



CULTURA DE LAS MONTAÑAS

# Newsletter

## EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Another Great Story

Lewis McComb, born in 1923, is among those who have been interviewed as part of the “Great People, Great Stories” oral history project. During his interview on Sept. 21, 2011, he talked about life in and around the Estancia Valley at the easternmost edge of Bernalillo County. Among his memories: arising before dark to walk several miles to wait for the horse-



drawn school bus, and of school lunches his mother packed with homemade bread and vegetables from the family garden. McComb spent part of his childhood on the Riedmont Fox Farm in Sabino Canyon.

Photo by Denise Tessier



### Upcoming Programs: Marking History in New Mexico

#### ***“New Mexico’s Struggle for Statehood—Political Cartoons Before 1912 and New Mexico’s Image”***

Richard Melzer will present an illustrated talk on Sunday, Feb. 19, at 2:00 p.m. at the Tijeras historic church next to the Tijeras Public Library.

Dr. Melzer is a professor of history at the UNM Valencia Campus and has published and lectured on a wide variety of topics in 20th-century New Mexico history. He also wrote most of the stories in the January Centennial issue of New Mexico Magazine.

#### ***Docent-led Tour of Local History Museum***

Stay tuned for details on this April event.

#### ***Twentieth Anniversary June 3***

EMHS will mark New Mexico’s centennial and its own anniversary at the Tijeras historic church and the adjacent Luis Garcia Park. Local musicians will perform, and people who have participated in the oral history project will be recognized.

**Where history is being made,  
you'll find the Pereas**

Long-time EMHS members Dorela and Bobby Perea attended the unveiling of the renovated First National Bank building on the plaza in Santa Fe. Their son, Raul, is one of the principals of the project for Bradbury Stamm. Raul said the building was used as a hotel, a theater and then an auto showroom before it became First National Bank in 1954.

Photo by Denise Tessier



## President's Letter

As we embark on a new year, we are well on our way to accomplishing the goals we set forth in 2011.

We are fully under way with our "Great Stories, Great People" oral history project, and as of this writing, director Kris Thacher reports that we have recorded the histories of eight "living treasures," closing in on the minimum of 10 histories we had proposed when we applied for a Bernalillo County neighborhood grant, thanks to our partnership with the East Mountain Area Coalition. Committee member Nancy Carpenter created a video "trailer" of the persons interviewed so far, which made for an impressive presentation when we were visited by Bernadette Miera of the county grant program in November.

**Another oral history training session is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. Jan. 25.** If you would like to become part of this historic effort please contact Kris at mountain-workshop@hotmail.com.

In June, we plan to hold a New Mexico Centennial community event to honor our oral history participants—while celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Please contact any board member about helping us with what will be a fun event, featuring memories, food and music.

We also have public programs and members-only field trips to look forward to this year, thanks to program director Becky Schnelker. Check our web site for details and dates as they are firmed up.

Just before 2011 ended, I sent out a letter to members listing our accomplishments of the past year. I'd like to repeat an observation I made at its close:

In September, Kris, Becky and I attended an all-day oral history forum at the Albuquerque Museum, at which we heard about projects at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces and at the El Paso City Museum.

These groups were justifiably proud that they were creating photo exhibits and conducting oral histories in their respective areas. And I realized that in the 20 years since our group was founded by Joyce Mendel and Louise Waldron and a "small group of dedicated volunteers," our all-volunteer organization has in some ways accomplished just as much as these groups made up of professionals with paid staff and college interns to help.

Sincere thanks go out to everyone who has helped us reach 20 years, furthering and cementing our goals of preserving the history and culture of the villages and lands east of the Sandia and Manzano Mountains. The more we learn about our heritage, the richer our lives become.

Sincerely,  
*Denise Tessier*  
EMHS President

# EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWS AND NOTES

### EMHS Featured in Brochure

Information about the East Mountain Historical Society will be included in a full-color brochure from Bernalillo County's open space division.

EMHS will be featured along with about 20 other history-related groups, including the Albuquerque, Corrales, Sandoval County and Valencia County historical societies; Coronado State Monument, the city of Albuquerque's KiMo Theater and more.

### KiMo Marks Centennial With New Mexico Films

Albuquerque's historic KiMo Theater will show 36 films during the Centennial year, all of which were filmed in New Mexico. The biggest event—to be accompanied by a parade down Central—will be June 16 with the showing of "Lonely Are the Brave," the Kirk

Douglas movie filmed in the Sandia Mountains. The cast included the late Tomas "Tom" Herrera, long-time EMHS member and supporter. He was featured in our 2009 Issue 3 newsletter.

### Historical Society to Meet

EMHS members get a \$10 discount when joining the Historical Society of New Mexico, which plans its annual conference in Santa Fe May 3–5. Details are at hsnm.org.

### Thanks to the Hostess

Thanks to Anabel Sanchez for hosting the annual holiday potluck in December. It was well attended, with great food, music and conversation.

### Welcome New Member

Kathleen Owen of Sandia Park

## Annual Meeting Report

Historian, author and former lawman Don Bullis talked about famous and historic New Mexico personalities at a public lecture at the historic church in Tijeras during the East Mountain Historical Society's annual meeting in October.

At the meeting, 2012 officers and directors were elected by the membership. Continuing officers are Denise Tessier, president; Anabel Sanchez, vice president; and Pat Rich, treasurer. Beverly Neville replaced outgoing secretary Anne Dacey-Lucas.

Dacey-Lucas joined the board of directors, which includes continuing board members Marie Herrera Dresser, Gerry Jones, Andre Larroque, Kathy Rich, Rebecca Schnelker, Kris Thacher and Chuck Van Gelder.

*Photo by Denise Tessier*



# EMHS Dues Are Due

It's time to renew your dues to EMHS. Membership year is from January 1 through December 31.

**You may now renew your dues online through Pay Pal!** Go to the "Join Us" page on our web site.

If you prefer, you may send in the form below to Pat Rich, Treasurer, EMHS, P.O. Box 106, Tijeras, NM 87059.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL DUES (please check appropriate line):

Student (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_ Corporation (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Does your employer match your charitable donations? Please remember EMHS in your giving.

Honorary members (residents of the area more than 50 years) do not pay dues.

Dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## Correction

In our last newsletter, the caption with the photograph of Marie Herrera Dresser wearing a matachine head-dress should have said that the colorful fiesta garment, or cupil, was made for her brother Bernardo. We apologize for the mix-up.



## 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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