

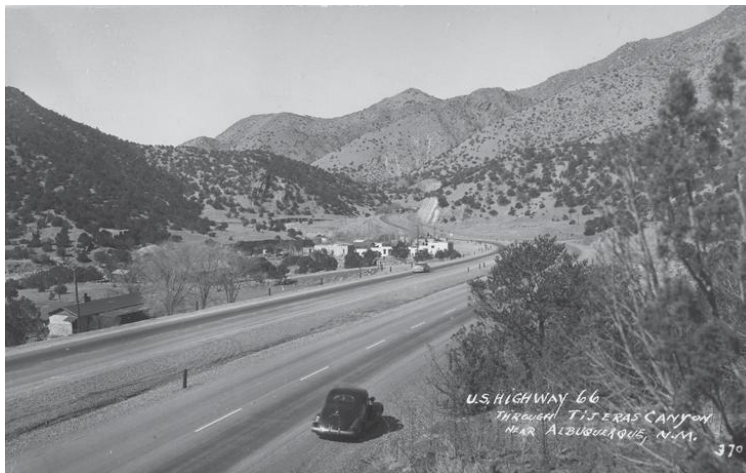


CULTURA DE LAS MONTAÑAS

<http://eastmountainhistory.org>

# EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Newsletter

Third Quarter 2014



2015 East Mountain  
Historical Society  
Calendar:

***Views of the East  
Mountains  
Then . . .***

***. . .and Now***

Our gorgeous full-color 2015 Calendar will be on sale for \$12 at the East Mountain Celebration, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday Sept. 28 at Los Vecinos Community Center in Tijeras.



## 2014 Calendar of Events - all on Sundays

**Sept. 14 – Recognition Ceremony.** EMHS will recognize those who have participated in our oral history projects and others who have made special efforts to preserve local history. *Story on page 2.*

**Sept. 28 – East Mountain Celebration.** EMHS will share photo albums and family histories and will unveil (and sell) our new 2015 calendar. Be sure to come by and add what you know to our “lost places” of the East Mountains map!

**Nov. 2 – Annual Meeting and elections,** with [special guest Anne Hillerman](#), author of “Spider Woman’s Daughter,” which continues the exploits of the beloved New Mexico characters created by her father, Tony Hillerman.

# Recognition Ceremony To Honor Those Who've Helped Preserve History

*By Kris Thacher, Oral History Coordinator and Vice President*

Certificates of Appreciation will be awarded to 12 honorees for taking part in our two oral history endeavors: the Great People/Great Stories and the Sandia Mountain Legacy Projects.

Certificates of Recognition also will be presented to seven citizens for their work in historical preservation. The recognition ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, September 14, in the historic church next to the East Mountain Library in Tijeras, N.M.

Great People/Great Stories oral history participants to be honored this year are **Marcella Atencio Lopez**, a *curandera* from La Madera, **Reggie Fletcher**, a Forest Service botanist and ecologist from Carnuel, and **Anabel Sanchez**, who was born and grew up near Yrissari, where her family had lived for generations.

The Sandia Mountain Legacy Project, coordinated by **Melissa Howard**, is an oral history project that has focused on people whose lives have been linked specifically to the Sandia Mountains. Included in this group are **Elaine O'Neill**, **John Hayden**, **Art Arenholz**, **Jim Koehler**, **Hart Schwartz**, **John and Nita Daly**, **David Hammack**, and **David Holmes**.

Awards of Recognition will go to **Rita Liebling** for preservation of the Ross Ward grocery mural on display above the produce section at her Triangle Grocery store in Cedar Crest; to **Elisa Nelson** and **Jane Clancy** for their work to save and preserve the Hyer Cemetery near San Pedro; and to **Bernadine Creager**, **Judy Hilger**, **Leroy Humphries**, and the late **Armon Austin** for preserving the Lucy Cemetery in Lucy, N.M.

All are welcome, and refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

## Grant To Help EMHS Create a 'Treasure' Map

The East Mountain Historical Society has received a \$1,000 Nina Otero-Warren Institutional Grant from the Historical Society of New Mexico, which will be used to create a "Living Treasure Map" of the East Mountains.

In addition to featuring a portrait photo of each person interviewed during oral histories, the map will try to locate all the villages and historic locations mentioned in those interviews. The final map and photos will be displayed on five portable panels that will be available for exhibitions at schools, community centers, libraries, and senior centers. The panels will be finished by June 2015.

Members of the public are invited to add any "lost" or forgotten place names to a related map we will have on display during the East Mountain Celebration on Sept. 28. A booklet of East Mountain Place Names is in development, along with the map.

# The Spirit of Lucy – Its Cemetery

*Story and black and white Photos by Denise Tessier*

Four years ago, Chuck Van Gelder led members of the East Mountain Historical Society on a tour of the railroad town of Lucy, New Mexico.

If you've traveled U.S. 60 to Willard, you've passed Lucy and likely never saw it; a tall railroad berm parallel to the highway has long kept Lucy hidden. Even those on the field trip saw nothing of the 1905 homestead settlement until we headed our vehicles south at the Lucy turnoff, topped the peak of the train ballast pile and bumped across the tracks.



Then the remnants of Lucy came into view: the walls of a ruined school house (above) looming beyond a solitary old farmhouse (below), the latter's fences intact, curtains hanging in the window and the number 13 by the front door.



Still out of sight, however, was the treasure across the street. We spent a lot of time in the Lucy Cemetery, marked then only by scattered, tilting fence posts. It would have been easy to miss if we hadn't been on foot. Fences were down, the tombstones toppled by wandering cattle.

Today the two sides of Lucy's street couldn't be more different.

On the east side, the school walls are gone. The little house burned down.

But on the west side, the cemetery has risen like a phoenix, taking its place as Lucy's landmark, its spirit and legacy. Sturdy red corral bars and net wire protect its plots from cattle; headstones have been raised up and righted. In a large black arch over the corral-quality gate, lettered metal carries the "Lucy Cemetery" name.

Bernadine Harper Creager, whose mother Willie Belle Boyd Harper is buried in Lucy (b. 1894, d. 1933), was dismayed at the cemetery's condition when she came up one day from her southern New Mexico home in Anthony. And she decided to do something about it.

She talked to fellow Lucy native Armon Austin, who suggested calling rancher Leroy Humphries. "My mother died when I was 2 and my father would take me to play ball at the cemetery rather than a park. So, I grew up liking cemeteries," Humphries noted. Humphries drew plans for a fence to encircle the cemetery, got materials at a discount and had his ranch manager, Allen Brown, weld pipe and do construction. Brown's two children helped. Austin provided the gate and Creager's daughter Judy Hilger came up with the cemetery arch. ▶ *Page 4*

► *Spirit of Lucy, continued*

On June 23, 2013, the Harper family and others gathered to rededicate the newly cleaned and protected cemetery in the memory of [all who are buried there](#). Austin died this past February at the age of 95, but Creager noted, “He lived long enough to see his dream come true, the cemetery refurbished. That was part of our goal. He cried when he saw it.” Austin’s daughter, Bonnie Sue Thomas, brought him out to the rededication in a wheel chair and will accept Austin’s EMHS Award of Recognition on his behalf. “I would like to honor my Dad,” she said.



Lucy Cemetery before the restoration.  
*Photo from FindAGrave.com*

“Daddy was born and raised at Lucy,” she added. “He has nobody buried in that cemetery. It’s just part of his heritage and where he went to school as a child.” Boyd Harper, Bernadine Creager’s brother, was a classmate.

In an oral history conducted in 2007 for the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, Armon T. Austin described the town of Lucy as having a school, depot, blacksmith, justice of the peace, two stores, a post office and gas station, plus a ladies’ auxiliary. According to [Legends of America](#), Lucy also was the original location of the Cline's Corners Trading Post, before Roy Cline moved it to the more frequently traveled Route 66.

Austin was born in Lucy on a snowy night in February 1919 and, according to his oral history, “The doctor had come from Willard by train, and Armon’s dad had sledged him to the house where Armon was born.” Creager says she was born in that same house, though she and Armon are unrelated and were born 10 years apart. She said the doctor came from Willard on horseback to deliver her.



Lucy Cemetery today. *Photo from Spirit of Lucy at geocaching.com.*

Armon’s family supported themselves by farming and selling corn and beans. They raised chickens and traded eggs and cream for groceries. Austin told his oral historian that railroad workers would “throw coal off the train as it went by so that poor families could use it in the winter.”

The family kept a barrel of water in the kitchen for drinking, and in winter, it often froze.

Creager did some research while working on the cemetery and learned that Hanlon Funeral Home was housed in a general store in Willard in 1908 and did not officially open in Mountainair until 1948. She said her mother’s casket from Willard was made of wood with a covering of black crepe, cost \$65, “and was paid for by my dad, William E. Harper”. Harper was a ranch hand in Lucy until the family moved to Albuquerque, where he started the Five Points Rodeo.

---

East Mountain Historical Society

**Newsletter**

Published Quarterly

Denise Tessier.....Writer/Editor  
[newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org](mailto:newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org)

---

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.

---

Copyright 2014©

---

## *Consider Joining the EMHS Board*

*By Andre Larroque*

Our valiant Treasurer, Gerry Jones, is stepping down from that position, and we are looking for someone to replace him on the board.

The treasurer's duties are important to our existence as a small, local non-profit, dedicated to recording and preserving the unique and colorful history of the East Mountains.

If you are interested in helping by serving as Treasurer for the 2015 term, please contact me at [preservation@eastmountainhistory.org](mailto:preservation@eastmountainhistory.org) or call 239-1389.

Please contact me also if you would like to get involved as a member of our board. It is a fun and rewarding experience. Elections will be held at our annual meeting Nov. 2, and at that time, we will also take nominations from the floor.

You would be joining Denise Tessier, president; Kris Thacher, vice president; Bev Neville, secretary; and directors Becky Schnelker, Anabel Sanchez, Marie Herrera Dresser, Gerry Jones, Kathy Rich, Rick Holben, Margaret Garcia, Anne Dacey-Lucas and myself.

## *Message From the President*

We have a busy month, as we're hosting a **history recognition event this Sunday, Sept. 14**, and we will have a **table at the East Mountain Celebration on Sept. 28**, where we will ask the public to add what they know to our "*Treasure Map*" of Lost Names and Places in the East Mountains. That day we will also unveil our *2015 East Mountain Historical Society Calendar: Then and Now*. A worthy follow-up to last year's inaugural calendar by **Kathy Rich**, this one features original "Now" photographs by board member **Rick Holben** that line up with historic "Then" photos from the last century, with lots of history in the captions. You won't want to be without the *Then and Now* calendar!

*Denise Tessier*

## Our 2015 ‘Then and Now’ Calendar To Debut

Visit our table at the East Mountain Celebration to get your copy of the *2015 East Mountain Historical Society Calendar: Then and Now*. Cost of each calendar is \$12 at the celebration. They will also be available at our annual meeting and soon via our online store (with \$5 postage and handling added). Thanks to **Kathy Rich** for putting it together and creating our online sales page. Thanks to **Rick Holben** for his diligence and talent in coming up with the calendar photos.

## News and Notes . . . of the EM Historical Society

Please join us in a hearty welcome to our newest member, **Julia Ashley** of Tijeras.



The San Antonito fiesta is this Friday evening and Saturday at the church at San Antonito (on the west side of North NM 14, near Frost Road). Vespers begin at the church at 7 p.m., followed by a procession from the church north to the original San Antonito Village. Usually local law enforcement stops traffic to allow for this historic tradition. Fiesta mass is Saturday at 10 a.m., followed by a procession, food and dancing by *matachines*. The public is welcome to attend all of these events.



Got history books? Our members love them. If you have books related to New Mexico, history or both, and you're ready to pass them on, please bring them to any board meeting or to our booth at the East Mountain Celebration on Sept. 28. Then attend our Nov. 2 Annual Membership Meeting and join the bidding during our popular silent auction. It's fun to get "new" history books and it raises money for the East Mountain Historical Society at the same time.



More than 200,000 pages of historical state newspapers have been digitized and may be viewed at:

<http://elibrary.unm.edu/cswr/newspapers.php>



Our heartfelt condolences to honorary member **Francisco Chavez** on the loss of his daughter, Monica, a nurse who died in a Doña Ana County plane crash while trying to help a cancer patient being transported to a hospital.



Our condolences also go out to the family and many friends of **Mercie Chavez**, honorary member of EMHS, whom we recognized last year for her help with our oral history project. We lost Mercie on Aug. 28.



Former EMHS board member Dr. L.M. Garcia y Griego, Cañon de Carnue Land Grant heir, will talk about "Community Land Grants of the East Mountains" at the Museum of Albuquerque at 2 p.m. Sept. 21. His talk is sponsored by the Albuquerque Historical Society.

# ***Southwest Kiln Conference at Tijeras Pueblo***

*Story and Photos by Kris Thacher*

The annual South West Kiln Conference came to the Tijeras Ranger Station and Archaeological Site over the Labor Day weekend. More than 50 archaeologists, potters, and interested people attended four days of lectures, demonstrations and outdoor pottery firings at the event sponsored by the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo.

Many participants, from as far away as Arizona, Utah, and Colorado, camped at Oak Flats where a large meadow was devoted to the building of pit and trench kilns following the designs of ancient Anasazi kilns. Archaeologists shared their research, potters shared recipes for slips and bee plant paint, and everyone helped build kilns, load their pottery, stack the wood, and fire their beautiful reproductions of Anasazi, Mimbres, and Mesa Verde pots. As with many primitive firings, there were many successes and a few failures pulled out of the ashes the next day.



**Preservation, one part at a time...**

Larry Leonard, brother-in-law of EMHS member Robyn Hoffman, recently rolled through the East Mountains in a 1939 Chevy truck he built completely from parts. Larry drove the finished truck from his home in Kansas to the Pacific Ocean and back. The

years-long project started with a single green cab, which he found half sunk in prairie sand. He riveted a plate over a hole in the roof and started adding other pieces. The truck's red doors came from a fire truck. It even sports an authentic 1939 license plate.

*Photo by Denise Tessier*



East Mountain Historical Society  
P.O. Box 106  
Tijeras, NM 87059