



CULTURA DE LAS MONTAÑAS

<http://eastmountainhistory.org>

# EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Newsletter

First to Third Quarters 2017

**A Japanese Submarine in the East Mountains? Yes! Read a special report by member Dick Brown, pg. 9.**

*Photo courtesy Mike and Mary Anaya*



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## Free Public Presentation This Month *Learn About Apache Plant Use, Beliefs*

Traditional Apache beliefs about and uses of plants – for food, medicine, and in the creation of daily tools – will be the topic of a free public presentation at **2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27**, at the historic church in Tijeras, just west of the East Mountain Library.

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*Continued from pg. 1*

EMHS member and long-time East Mountain resident **Dr. Ronald Lah**, an anthropologist, ethnomusicologist, living history reenactor, and former teacher of New Mexico history, will serve as our presenter by taking on an Apache persona, as he has done frequently at *El Rancho de las Golondrinas*, where he is a history scholar.

Lah will share *Chihenne* (New Mexico's Chiricahua Apache) traditional beliefs toward and uses of plants from the varied ecological zones of the vast *Chihenne* range, dealing not only with plant usage for food, but also for medicines, as well as for a wide array of building and craft material, dyes, adhesives, and other purposes. Samples of plants and plant-derived products will be shown during the presentation.

The "Apache Plant Use" program will also cover beliefs and practices related to plants, such as their mention in songs and ceremonial practices, symbolism concerning plants, and the use of a plant-based calendar. Lah says even the name of the famous leader "Cochise" references plants, the "chise" meaning "having the quality of an oak".

The program is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served.

## **You're Invited – *Please, Mark Your Calendars*** (Especially if you are not able to receive reminders via email)

**Aug. 12** (Saturday, 2 p.m.) – Full *matachines* dance to be conducted at Cañoncito Church in honor of San Lorenzo Day.

**Aug. 26** (Saturday, 10 a.m.) – EMHS board of directors meeting historic church in Tijeras west of the library. All members welcome.

**Aug. 27** (Sunday, 2 p.m.) – EMHS member **Dr. Ronald Lah** to give presentation on Apache Plant Use at the historic church in Tijeras west of the library. Free and open to the public. (Story on pg. 1.)

**Sept. 24** (Sunday) – **East Mountain Celebration**. EMHS will host a booth to share information with the community and to debut our *2018 East Mountains: Then and Now* calendar, with all new historical photographs different from calendars of past years. You'll also have a chance to buy our maps – both folded and poster versions, and our Route 66 postcards, individually and in gift packs.

**Nov. 4 or 11** (TBA, Sunday) – **Annual Meeting, elections** at 1:30, presentation by **Jack Loeffler**, writer and friend of Edward Abbey, at 2 p.m., in the historic church. Free and open to the public.

**Dec. 9** (Sunday) – **Members-only holiday potluck** at 4 p.m. at the home of Bev Neville (invitations will be mailed to members).

**Dec. 16** (Saturday, 10 a.m.) – **Comanchitos Dance**, La Madera original townsite. Historic tradition of singing and dancing, arranged by **Moises Gonzales**. More info to come.

# Calling All East Mountain History Detectives!

*By Kris Thacher*

The search has begun. If you like solving historical mysteries, doing genealogical research, paging through out-of-print books, seeking out old deeds at the County Clerk's office, losing hours looking for information on the internet, visiting the N.M. State Archives, reading newspaper stories from the 1800s, or just talking to neighbors about local history, we want you!

It all started with the "Great People, Great Stories" oral history project for our 2012 NM Centennial Celebration. We interviewed local residents about family histories, their lives and times in the East Mountains. We heard about places that no longer existed – ghost towns, lost mines, old pueblo ruins, petroglyphs, land grants, stage coach and mail routes, bean houses, bars and restaurants and more.

A few years after the Centennial Celebration, we sent a grant proposal to the Historical Society of New Mexico for funding to create a map of the places we had heard about during our interviews. HSNM awarded us \$1,000 to create "Mapping Our Vanishing Past," a 6' x 6' portable map depicting about 400 square miles – from Carnuel to Moriarty, from Golden to Chilili and points in between. We also created two 2' x 6' panels that displayed photographs of all the people interviewed for oral histories, including many recorded years earlier. The portable map and photo panels have been on display at our historical society public events and now have begun to travel (see story on pg. 2). After seeing the big map, many folks asked if we planned to make a smaller version that individuals could purchase. So, we printed a smaller version that includes – on the reverse side – actual old-fashioned advertisements from many of the historical business locations on the map.



**Mapping out a book:** This is what it looks like when we get together. Please join us! *Photo by Kris Thacher*

As soon as they had their own maps, people began to ask if we planned to publish a companion book with the history of the locations on the map. We like to keep people happy and interested in East Mountain history – but there are almost 250 places on the map!

During the creation of the original map, our volunteer committee did extensive research into many of the landmarks and places, and from that developed timelines, such as when a village was first settled, important events during its existence, when was it abandoned and why. We have 80 finished timelines and

our eight "map book" volunteers have signed up to work on 50 more.

As you can see by doing the math, we need your help. If you would like to join in and use your research skills – or learn from the skills we've acquired in doing this project – please email Kris Thacher at [mountainworkshop@hotmail.com](mailto:mountainworkshop@hotmail.com) and use the title "EMHS map" in the subject line.

# 'Vanishing Past' Map Goes on Tour



EMHS secretary **Bev Neville** and member **Robert Easterling** with our map at Mountainside United Methodist Church north of Tijeras.  
*Photo by Denise Tessier*

## *Map Enjoys a Popular Run at Local Church, Tijeras Library and Moriarty Museum* **Next Stop: Albuquerque**

After a popular month-long stint at the East Mountain Library in Tijeras, our six-by-six-foot map of vanishing and lost landmarks is now in an extended stay at the Historical Society Museum in Moriarty.

But before the month is over, it will travel to the Special Collections Library at Edith and Central in Albuquerque, joining a slew of other maps on display as part of a map festival to be held Sept. 30.

The map's "tour" started when it was displayed on March 26 at Mountainside Methodist Church as part of the church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. (See story, pg.

4.) EMHS member **Rob Easterling** arranged for the display at the church, of which he is a member (and of the church's jug band). He and **Bev Neville** answered congregants' questions and wrote down some of their reminiscences about places on the map.

Once the map goes to the Albuquerque Special Collection's Library, it will stay up until Oct. 13, joining several maps from the library's own collection. From **11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, a Special Collections Map Festival** will feature speakers, activities for families and "an opportunity for people to explore the riches of the collection," according to Eileen O'Connell, Special Collections Branch Manager. The public is invited.

East Mountain Librarian Lynn Fothergill and Moriarty Historical Society Director Tina J. Cates-Ortega both report that the map has sparked all kinds of memories for those who have seen it.

The map's display at the East Mountain Library and Moriarty also has spurred sales of our personal-sized maps at our local sales outlets. The map is available in folded version at One Stop Office and Brandy's Hair Salon in Tijeras, the Hitchin' Post near Sedillo, Hey Mavis! and Triangle Grocery in Cedar Crest, Tinkertown on the Crest Road, and the Historical Museum in Moriarty. Hey Mavis! also carries poster versions of the map.

The map is also available online through the EMHS website at [eastmountainhistory.org](http://eastmountainhistory.org).

## Local Church Celebrates 50 Years in the East Mountains

The history of Mountainside United Methodist Church began in 1956, when population growth prompted the Men's Mission Club of Christ (of UMC) to start looking for a location in the East Mountains. Land was bought in 1957 at the current location, now Penny Lane and North NM 14, and in 1960, other UMC congregations joined the "New Church Club." When the final payment was made on the land in 1965, a sign was erected on-site as the future home of UMC.

The first service was held Feb. 19, 1967 (50 years ago) in a triple-wide trailer with a steeple. During warmer months, ice cream socials were held as fundraisers and church youth stood on North 14 (then a two-lane road with no shoulders) encouraging people to come in and buy a dish of ice cream.

That first four months, pastors rotated in weekly from Albuquerque until more permanent arrangements were made. In 1968, ground was broken for a permanent structure, which was completed in June

1969. This 1969 building is part of the current structure, which has been added on and remodeled several times, most recently in 2008, when a two-phase project commenced that expanded the parking lot and created greatly expanded space.

Notable in the church's history is June 1976, when Pastor Elizabeth Lopez Spence became the first female pastor in the New Mexico Conference; she served seven years. And Joan Roberts, who was pastor from June 1988 to June 1993, went on to become the first female district superintendent in the New Mexico Conference. The current church also is notable, among many other distinctions, for having a bell choir (since the 1990s) and a jug band (since 1977).

*Editor's note: This history was edited and condensed from "History of Mountainside UMC" by Gene Church, August 2016; updated by JoAnn Cahill and Tomi Taylor; provided to your EMHS editor by Janet Van Allen.*



If you haven't seen it yet, there's still time to catch "**Hollywood Southwest: New Mexico in Film and Television**" at the Albuquerque Museum, which will be up through Aug. 27. Members **Roland Curtis** and **Ronald Lah** went recently and report that they were both impressed. Curated by noted western historian Paul Andrew Hutton, the exhibit occupies several rooms, has lots of posters and photos, an early movie projector from an Albuquerque theater, and plenty of information. Check out, too, the Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Public Library online lists of all the movies and TV productions filmed in New Mexico, both alphabetical and by year produced, starting in 1897. A great resource! Link: <http://abqlibrary.org/filmedinnm>

# The Day a Submarine Cruised through Tijeras Canyon

*By Dick Brown*

Imagine driving west on Route 66 through Tijeras Canyon and having to pull over to make way for a Japanese submarine heading straight toward you. It happened! To understand this strange encounter on the road, let's step back about 75 years in time.

Very early on December 7, 1941, about 10 miles off the coast of Oahu, Hawaii, Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki and Petty Officer Kiyoshi Inagaki squeezed through midget submarine HA-19's 15-inch conning tower hatch. The mini-sub detached from the aft deck of its mother ship (submarine I-24) and slipped beneath the surface. Sakamaki's attack orders specified carriers, battleships and cruisers as targets during the lull between Japan's two aerial assaults on Pearl Harbor. But the submarine failed in its mission by running aground on a reef just outside the harbor entrance. Scuttling efforts also failed. Inagaki drowned and Sakamaki became the very first Japanese prisoner of war. The ill-fated submarine was salvaged, shipped to the mainland and became the star attraction in nationwide war bond parades.

The 47-ton, 78-foot war prize arrived at the shipyard in Vallejo, California in January 1942. The U.S. Treasury Department's war bond tour was launched that October and cruised through New Mexico three months later. The sub – 90 feet long, from front grill to propellers – was hauled by a special tractor-trailer rig. It entered New Mexico on Highway 80 from Arizona and made port calls in Lordsburg, Deming and Las Cruces (including a round trip to El Paso), then cruised north on Highway 85 to Hatch, Hot Springs (now Truth or Consequences), Socorro, Belen and finally dropped anchor in Albuquerque on January 14, 1943. By mid-morning, an estimated 20,000 public-spirited citizens lined Central Avenue for the biggest parade ever staged in the city. The captured submarine inspired local residents and visitors from nearby towns to buy war bonds and stamps – \$175,000 worth.



Westbound on Central Avenue, the captured Japanese submarine was the star attraction in Albuquerque's war bonds parade. *Photo (PA1982.118-19) courtesy of Albuquerque Museum*

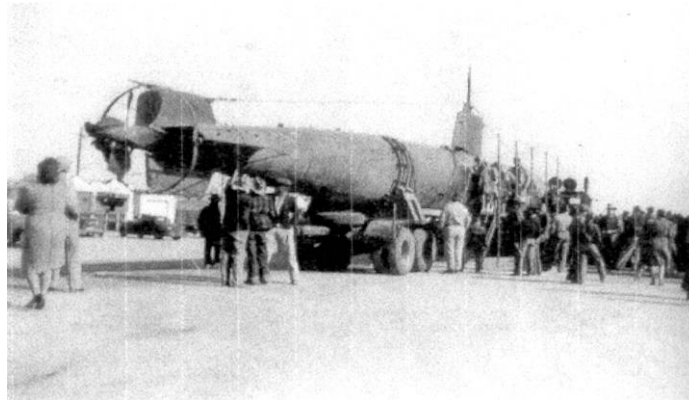
With some trepidation, the driver was faced with a real challenge to reach the next tour stop on the east side of the mountains – Buford, now part of Moriarty. Back then, Deadman's Curve in Tijeras Canyon was also a hill with a sharp drop on the east side. Could a 90-foot tractor-

trailer rig make the turn? Was the situation any different than the many military convoys transiting Tijeras Canyon at the time? On the tour in northern California, the 1940s-style "big rig" negotiated hairpin turns and surmounted steep grades without needing its lowest gear. As it turns out, the two-lane highway around Deadman's Curve was easily handled as the submarine followed Route 66 east through the canyon and through the ranching community of Edgewood.

Imagine the shock and awe of those who had to make way for the captured Japanese submarine – a submarine whose only mission was to sink U.S. warships moored in Pearl Harbor. One wonders if there were cheers, or perhaps boos and hisses, which football spectators had reserved for the sub when it made a special appearance in the Los Angeles Coliseum earlier in the nationwide tour.

Imagine also the excitement of Tijeras villagers who just happened to be in the right place at the right time. An observant resident might have noticed the bent propeller blade that resulted from striking a parked vehicle, weeks earlier, while making a wide turn on a city street.

The rig pulled off Route 66 in Buford. It was a Friday afternoon, the end of a busy work week, and the sub attracted many onlookers. Several Estancia businesses closed early so employees could visit the submarine on display. A set of steps and catwalks were rigged out so that area residents could climb up to glass windows that were cut into the submarine hull during its Vallejo shipyard refit. This alteration allowed everyone a chance to peer into the submarine's cramped interior, which included two life-size dummies!



East Mountain residents view captured Japanese submarine parked on the side of Route 66 in Buford.  
*Photo courtesy of Mike & Mary Anaya of Moriarty*

After its scheduled stop in Buford, the sub continued east on Highway 66, then turned onto Highway 285, heading southeast for scheduled stops in Roswell, Artesia and Carlsbad, before exiting the state and setting a course for Pecos, Texas.

World War II was still raging and Americans needed something more to cheer about, even after her decisive naval victory at the Battle of Midway seven months earlier. The war bond campaign helped raise spirits – and funds – to partially avenge the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.

*Editor's Note: If anyone has additional information about this unusual transit through Tijeras Canyon in mid-January 1943, please contact the author at [dbrown779@aol.com](mailto:dbrown779@aol.com). Check your old family albums and scrapbooks: Any photos? Eye-witness reports? News clippings?*

*This submarine report is one of the stories we've scheduled for inclusion in the book EMHS is working on, inspired by the research done for "Mapping Our Vanishing Past." See story, pg. 5.*

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

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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 or stories for future newsletters 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, Oct. 31. All stories and photos by Denise Tessier unless noted otherwise. Thanks to Kris Thacher for proofing.

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

A hearty welcome to the newest member of our board of directors, **Roland Curtis**. Curtis, a former history teacher, has taken over as coordinator of programs and has been smoothly lining up speakers for our public programs for the rest of the year.



Hearty welcomes, too, (some quite belatedly) to our newest members: **Bill & Eileen Suderman** of Edgewood, **Jim Thompson** of Edgewood, **Vernon Willan** of Sandia Park, **Karen Milligan** of Sandia Park, **Dr. Ronald Lah** of Albuquerque, **Virginia Gredell** of Tijeras, **Janet Busheme** of Tijeras, and **Ryan Coleman** of Denver.



Local fiestas remaining this year: Cañoncito Aug. 11 and 12; San Antonito Sept. 15 and 16; and Carnuel Sept. 29 and 30. The public is welcome to attend these centuries-old celebrations held at village churches at about 7 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. Saturday mornings on these dates.



Headed by past president and EMHS co-founder **Joyce Mendel**, and assisted by past presidents **Anabel Sanchez** and **Louise Waldron**, our **Nominating Committee** is looking for members to serve on the board and executive committee for 2018.

We specifically will need a recording secretary, as our current secretary **Bev Neville** has agreed to run for president. We are also looking for board members who will help us with distribution of our maps, calendars, postcards and books; to help us find a permanent home for our archives and meetings; and to simply act as a sounding board. Financial and legal experience would be a real plus, but not necessary.

Come help us fulfill our mission of learning and sharing East Mountain history. If interested, attend our next board meeting at **10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 26**, at the historic church in Tijeras, or contact Joyce at [jbmendel@q.com](mailto:jbmendel@q.com).



# East Mountain Historical Society

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Membership year is from January 1 through December 31. Memberships for those who join Sept. 1 or later are good through the end of the following year.)

*Please use this form and mail it with your dues to the address below.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES (please check appropriate line):**

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

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

Donation/Amount \_\_\_\_\_

*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.

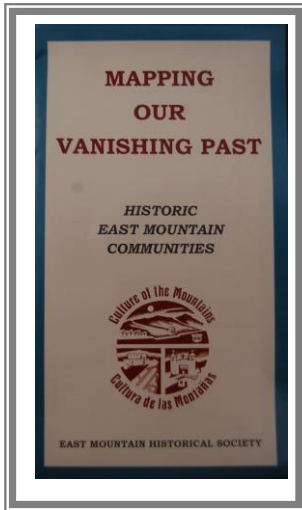
**Make checks payable to:**

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

Please join us and support our efforts. You may also join online and pay by credit card/PayPal by visiting our website at [eastmountainhistory.org](http://eastmountainhistory.org).

### **Members-Only Page Online**

EMHS members have access to our [members-only page](#) online. For the password, contact membership chair Anabel Sanchez at 275-3388.



This **map**, the result of our two-year project “Mapping Our Vanishing Past”, is available in both **poster version** and in a folded, **convenient-to-carry size** that fits in the glove compartment. The back of the map is also a treat, featuring classic advertising from old East Mountain businesses and resorts. You can purchase folded maps in Tijeras at One Stop Office and Brandy’s Hair Salon, near Sedillo at the Hitchin’ Post, in Cedar Crest at Hey Mavis! and Triangle Grocery, on the Crest Road at Tinkertown on the Crest Road, and at the Historical Museum in Moriarty. Hey Mavis! also carries poster versions of the map.

Our **Route 66 postcards** are available at the Triangle Grocery, One Stop Office, Tinkertown and the Owl Café in Albuquerque. Triangle also carries our *History of Forest Park* book. We will be selling all of these items at the East Mountain Historical Society table at the East Mountain Celebration Sept. 24, along with the all-new *2018 East Mountains: Then and Now Calendar*. Postcards will be available **individually** and in **gift packs of six**. Proceeds from these items support our research and public education events. Thanks for your support of the all-volunteer East Mountain Historical Society!

## ***Did you know?***



Glen Campbell, who [died Tuesday](#) (Aug. 8) at the age of 81, as a teenager played guitar and sang in his Uncle Dick Bills’ dance hall and supper club on Route 66 at the mouth of Tijeras Canyon. The dance hall site, which up until recently was Town and Country Feed Store, is now home to a cowboy church.

Click on [this link](#) for a recording of Dick Bills and the Sandia Mountain Boys with Glen Campbell on lead guitar. With [this link](#), check out the Albuquerque Museum photo of the band, with Glen Campbell second from right.

