

CULTURA DE LAS MONTAÑAS

# NEWSLETTER

for the  
EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fourth Quarter 2009

## Happy New Year!



EMHS Archeology Chairman Chuck Van Gelder, upper left, and Sharon Van Gelder hike a now-overgrown segment of historic Route 66 in Tijeras Canyon during the October members' only field trip led by Chuck – one of the many activities EMHS sponsored in 2009.

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## *A Look Back on 2009*

### **EMHS Achievements, Activities Mark Every Month of Year**

**A**fter a planning session in **January**, the East Mountain Historical Society took no time off during 2009, with public and members-only events every single month of the year.

In **February**, EMHS members Andre Larroque and his wife, Carol, along with then-new member Beverly Neville and her husband, Bill, served as judges for the Roosevelt Middle School history fair. The event was much a like a science fair but with an emphasis on history, and the judges reported that they were greatly impressed with the students' work.

The year's public program calendar kicked off **March** 21 with a well-attended free lecture about the use of the U.S. Army Camel Corps during the Civil War. Camel owner Beverly Neville followed her talk by agreeing to serve as Program Director for EMHS, a move of great benefit to EMHS.

On **April** 25, EMHS held another well-attended event, during which author Don Alberts talked about the role the East Mountains played in the Civil War, while the New Mexico Territorial Brass Band, dressed in period attire, entertained with the music of the times outside in the gazebo in Tijeras' Luis Garcia Park. Refreshments were served.

In **May**, EMHS played host to the Corrales Historical Society, whose members spent the entire day touring East Mountain churches and landmarks. After a briefing by Anabel Sanchez and refreshments at the little church in Tijeras, the Corrales visitors were met by EMHS volunteer hosts at each church, and they also visited the old San Antonito Schoolhouse.



Petroglyph at Pueblo Blanco.

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Members had a rare opportunity in **June** to visit Pueblo Blanco, a prehistoric ruin in the Galisteo Basin. Chuck Van Gelder made the field trip arrangements and those on the trek were met by Dave Eck, State Land Office archeologist, who led the tour.

The little church in Tijeras was packed in **July** as members and the general public were entertained for hours by the traditional music of Francisco Chavez and his brother James.

On **August** 1, the EMHS board met at the historic Hubbell House in the SouthValley, after which members were given a tour of the one-time stage stop and sprawling grounds. The event was open to all members.

Another public event was hosted in **September**, as EMHS teamed up with the New Mexico Genealogical Society to offer a public lecture by Mike Smith, author of "Towns of the Sandias."

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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 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.

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In **October**, Chuck led another members-only field trip, assisted by Moises Gonzales, past president of the Carnuel Land Grant Association. The field trip was a “moving tour” about the early settlers of the East Mountains, which started at the *acequia* at San Antonio and ended up in the wide arroyo at the bottom of Albuquerque’s Four Hills, with stops in Tijeras Canyon and at a historic stone house in between.

After the EMHS **November 8** annual meeting, historic Santo Nino Church in Tijeras turned into a “movie theater” for the showing of Louise Waldron’s filmed interview with Tomás Herrera, who had roles in the Kirk Douglas movie, *Lonely Are the Brave*, which was projected on the church’s back wall. Popcorn was served.

The year’s activities wound up in **December** with the annual holiday potluck.

#### **Other Achievements**

In addition to a full calendar of public and members-only programs, EMHS achieved the following in 2009, as President Andre Larroque noted at the annual meeting:

- ❖ EMHS bestowed its first “Award of Recognition,” established to recognize the efforts toward preservation of the historic San Antonito stone schoolhouse by Sharon Marks and David Engelman. (See story in the [Second Quarter 2009 newsletter](#)).
- ❖ EMHS established a relationship with Bernalillo County’s Parks and Recreation Department by providing information about the history of Sabino Canyon Open Space, which was used to create an [interpretive guide](#).
- ❖ EMHS’ newsletter received an award from New Mexico Press Women.
- ❖ EMHS photo archives were digitized.
- ❖ EMHS wrote a letter of support endorsing preservation of 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.

## *Onward in 2010*

### **Goals and Projects for the Coming Year**

President Andre Larroque and the EMHS board have expressed an interest in focusing this year on the preservation of the **Selva pueblo ruin**, an effort board member Louise Waldron has pursued more than a decade.



An ancestral village of Isleta and the original village of Carnuel, the ruin is located in between Tijeras and Albuquerque and is in need of protection. Louise says it is threatened by both development and “diggers.”

Members got an idea of what is at stake during the members-only tour in October, at which time we skirted the pueblo and looked at a map of the site. *In the photo at left, Moises Gonzales, who co- led the tour with Chuck Van Gelder, holds up a piece from a tinája, a black bean pot typical of Spanish cookware in the 1700s.*

© 2009 Photo by Denise Tessier

Other plans: EMHS hopes to continue **working in partnership with Bernalillo County’s Parks and Recreation Department** in supplying information for its open space properties in the East Mountains, both for interpretive booklets and interpretive signs. “Sabino Canyon: An Interpretive Guide,” was done by the county in cooperation with EMHS, and copies are available from the county or from Andre. EMHS is also working on oral histories related to county open spaces.

The EMHS board is still working to secure a **permanent exhibition space and storage space** for its archive collection of photographs and oral histories, and a working space where members of the public can do research using those resources. Toward that end, we are in talks with the village of Tijeras.

Program Director Beverly Neville hopes to schedule a **program or field trip every month**, with at least four events open to the general public, per our mission as an educational organization.

At least two field trips will be scheduled by Chuck VanGelder, probably in the spring and late fall. EMHS will also work on preservation efforts as warranted.

The familiar stone house at right, across from the Chevron on North NM-14, is of historic interest and was toured by EMHS members during the October field trip. Once run as a bar by the late Charlie Campos, it was more recently the home of Flaviano and Dulcinea Sanchez, grandmother of San Antonio *acequia* *mayordomo* Chris Jinzo.

© 2009 Photo by Denise Tessier



## ***Elections Held***

The officers who served as the EMHS executive committee in 2009 were reelected in November to serve another year's term. They are: **Andre Larroque**, president; **Anabel Sanchez**, vice president; **Pat Rich**, treasurer; and **Anne Dacey-Lucas**, secretary.

Elected to the board of directors were **Dot Rich**, **Chuck Van Gelder**, **Bev Neville**, **Denise Tessier**, **Kathy Rich**, **Kris Thatcher**, **Louise Waldron**, **Marie Herrera Dresser**, **Becky Schnelker**, and **Manuel Garcia y Griego**.



This was the scene in Tijeras Canyon, the East Mountains' "natural corridor," where members walked in October during a field trip led by EMHS Archeology Chairman Chuck VanGelder.

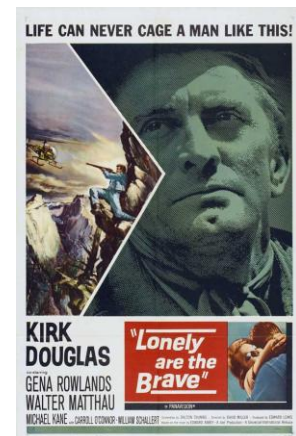
© 2009 Photo by Denise Tessier

The board meets monthly, generally the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon at the public library in Tijeras.

## ***Check Out 'Lonely Are the Brave'***

Due to technical difficulties, EMHS was unable to show the film "Lonely are the Brave" as planned at the November meeting.

It was suggested that those who had hoped to see the film instead could borrow it at their own convenience from the Public Library in Tijeras. It can be put on hold by request. Check out, too, the [movie trailer online](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaMOvaJdXN8) at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaMOvaJdXN8>.



## ***In Search of Sunshine***

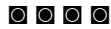
A visit to the unique Madrid Cemetery by EMHS member Becky Schnelker led to a [story in the Mountain View Telegraph](#), which led to a [letter from the brother](#) of a man named "Sunshine" (aka Alan Peter Anderson), who is buried there.

Jim Anderson of Kent, Conn., would appreciate contact from anyone who knew his brother, and can be reached at [clockmaker1999@gmail.com](mailto:clockmaker1999@gmail.com).

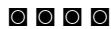
*Photo by Becky Schnelker*

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

A big thank you to Becky Schnelker for hosting the EMHS holiday party and potluck at her beautiful home. Great food, company and stories were shared.



The Historical Society of NM will hold its annual conference April 30-May 2 in Hobbs. For more information, visit the group's Web site: <http://www.hsnm.org/>.



A hearty welcome to new members **Ron and Vicki Farrar** of Sandia Park!

Historian **Chris Wilson's** seminal survey of historic buildings in East Mountain villages is available for purchase through EMHS. "*Historic Resources Reconnaissance Survey of the Manzano and Sandia Mountain Villages*" includes text and photos and may be purchased for \$10.



Did you work at Bella Vista and have stories you'd like to share? Or perhaps you worked at the cement factory, the Barn Dinner Theater, the Ski Area or Mountain Bus Company? These are all part of the history of the East Mountains. If you have a story you're willing to share, please send it to [newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org](mailto:newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org). Please contact [vicepresident@eastmountainhistory.org](mailto:vicepresident@eastmountainhistory.org) if you are interested in doing oral histories for us.



The East Mountain Historical Society is looking for a volunteer to help with grant writing. Contact Andre Larroque at [president@eastmountainhistory.org](mailto:president@eastmountainhistory.org) if you can help.

**Dues Reminder:** Dues are collected at the start of the calendar year. Please mail your 2010 dues renewal to Treasurer Pat Rich at the newsletter return address.

**Annual dues:**

**Student, \$10 / Individual, \$15 / Family, \$20 Sponsor, \$25 / Corporation, \$50**



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