



# EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Newsletter

First Quarter 2014

## Buffalo Hunting Part of Colonial Economy



Buffalo hunting historian Henrietta Martinez Christmas looks over a buffalo hide brought by member Effie Medford, right, at the EMHS talk held Feb. 16 at the little church in Tijeras.

*Photo by Becky Schnelker*

In colonial and territorial times, men from villages in the East Mountains and all parts of New Mexico spent weeks on the eastern New Mexico and west Texas plains hunting bison, or buffalo. These *ciboleros* rode in groups of at least 200—a *mayordomo* in charge, hunters, butchers, drivers, meat dryers and others—in October and December. Harvesting these animals reaped tallow (candles), horns (utensils), neck hair (for stuffing mattresses), tongue (exported to Mexico), meat and the hides that were valuable enough to barter and bequeath to others in legal wills. Hunting ended about 1876, with the coming of the railroad and near extinction of the bison. —from *Henrietta Christmas' talk*

### ***Happy Trails: Members-Only Field Trip Is April 5***

Thanks to **Eloy Jaramillo**, we have permission from the Carnuel Land Grant to hike the old wagon trail along Tijeras Creek April 5. Email [president@eastmountainhistory.org](mailto:president@eastmountainhistory.org) for meeting time and place, or visit our Members Only page on the web site. If you're not a member, this is a good time to join, as it's a Members-Only event.

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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](mailto:newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org)  
Deadlines for future issues of the newsletter are Jan. 31, April 30, July 31, and Oct. 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.

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## *Calendar Sale a Success*

The sale of our 2014 calendar of historic East Mountain photos was a great success, and we will do it again as a fundraising activity for EMHS. We sold calendars at the annual meeting, at the buffalo hunting talk and via our web site store at [eastmountainhistory.org/onlinestore.html](http://eastmountainhistory.org/onlinestore.html), plus the Triangle Grocery featured them with the store's display of local authors' books.

The calendars were designed and printed by EMHS board member Kathy Rich, who donated her work and some of the calendars. Kathy's already offered to do a calendar project for 2015, with different photos and more information, such as village fiesta dates. Sales will begin earlier this year, as last year was literally a last-minute project.

Thanks to Kathy and all who supported EMHS by purchasing calendars.

## *Route 66 Group Seeks Help Before Arrival of Czech Film Crew*

The RETRO-Relive the Route committee, which that has been revitalizing Route 66, is looking for help cleaning up the Midway Trading Post in preparation for a Czech Film Crew coming May 26th. The clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Help is needed with tree stump removal, installation of a barbed wire fence to prevent vandalism, tree trimming with tools and chain saws, repair of brick masonry, sand blasting of graffiti, painting and more. If interested, contact Roger Holden at [relivetheroute66@gmail.com](mailto:relivetheroute66@gmail.com) or check out the group's facebook page under Relivetheroute.

EMHS honored Holden and other principals of the Retro group with Awards of Recognition at our annual meeting in October, recognizing the group's work in preserving and cleaning up historic spots along Route 66.

## ***News and Notes . . .***

A hearty welcome to new members **Yvonne Lara** and **Tina Rizkalla**. Plus, the EMHS board has voted to make **Mercie Chavez** of Carnuel an honorary member. She has lived in the East Mountain area more than 50 years and was among those honored in October for sharing her oral history with us. Welcome, Mercie!



**Margaret Garcia** has rejoined the EMHS board after being nominated and voted in by the other directors in January. Welcome! She joins President **Denise Tessier**, Vice President **Kristin Thacher**, Treasurer **Gerry Jones** and Secretary, **Beverly Neville**, and directors **Anabel Sanchez**, **Marie Herrera Dresser**, **Becky Schnelker**, **Kathy Rich**, **Rick Holben**, **Andre Larroque**, **Chuck Van Gelder**, and **Anne Dacey-Lucas**.



We're developing a map of historical East Mountain locations, many of which are lost or are no longer depicted on modern maps. Please contact **Kris Thacher** (286-7707) if you have any old maps or photos of missing buildings or towns and would like to share these materials with us.



**Andre Larroque** has agreed to head up our 2015 nominating committee. If you are interested in serving as an officer for 2015, or in joining the board now or in the future, please contact Andre at [preservation@eastmountainhistory.org](mailto:preservation@eastmountainhistory.org).



EMHS member and Civil War re-enactor **Ronald Lah** reports that Fort Union Days will be held June 21-22. Experience an encampment, talks and demonstrations, and an exhibition tent.



EMHS will share its photo albums and family histories with the public at the East Mountain Celebration Sept. 28. Contact **Becky Schnelker** at [programs@eastmountainhistory.org](mailto:programs@eastmountainhistory.org) if you can help out at our table.



**Rick Holben** has donated more New Mexico magazines to our archives, these dating from 1970 to 1980. Thanks, Rick!

**It's time to renew your membership in EMHS. You can do it online using Pay Pal or you may send your check to the East Mountain Historical Society, P.O. Box 106, Tijeras, NM 87049.**

*Thank you for your support of the society and its mission.*

## ***Historical Society of New Mexico Conference May 1-3***

The historic city of Las Vegas, New Mexico, is the setting for this year's state conference of the New Mexico Historical Society, with meetings and events May 1-3 at New Mexico Highlands University, the historic Plaza Hotel and Montezuma Castle.

Dozens of history lectures will be presented, including one by East Mountain Historical Society President **Denise Tessier** on the history of San Miguel County's courthouses and famous cases, scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Saturday, May 3.

As a benefit of EMHS membership, members of the East Mountain Historical Society may join the Historical Society of New Mexico at a \$10 discount (because EMHS is a member of the state group). Cost of the full conference for members is \$150 if paid by April 21. For information on HSNM membership and the conference, visit [www.hsnm.org](http://www.hsnm.org).

## ***Genealogical Society of Hispanic America to Meet in Denver in June***

The Genealogical Society of Hispanic America, based in Pueblo, Colorado, will hold its 2014 GSHA Annual Meeting & Genealogical Conference June 6-8 in a suburb of Denver, which is just a day's drive for our members. Conference theme is "Our Spanish Roots, Mexican Trunk and American Branches." For more information, visit <http://www.gsha.net/>.

**East Mountain Historical  
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