



CULTURA DE LAS MONTAÑAS

eastmountainhistory.org

EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Newsletter

First Quarter 2020

Maria Herrera Dresser, Anabel Sanchez Honored for Decades of Dedication to EMHS

Maria Herrera Dresser and Anabel Sanchez were honored during a brief ceremony at our Nov. 10 annual meeting, as each were thanked for more than a quarter of a century of dedication to the organization.

Anabel (at left in photo) and Maria (at right) were given framed certificates of appreciation and flowers on behalf of the organization by past president Denise Tessier, who said she realized the extent of their service when she compiled a history list of all EMHS officers and board members who have served.

A summary of her remarks about Maria and Anabel begins on page 2.



Photo by Beverly Neville

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Remarks Honoring Maria Herrera Dresser and Anabel Sanchez

EMHS was co-founded in 1992 by Joyce Mendel and Louise Waldron, who were elected co-chairmen in the first EMHS election, held in the fall of 1993. Two other officers were elected in that first election: Maria Herrera Dresser as finance officer and Anabel Sanchez as recorder. (Joyce and Louise were co-chairs, and not co-presidents, because EMHS started out as a committee of the East Mountain Area Association.)

Anabel has continuously served as an officer or director every year since (26 years). Maria has been an officer or director with only a two-year break, when work took her to Colorado, but she remained involved as a member during those two years.

Maria's involvement started even before EMHS' founding. Along with her brothers Tomás and Lorenzo Herrera, Maria had been interviewed by Joyce for newspaper articles about the area's history, and creation of a historical society was discussed. Once started, it was Maria who came up with *Cultura de las Montañas* (culture of the mountains) – the phrase on our logo – also the first name of the EMHS newsletter. EMHS' first "field trip" was led by Maria and her brothers – a tour of Carnuel in May 1993; they did another later in the year called Carnuel Tour part II.

One of EMHS' first projects – helping architectural historian Chris Wilson survey East Mountain structures – was facilitated by Maria, Tomás, Lorenzo and Joyce, who drove Chris from village to village. Chris' resulting book is sold by EMHS, with his permission, as a fundraiser.

In the organization's second year, Maria again was elected finance officer, then served on the board of directors in 1995 and 1996. Off for two years, she came back as the equivalent of co-president – co-chairing with Louise, a position she held again in 2000. Since 2001, she has never left the board, and twice served in an executive position: co-chair with Louise in 2003, and vice president in 2017.

Among her contributions to EMHS: Maria held a matanza at her home, has led native herb gathering tours, and was among the storytellers at the first "Old Times in the East Mountains" event. She did oral histories of local residents, then herself was interviewed. She worked tirelessly with Louise to save Tres Pistolas from development. She made sure we remembered a forgotten cemetery in the arroyo south of Four Hills. Her determined efforts led to the expansion of the Carnuel Cemetery – people were inspired to donate land after she raised \$5,000 to fence and protect it. (She had made 11 quilts that were raffled at church and fiestas and anywhere there was a gathering; tickets were only \$1 apiece.)

To her fellow board members, she has explained the meanings of East Mountain rituals, the traditional songs and prayers of the mountains. She helped bring Las Posadas back to the little church a few years ago and she is our sounding board and local expert on just about everything.

Maria also brought Anabel into EMHS. Anabel said she attended a genealogy event in Albuquerque during which Maria made it known she was planning to do research on East Mountain churches. Anabel afterward told her she'd like to help.

Continued on page 3

Maria and Anabel – Continued from page 2

Maria invited Anabel to the 1993 fall EMHS meeting where Anabel was elected recorder (what we now call secretary). She was reelected in 1994, then served three years as vice chair. In 1998, she was elected treasurer, a job she held for eight years, during two of which she was also co-chair with Louise; she continued as co-chair in 2006. As treasurer, she did two things many said could not be done without a lawyer – she got us incorporated. And she got us our 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt status as an educational organization.

Once incorporated, EMHS held a spring election in 2006 at which Louise and Anabel were elected co-chairs. In the fall, after bylaws were revised to reflect that EMHS was no longer a subcommittee, another election was held and Anabel became the first to hold the title of president. She continued as president in 2007 and 2008. From 2009 to 2012 she served as vice president, and has continued on the board as our membership chairman ever since.

She updates the member directory, sends annual renewal reminders, and files every year legal information related to incorporation and tax status. Like Maria, she has helped with oral histories, and was the subject of an oral history herself. Most recently, she wrote stories for our upcoming book, *TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS*, and has helped with research and field trips and with translation (as has Maria) of ancient Spanish documents. Also, and very important: She went to Santa Fe to research and copy documents related to EMHS' work in obtaining the \$32,000 grant that stabilized the historic little church in Tijeras; with that information she made a Power Point presentation to the village of Tijeras, which has helped ensure EMHS continues to enjoy use of the church for meetings and public events.

2020 EMHS Officers, Board of Directors Elected

The following officers and directors were elected by the membership during our annual meeting:

President – **Beverly Neville**
Vice President – **Rick Holben**
Secretary – **Dick Brown**
Treasurer – **Sandra Walton Lee**

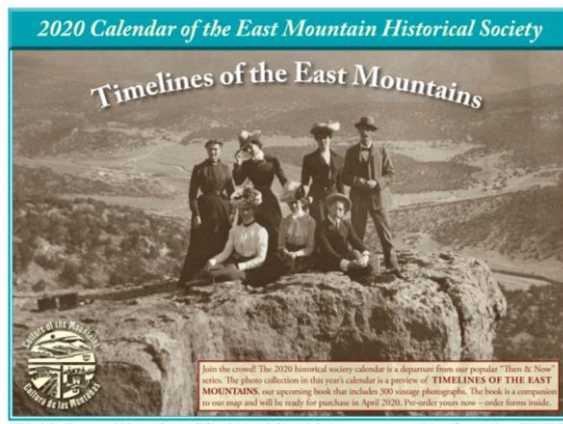
Board of Directors: **Anabel Sanchez, Maria Herrera Dresser, Joyce Mendel, Denise Tessier, Kris Thacher, Kathy Rich, Gerry Jones, Constance Busheme and Robyn Hoffman.**

As vice president, Rick will continue to monitor our online sales and mail out calendars, T-shirts and other items sold through the website, as part of a Finance Committee, headed by Treasurer Sandra Lee. He will also monitor membership renewals made online through PayPal, and pass on membership information to Anabel.

New to the board are Constance Busheme, an East Mountain native who has agreed to be our Program Director, and Robyn Hoffman, a long-time member, East Mountain resident and retired attorney. Both are welcome additions to the board as we head into another busy year.

Buy the 2020 Historical Calendar And Help Fund Publication of Our Book

The EMHS board is encouraging members to purchase, locally or online, the *2020 Calendar of the East Mountain Historical Society, Timelines of the East Mountains*; all sales profits go toward publication of our historic book of the same name.



The 2020 calendar is available for \$15 at **Triangle Grocery** in Cedar Crest, **Roots Café** and **Brandy's Hair Design** in Tijeras, the **Moriarty Historical Museum** and in the offices of **The Independent** newspaper in Edgewood. For our friends who live further south, it is also available at **Ten Points Grocery**, about 14 miles south of Tijeras.

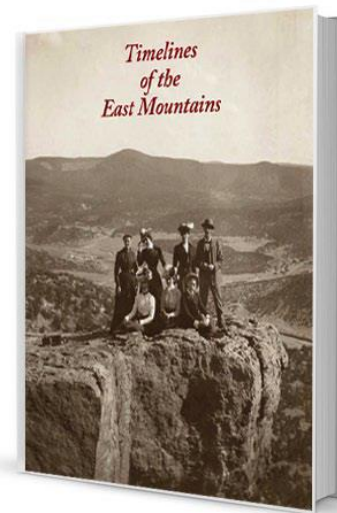
The calendar is a preview of the book, and **included in each 2020 calendar is a book pre-order form that may be mailed in with a check.**

(You also may order using the form on page 5 in this newsletter.) Limited hardcover editions are \$60; softcover price is \$30. You can order online at our website: eastmountainhistory.org and use PayPal.

The book is targeted to debut at the annual Historical Society of New Mexico (HSNM) conference in Silver City, N.M., in April. EMHS will hold a book launch (time and date to be announced) at the historic little church in Tijeras if finished copies arrive before the April target date. When filling out the order form, purchasers can avoid shipping costs by noting that they will pick up their book at our local book launch.

Members of the EMHS book committee, especially Editor **Kris Thacher** and production manager **Kathy Rich**, have been putting in long hours to get the book ready for publication. The book was inspired by our map, "Mapping Our Vanishing Past," which in turn was inspired by information shared during oral histories.

TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS will include timelines and stories covering the map's more than 180 locations, plus places and people beyond the map, encompassing about 400 square miles and 400 years of history. It also will include hundreds of photos and a Special Maps Section coordinated by photo editor **Rick Holben**, who contributed much of the book's research.



GET READY TO GO BACK IN TIME . . .

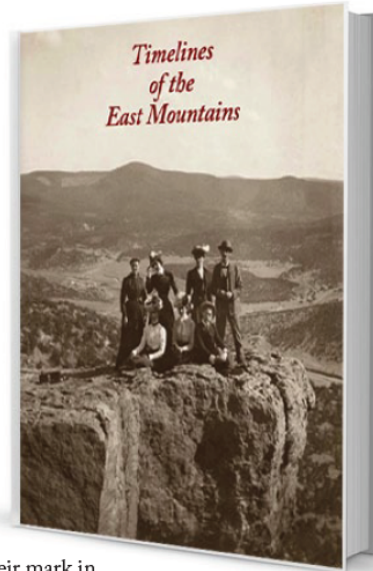
The East Mountain Historical Society invites you to pre-order our book, *TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS*, a literary monument to vanishing places, long-held traditions and the people who settled this broad landscape.

Inspiration for our book originated with the popular EMHS map "Mapping Our Vanishing Past" which in turn, was inspired by our ongoing Great People, Great Stories oral history project. *TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS* covers about 400 square miles and 400 years of history. It includes hundreds of photos and a Special Section of Maps.

You can pre-order your book by using this paper form and mailing us a check, or you can order online at our website: www.eastmountainhistory.org and use PayPal. Limited hard-cover editions are \$60; softcover is \$30. The book will officially debut at the annual Historical Society of New Mexico (HSNM) conference in Silver City, N.M., in April 2020.

This book publication project has received partial funding through a Jane Sanchez Grant from HSNM, but we must pay for the rest of the printing ourselves. Your pre-orders help us tremendously. Hundreds of hours of work on "the map book" have been donated by our dedicated and talented volunteer committee members.

TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS provides a history of hundreds of place names. It is a record of unique traditions and stories from the area. It also remembers many of the remarkable, yet forgotten, men and women who made their mark in the East Mountains just a century ago. Be among the first to receive a copy of this historic book by ordering today.

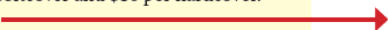


Mail Order Form

Softcover books @ \$30 each _____ Qty. _____ Sub-total _____

Limited Edition Hardcover @ \$60 each _____ Qty. _____ Sub-total _____

Shipping charges are \$5 per softcover and \$10 per hardcover.

Enter shipping total at right  Shipping _____

Check this box if you *do not* want the book shipped but will pick it up at our book unveiling in the spring, time and date TBA. Total Enclosed _____

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ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ State _____ Zip _____

EMAIL: _____

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Make Checks Payable to: **East Mountain Historical Society**

Mail to: **EMHS
PO Box 106
Tijeras, NM 87059**

**or Order Online at:
www.EastMountainHistory.org**

EMHS Remembers Eloy Jaramillo

Eloy P. Jaramillo, affectionately known as “Tiger” for his celebrated rescue of the San Miguel church statue after it had been taken to Chimayo, died at his home in Carnuel Oct. 27. He had just turned 88.

An Army veteran of the Korean War, Eloy was an active member of Holy Child Mission Church in Carnuel and owner of the San Miguel Statue, his rescue of which from the Santo Nino Church in Chimayo he related to EMHS during our “Great People, Great Stories” oral history project. Eloy knew Julian and Marcos Garcia, grandsons of an original settler of Carnuel, and so the history of the village was very real to him and part of his life.

Actively involved and a past president of the Cañon de Carnué Land Grant, he led EMHS members on a hike on the land grant in 2014. He established the Carnuel Acequia Association and in the words of his family, “was always fighting for the rights and affairs of his treasured communities, Carnuel and Tijeras.” He worked 40 years as a picture framer and more than 25 years at Molly’s Bar.

On April 5, 2014, Eloy led EMHS members on a hike of the old wagon trail through Tijeras Canyon, allowing us a rare view of the Land Grant that normally is off-limits to non-heirs.

The going was strenuous in places as we forded Tijeras Creek, hacked through brush and navigated narrow paths perched high above the streambed. But Eloy, then 82, briskly led the way, affording us a chance to see the old Tijeras lime kiln and footings for the U.S. 66 bridge that once carried Model T cars through the canyon (see photo at right). We also saw remnants of the concrete pools at Seven Springs – once a popular weekend recreation spot now long abandoned.

Eloy was buried at Holy Child Mission Cemetery in Carnuel, next to his wife of 52 years, Ernestina Griego Jaramillo. EMHS extends its condolences to Eloy’s family and his sister, EMHS honorary member Amalia Saiz.



Eloy Jaramillo in 2014 during the EMHS hike, next to one of a pair of concrete footings for the auto bridge that once crossed Tijeras Creek.

Photo by Denise Tessier

News and Notes . . .

East Mountain Historical Society
Newsletter

Published Quarterly

Denise Tessier.....Writer/Editor

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 ideas or stories for future newsletters to the Editor, P.O. Box 379, Cedar Crest, NM 87008, or by email: newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org

All stories and photos by **Denise Tessier** unless noted otherwise. Many thanks to **Dick Brown** and **Anabel Sanchez** for proofing, and to **Sandra Lee** for help in preparing for mailing.

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 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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A big welcome to our new members: **Paul Secord**, **Beverly Russell** and **Lori E. Battiste**, all of Albuquerque, and **Denny Hill** of Scappoose, Oregon. Thank you for joining and for your support!

Paul Secord joined during our annual meeting in November, where he gave a thorough and fascinating talk to a packed-house audience about the first gold rush in the United States west of the Mississippi (1822-1825). The first gold mining camp in the West, the East Mountain village of Real de Dolores, is now on private land, but Secord said he would be willing to lead members on a field trip this year to other significant gold mining sites. We'll let members know when plans for this outing are firmed up.



The EMHS Board in January voted to bestow honorary membership to **Florinda Crist**, **Marie Trujillo** and **Sandra Walton Lee**, all of Tijeras, and to **Anabel Maldonado Sanchez** of Albuquerque. The board can bestow honorary membership to those who have lived in or had a connection to the East Mountains 50 years or more. The board also voted to give an honorary membership to **Jean Wubker** of Sandia Park in gratitude for her generous donation toward publication of our *TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS* book.



EMHS Secretary Dick Brown this month was elected vice president of the [Grand Canyon Historical Society](#) in Flagstaff, Ariz. Congratulations, Dick! The Grand Canyon's centennial was observed in 2019.



The Historical Society of New Mexico will hold its [state conference April 16-18](#) in Silver City, where EMHS is planning to debut our monumental history book, *TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS*.

Mark Your Calendars

Feb. 22 (Saturday) 10-noon – EMHS Board meeting at the historic church in Tijeras.

April 16-18 – State history conference in Silver City, N.M., sponsored by the Historical Society of New Mexico. EMHS is planning to debut our monumental history book, *TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS*, during the conference, which will be held at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center, 3031 Highway 180 East. There is no conference hotel, so those planning to attend are encouraged to make arrangements for their stay in this historic town.