library's New Mexico Collection features 9,000 books on New Mexico history and culture, with an emphasis on the Albuquerque area. Supplementary resources include more than 200 regional periodicals (current and defunct), a complete set of topographical maps for the state, historic maps, City of Albuquerque documents, pamphlets, postcards, and biographical information.

Because Special Collections is a research library, materials are available for in-house use only. Photocopiers are available. Parking is available on nearby streets.



Historian Richard Melzer showed many political cartoons during the East Mountain Historical Society's Feb. 19 public program, "New Mexico's Struggle for Statehood." During his talk, Melzer noted that Abraham Lincoln in 1911 suggested that New Mexico be called Acoma—which would have made New Mexico first in line during roll call in Congress. Melzer's personal name favorite, however, was Montezuma, suggesting the state "would get revenge." Photo by Denise Tessier

EMHS Members Visit Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

By Becky Schnelker

If you haven't been to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) on Twelfth Street in Albuquerque in the last few years, our EMHS tour group would probably recommend it! It's a busy place, and the exhibits, restaurant and gift shop are excellent.

On Sunday, April 15, EMHS members were welcomed enthusiastically by our guides, IPCC Outreach and Education Coordinator Felipe Estudillo-Colon (Laguna) and IPCC Cultural Arts and Education and Exhibit Design Lead Greg Analla, (Laguna/Isleta). Both helped create the exhibit *100 Years of State and Federal Policy: The Impact on Pueblo Nations* and were eager to share. For details visit <http://indianpueblo.org/100years/>

The exhibit begins in the circular foyer at the museum entrance. The walls bear photographic images and words the Pueblo people chose to describe their character and culture, particularly aspects they perceived were suppressed by outside cultural influences.

Greg Analla told us that monochrome pottery is shown in the foyer and polychrome pottery style, symbols, and colors are on the walls of the two main exhibit rooms. He said rounded corners allow the viewer to enjoy the displays in either direction, symbolizing the circular nature of Pueblo cultural life. For Pueblo people, each day has a beginning and an ending; each day flows into the next day's beginning and ending and then into the next, as do the months and years.

The exhibit employs some impressive digital technology. An interactive digital "iPad-like" table allows the viewer to push around documents, select one, read it and also link to a video recording of an interview related to the topic. A second digital device relates photographs in historical context with events. All the documents on the exhibit walls have a label that can be scanned with a smart phone and then linked to the full document in the National Archives. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation fully supported this exhibit.



In the center of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center foyer is a marble statue by Cliff Fragua of Po'Pay, a Tewa religious leader from Ohkay Owingeh (until recently San Juan Pueblo). He was the leader of the 1680 revolt that drove the Spanish colonizers out of New Mexico for eight years. Photo by Becky Schnelker

In the entrance to the *100 Years of State and Federal Policy: The Impact on Pueblo Nations* exhibit three aspects of Pueblo culture are identified as enduring despite the persistent impact of the United States and New Mexico governments, which sought to separate the Pueblo people from their lands and their identity: pueblo health and wellness, sovereignty and language.

Other things not to be missed include the *Gathering the Clouds* exhibition on the main level. Greg explained that water is everything. For example the cloud symbol looks like a little up-down stair, which can simply represent a cloud and therefore rain, but the many levels are symbolic of stages of spiritual life and much more. All symbols used in weaving and pottery relate to multiple aspects of Pueblo public and personal life.

Also on the main level is a Catholic mission chapel in which are displayed Santero Charlie Carrillo's renditions of all the Pueblo patron saints. Felipe explained that Pueblo people came to integrate Catholicism as another tier of protection in a complex world while retaining their tribal rituals and beliefs.

On the museum's the lower level is a mini-view of the 5,000-year sweep of the aspects of Pueblo culture that endure through the ages.

Madrid Gallery to Showcase Historic Works by Ross Ward

Photos of His Signs Sought

By Denise Tessier

For decades, signs painted by Ross Ward, founder of Tinkertown, defined the look of the East Mountains. Virtually every business along the Turquoise Trail commissioned Ward to paint its signs. Among his most visible were the signs at Pete's restaurant, the Windmill Bar and the huge mural outside Triangle Grocery (which now hangs over the produce section at the new Triangle, thanks to Rita Liebling, who had it restored).

In addition to his signs, however, Ward was an artist of many mediums, who painted, made prints and drawings and sculpted out of wood the thousands of miniatures that make up the nationally famous Tinkertown museum on the Crest Road.



Beginning Aug. 4, through Sept. 30, Johnsons of Madrid Gallery in Madrid will be exhibiting some of Ward's paintings, prints, sculpture and drawings in a show entitled, "Ross Ward / Tinkertown / Turquoise Trail / Art, in the Pursuit of Happiness."

Those who have photographs of Ross's works from the 1960s and '70s—signs painted for businesses along Highway 14 and the Turquoise Trail—are asked to bring

them to the gallery so they can be copied for Carla Ward, Ross's widow, who now runs Tinkertown.

Bob Audette Lived on Route 66 and Cherished It

East Mountain Historical Society member Bob Audette passed away March 19 at the age of 85.

Born in 1926, the year his beloved Route 66 was started, he was best known for advocating preservation of the famous highway. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Route 66 Festival in 2006.

Most East Mountain residents and countless tourists were familiar with Bob's place on old 66 at the corner of Mountain Valley Road with its old gas pumps and an old metal jail cell.

Bob designed a Route 66 license plate, which was sold in limited quantities by the state some years back. Proceeds went to the Tourism Department and the state Scenic Byways program.



"Bob Audette's Place"

Noted East Mountain artist Albert Noyer painted this picture of the Audette home and its surroundings, including a Route 66 road sign, in winter. Noyer also designed the logo for the East Mountain Historical Society.

