

Newsletter

EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CULTURA DE LAS MONTAÑAS

De Anza Motor Lodge:

Saga of Efforts to Save Route 66 Motel to be Told

A number of historic motor lodges and motels along historic Route 66 have been demolished in recent years, several just a few blocks from the De Anza Motor Lodge at Washington and Central NE. Yet the De Anza remains standing.

And with a fence surrounding its entire perimeter, the city-block-sized motor court appears to be in some kind of limbo.

De Anza expert Elizabeth Chestnut will share the long, ongoing saga of the De Anza Motor Lodge—and the secrets of the significant artistic treasure that has saved it, so far, from the fate suffered by other motels—in a talk and film presentation at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, in Tijeras.

Sponsored by the East Mountain Historical Society, the event will be held in the historic church in Tijeras, just west of the Tijeras Library. It is free and open to the public.

Ms. Chestnut, who has worked in various capacities in fine arts and anthropological institutions in New Mexico, was director of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in 2002, when she learned that murals of Zuni deities had been painted below the ground at the De Anza Motor Lodge. Her presentation will include a 30-minute film she produced with cinematographer Jonathan Sims of Acoma Pueblo and David Kammer, New Mexico Route 66 historian, about the De Anza. Built in 1939, it was one of five trading posts owned by Charles Garrett Wallace (1898–1993), four of which were located on Route 66. The De Anza was the only one of his trading posts located in Albuquerque and associated with a motor lodge.

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Message From the President

Denise Tessier

As many of you know, on Jan. 19 we lost our dear friend Patsy “Pat” Rich, a founding member of the East Mountain Historical Society board and our treasurer.

Just one week before his death, he attended our January board meeting with treasurer’s reports for the previous two months in hand, all bills and deposits complete. We are greatly saddened, and our hearts go out to his family, including daughters Susan and Kathy Rich, who are also EMHS members.

Pat became a member at the founding of EMHS in 1992, as did Dorothy (“Dot”), his wife of 59 years. Kathy is currently on the EMHS board and is our graphics/design expert and webmaster.

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From the President: Our Friend Pat Rich

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During those 20 years, Pat was a constant presence at our public events, work sessions, meetings and members-only field trips. No job or event was too large or too small for his interest and involvement. In the early days, Pat, along with Dot and other EMHS members, spent weekends cleaning and repairing the historic little church in Tijeras—before the historic building had been professionally stabilized with EMHS funds from a federal grant, before the church’s restoration by the village of Tijeras. Back then, cracks in the roof and windows allowed leaves to get into the building and mice roamed inside.

Later, Pat built large, sturdy wood frames for 12 exhibit panels that we volunteers created to showcase East Mountain history through photographs and text. That exhibit has been shown in the historic church, at the new village Senior Center and at community centers and schools. Last year, we started holding silent auctions of books to raise money, and Pat supported the effort, happy to take on the additional tasks involved as treasurer.

... De Anza

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The De Anza, Chestnut says, was a major economic, social and political center in Albuquerque from 1939 to 1983, and Wallace was a formidable public persona within the community. But Wallace got his start at Zuni Pueblo as an Indian trader. His relationship with the Zuni People deeply influenced his building and operation of the De Anza, and led to the creation of two 4 x 20-foot murals in a secret Shriner basement meeting room. Painted by a major Zuni artist, Tony Edaakie, the murals depict Shalako dancers in brilliant color.

The De Anza video includes edited interviews with Ken Wallace, son of C. G. Wallace, and with three Zuni Pueblo members who have had close historic ties to the family. The film was made possible by the We the People Initiative for the National Endowment for the Humanities, among others..



Dot and Pat Rich

Photo by Denise Tessier

When founded by Joyce Mendel and Louise Waldron, EMHS was a sub-committee of the East Mountain Area Association, of which Pat had been president. With the association, as the family reported in his obituary, “Pat successfully lobbied to have a dark sky ordinance adopted by the County Commission, served on the East Mountain Area Plan update commit-

tee, and campaigned to have rural fire stations open and staffed for the safety of East Mountain residents. In 2003 he was awarded the Outstanding Citizen Award from Bernalillo County.”

I’m not alone in having greatly valued Pat’s counsel and validation of our ideas and activities, taking joy in the conversations we’ve had and the camaraderie on field trips, exploring his adopted community and its history.

The family has asked, if friends desire, that memorial donations be made to M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, Texas. Tributes to Pat may be viewed at the online guest book at www.FrenchFunerals.com.



Photo by Denise Tessier

Local Barn To Provide Setting for Talk About Barns

This spring, EMHS will host a talk by author/illustrator Jerry Davis about historic barns in New Mexico, including barns in the East Mountains. What's unique is that we will host his talk in a local barn near Frost Road and North NM 14, complete with a pot-bellied stove.

Mark your calendars for 2 p.m. Sunday, April 7, for this event, which is free and open to the public. To ensure proper seating, please call or e-mail program director Becky Schnelker with the number in your party and she will give you directions on how to get to the barn.

Barns From the Land of Enchantment, Davis' sixth and most recent book, is a volume of 50 black and white renderings he made of New Mexico barns as they would have looked in their prime, including a few from the East Mountain area. Each illustration is accompanied by a vignette about the history of the barn and how Davis found it.

Born in 1932 on a farm in Michigan, Davis attended Michigan State University and while

a junior was chosen to be an International Farm Youth Exchange delegate to Germany, where he lived with several farm families.

After 31 years of teaching history and geography in secondary schools in Michigan, he began his writing career at the age of 70 in New Mexico, where he had retired in 1997. He is a member of SouthWest Writers, the New Mexico / Arizona Book Co-op and Writers to Writers Workshop, and has been a finalist in the New Mexico Book Awards for his previous books, *Leafing Through My Family Tree*, *Master of None: A Love-Hate Affair with Home Remodeling*, and *Michigan Barns, Et Cetera: Rural Buildings of the Great Lake State*.

Davis will talk about his interest in barns and his experiences in New Mexico in getting out and "collecting" images of the barns he has illustrated. He will bring to the talk both copies of his book and print reproductions of his illustrations.

For more information, call Becky at 281-8791 or email programs@eastmountainhistory.org.

EMHS Member Leads Newspaper Digitization Project

More than five million historic newspaper pages from around the nation, including hundreds of thousands from New Mexico, are now available for free viewing and research via a web portal, *Chronicling America*.

Access to papers published from 1836 to 1922 is now possible at the Chronicling America site thanks to the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership of the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In New Mexico, the program is led by University Libraries at the University of New Mexico. Project coordinator for the state is East Mountain resident and EMHS member Kathlene Ferris.

Last year, the Center for Southwest Research, a branch of the UNM University Libraries, completed a two-year grant cycle by digitizing 100,000 pages of New Mexico newspapers, most of which are now available online. The library was awarded a subsequent grant for the 2012-2014 cycle to digitize an additional 100,000 pages.

EMHS President Denise Tessier, a historian and journalist, helped the center decide which newspapers should be digitized next when she served as a member of the project's advisory board, which also included Durwood Ball, UNM associate professor of history; Kevin Comerford (ex officio), digital initiatives librarian at UNM; Gabriel Meléndez, professor of American Studies at UNM; Susan Pinkerton, professor, Doña Ana Community College Library Science Program at New Mexico State University; and Faith Yoman, southwest collection librarian at the New Mexico State Library.

So far, newspapers from 18 communities around the state from the 1880s to 1922 have been digitized. Many Spanish and bilingual titles will be included in the new grant cycle. Tessier said she was especially interested in seeing newspapers in county seats digitized, as the county seat was usually the hub for political activity, trials and all aspects of community life, including health initiatives and filing of cattle, mining and other types of land claims and registrations, both personal and commercial.

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New Mexico History:

Conferences, Brown-bag Lunches and Lectures

In addition to the EMHS program on old barns (see page 3), there are multiple opportunities to learn about New Mexico in the coming months, including:

Old Spanish Neighborhoods

The Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library is partnering with the Oasis educational group to provide a series of talks on Saturdays about the original Spanish neighborhoods along the Rio Grande, from Corrales to Pajarito. An overview talk launched the series in January; talks about specific neighborhoods start Feb. 9 with a presentation by EMHS member / historian Mary Davis on Corrales.

According to the library web site, each speaker “will offer a brief history of the neighborhood, its geography, genealogy, land grants, and culture. Presenters are familiar with their specific neighborhoods, and some are descendants of Albuquerque founders.”

Here’s the program list:

- Feb. 9: Corrales by Mary Davis
- March 9: Alameda by Barbara Santillanes Tapia
- April 13: Ranchos de Albuquerque y Los Poblanos by Mary Davis
- May 11: Los Candelarias y Los Griegos by JoAnn Ulibarri
- June 8: Los Duranes by Franklin Burke
- July 13: Albuquerque, 1540-1846 by David Schneider
- Aug. 10: Albuquerque 1847-1951 by David Schneider
- Sept. 14: Atrisco by Anita Lucero
- Oct. 12: Barelmas by Larry Perea
- Nov. 9: Armijo by Clara Pena
- Dec. 14: Los Padillas y Pajarito by Elaine Lujan

All of the talks are presented from 10:30 a.m. to noon in Botts Hall, the beautifully restored auditorium at the historic Special Collections Library at Edith and Central in Albuquerque. For more information, including interesting maps, go to: <http://library.cabq.gov/SpeakersSeriesOverview>.

“Brainpower and Brown Bags”

If, like many of us, you were enchanted by Van Ann Moore’s portrayal of Doña Tulas at our annual meeting, you have a chance to see her in another free production, this time portraying a number of women of the West.

It’s part of the free New Mexico History Museum “Brainpower and Brownbags” series in Santa Fe. On Wednesday, Feb. 20, Moore will present “Westward Ho! The Lives and Diaries of the Women Going West.”

All of the talks in the series are on Wednesdays at noon (bring a lunch) in the Meem Community Room; enter through the museum’s Washington Avenue doors. Seating is limited. The annual series, organized by Tomas Jaehn of the museum’s Fray Angélico Chávez History Library, is free and open to the public.

Below is the schedule for the rest of 2013:

- March 13: Joy Sperling on “Women’s Visual Narratives of New Mexico between the World Wars.”
- April 17: Lucinda Sachs on “Clyde Tingley’s New Deal for New Mexico.”
- May 15: Anna Cabrera on “Becoming St. Kate: St. Catherine Indian School and St. Katharine Drexel.”
- June 19: Toni Gibson and Sharon Snyder on “The Manhattan Project in Los Alamos: An Eyewitness Perspective.”

For more information call, 505-476-5200.

State History Conference

Several hundred historians, history buffs, students and teachers are expected to attend a Joint Arizona/New Mexico History Conference April 18 through 20 in Las Cruces.

New Mexico Historical Society President Michael Stevenson promises this “will be an exciting and important event for all those interested in our two states’ histories and that of the greater Southwest.” The conference is presented by the Historical Society of New Mexico and the Arizona History Convention, along with several local partners, he said.

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EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS AND NOTES

A hearty welcome to our new members: **Steve and Robyn Hoffman** of Tablazon, **Carolyn Warren** of Tijeras, **Cynthia and Walter Anderson** of Sandia Park and **Kay Schoenefeld** of Tijeras.

Edward Rhodes writes that he has moved to Bend, Ore., and has enjoyed being a member of the East Mountain Historical Society. Best wishes to you in Oregon, Edward.



Board member **Gerry Jones** has agreed to serve as our treasurer after the death of Pat Rich (see story on page 1). Gerry has previously served as treasurer of two other organizations and has been on the board of EMHS for several years.



Have you mailed in your dues? The East Mountain Historical Society appreciates your support of our public history programs and efforts to preserve East Mountain culture, stories and history. Please go to our “Join Now” page at eastmountainhistory.org to renew, join or make a donation online, or use the renewal form with the recent letter mailed to our members and friends by membership chair **Anabel Sanchez**.



Our ongoing oral history project—Great People, Great Stories—is in need of volunteers to transcribe the interviews we conducted this past year with our living treasures of the East Mountain area. Transcriptions would be done from listening to CDs. If you have time to help with this project,

. . . History Conference

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Program sessions will include four tracks and about 75 presentations, all at the Las Cruces Convention Center. The conference will open with a plenary session, an opening reception and dinner.

The next evening will include a live auction followed by an music and historical reenactment performances.

For more information, visit the Historical Society of New Mexico web site at www.hsnm.org.

please contact **Kris Thacher** at mountain-workshop@hotmail.com, or call 286-7707.



The Center for Southwest Research has finished processing another batch of the early East Mountain Historical Society’s oral histories, which are housed at Zimmerman Library on the University of New Mexico campus. The updated Rocky Mountain Online Archive “finding aid” for these histories can be found by searching at rmoa.unm.edu for “*Inventory of the East Mountain Historical Society Oral History Project, 1908-2001 (bulk, 1989-1996)*.”



A new oral history project, Sandia Mountain Legacy, is being developed by members of the EMHS oral history committee. Interviews will be conducted with people who have a long history of working or playing in the East Mountains, with emphasis on the changes they have seen. To nominate a possible interviewee, contact **Melissa Howard** at 286-9365 or nmflicker@swcp.com.

. . . Digital Newspapers

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Previously, these newspapers could only be read on microfilm or in the original hard copy in the counties or libraries. The digital project uses the latest Optical Character Recognition Software (OCR), which transcribes the text, making for fast searching of names and topics. The Library of Congress hopes to eventually host content from each of the 50 states and each U.S. territory in a variety of languages.

Scholars, researchers, genealogists, and anyone who enjoys history will find endless reading material at the Library of Congress web portal, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, which can be accessed at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>.

Remember the Oasis?

This Conoco station served motorists traveling through Tijeras Canyon along Route 66, long before I-40 was built.

From the East Mountain Historical Society collection.



CULTURA DE LAS MONTAÑAS

East Mountain
Historical Society
Newsletter

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[Melissa Howard, design and production](#)

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.

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