

EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*Vina McCorkle Howell and family about 1910 with the new town of Estancia, N.M. in the background, featured in the 2024 calendar!
Photo Courtesy Rick Holben*

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 historic buildings and landscapes, artifacts, records, or any item considered to be of historic significance. EMHS will also identify, collect, and archive historical material of significance to the area.

East Mountain Historical Society Needs You!

Yes you! You love our programs, our publications and our community events. We would love to have you to help produce the quarterly newsletter, organize the oral history committee, maintain the archives, help with hospitality at our programs, work to save historic buildings and landscapes, help with grant writing and donor relations, advise regarding legal compliance issues for non-profit agency, serve on the Board of Directors or wherever your interests lead you. We are not all historians or experts- we just love living in this community and helping preserve its best aspects. Why not offer your talents to join our work/fun?

Contact any Board Member to inquire; see contact information on the website!

Do you need a tax deduction for 2023?

Why not consider a substantial donation to the East Mountain Historical Society, a 501(c)3 New Mexico non-profit corporation, to help fund the preliminary architectural plans for the restoration and build-out of the historic Stone House- future home of EMHS and its archives, and visitor center for the Tijeras Creek Cultural Corridor?

Contact Jeannie Place, EMHS Treasurer, place.jeannie@yahoo.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY ROBYN HOFFMAN

I do not know, but we are going to find out.

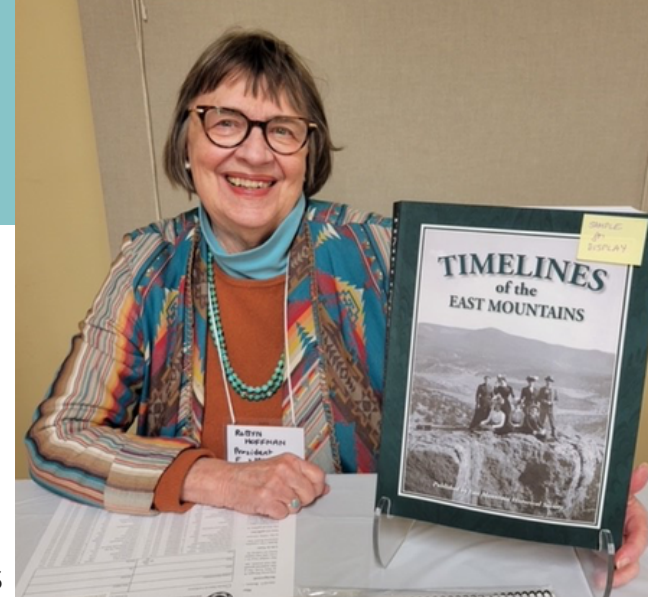
As most of you know, the EMHS accepted the generous donation of the historic Campo Stone House on 12 Cirquela Road (12010 Hwy N 14) in San Antonio in March of this year. This value of this donation is estimated to be \$100,000. But after decades of neglect, the house is in a very deteriorated condition. At present, the Planning Committee is “guestimating” that EMHS will require at least \$2 million to restore the property it into a visitor center, its offices and archives. At this point, we do not have any firm figures for the cost of the build-out. The Planning Committee will issue the RFP for the Architectural Services September 15, 2023, and the winning proposal will be selected in October. Then the fund-raising for the project will begin in earnest, and costs will become clarified as the project progresses.

What the 9-member Stone House Planning Committee has accomplished in 5 months on less than \$5000 is nothing short of amazing. Scott Ernst of Southwest Scanning created high resolution 3D images of the Stone House using a drone and high-tech photogrammetry processing. The property has been made secure by a donated construction fence which was installed by members of the Planning Committee. The generosity of Planning Committee member David Engelman, of Engelman Construction, and his connection to Roofing Wholesale Co., Inc. of Albuquerque allowed EMHS to obtain free and discounted supplies to install rubberized roof protection (T.P.O.). This also was accomplished by the free labor of volunteers, members of the Planning Committee, their friends and by staff and materials donated by the Joel and Lisa Darnold.

Neighbor David Sweeney weed-wacked the yard so as to clear paths for the numerous tours of the property that were offered in the Spring, for the fee of one *Timelines* book. At that time, it was noted that the slope of the ground would direct water to run to the northside foundation. So in August, Armenta Trucking (Matt Armenta and family) was hired to grade the yard to redirect the water flow away from the house. A short stone garden wall was removed to allow for better drainage. The back lot was cleared of brush, trees and debris by a Weedslayerz, a local company, and Armenta Trucking excavated it to locate the buried septic tank. All of this has resulted in the protection of the property from further deterioration while funding is sought for the restoration.

The Board of Directors in its August Board meeting voted to adopt the restoration adapted-use room plan. It was decided that the multiple renovations, deconstructions and alterations of the original 19th century building made it impossible to preserve an original building. Therefore, EMHS decided that any original elements which are still viable will be used in the reconstruction-such as vigas, original stonewall if structurally sound, repaired adobe wall, etc.

Next year the Planning Committee will need members' assistance in finding the funding that will be required to make this vision into reality. Are you with us?





Follow Us on Facebook!

If you haven't already noticed, EMHS has been busy posting fascinating historical photos on its Facebook page. The photos, spanning decades of life throughout the East Mountains, highlight moments in time in Moriarty, Chilili, Stanley, Tijeras and everywhere in between. The photos are posted on Sunday morning and have elicited great response from viewers. During the week, keep an eye out for occasional posts notifying followers of upcoming events or special announcements. If you haven't seen our page, just do a search for East Mountain Historical Society on Facebook, then become a follower! Join the almost 1000 people who every week experience a bit of East Mountains and its rich history.



New Historical Fiction Novel by EMHS Member Dick Brown

Canyon Crossroads is a new book by Dick Brown, long time member of EMHS and the Grand Canyon Historical Society. Reviewer Kevin Schindler says, "For anyone interested in Grand Canyon history or

just tales of the Old West, Dick Brown's *Canyon Crossroads* is a fun read. It tells the fictionalized story of the first Euro-American individuals to settle the Canyon, prospecting for minerals and later, tourists. It is Book One in the *Under the Canyon Sky* series about the Grand Canyon pioneers who explored and settled the bewildering landscape that now forms Grand Canyon National Park." EMHS member Kris Thacher read the book on Kindle and commented: "I have enjoyed *Canyon Crossroads* so much with its intertwining tales of history and fiction." *Canyon Crossroads* is currently available online through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

NEWS AND NOTES

A hearty welcome to our newest members: **Ann DeClercq-Foley of Cedar Crest; Ann Stinde and Howard Swensen & Family of Cedar Crest; and Tom Seals of Albuquerque.**

Welcome also to our honorary members voted in by the Board: **Don and Mina Carnicom of Sandia Park.**

EMHS is seeking volunteers to support various committees including Oral Histories, Historic Properties, and Information Technology. Please email president@eastmountainhistory.org if you are interested in learning more about our volunteer opportunities.

The Rambling History of the Tijeras Post Office

BY: RICK HOLBEN

In tracing the history of U.S. post offices, a researcher simply might find inception dates and names of the various postmasters who ran them over the years. The post offices that served the Tijeras area, however, reveal a more complicated history, with frequent moves and name changes.

The first post office at Tijeras was established in 1888; the postmaster was Francisco Zamora. But in 1890, after two short years, the office closed. Post office records held at the National Archives unfortunately do not include a site location for this office. However, 1880 census records show that Francisco Zamora himself was located in the Plaza of Tijeras, which was centered in the area between the modern Tijeras Senior Center and the East Mountain Library, so we might guess the office was located in or near there.

It would be 13 years after the 1890 closing of Zamora's post office before another office was established close to Tijeras. In 1903, Rafael Carpenter opened a post office by the name of "Carpenter", located in his father's old home between Tijeras and San Antonio near what is now the end of Penny Lane. This office operated until 1907, when it was moved to the store of Carlos Campo at San Antonio and renamed "Kemp" (a variation of the Campo name used by the family). This office closed in 1908 and it wasn't until 1913 that another post office was opened, this one called "Tijeras". The postmaster was Clara Schoenberg, whose husband was the forest ranger at the Cedro Ranger station. The post office was located either at the Ranger Station or at their home just south of there.

In 1917, the Tijeras post office moved back to the Campo Store in San Antonio, where it operated as "Tijeras" until 1925, when postmaster Carl Webb moved the office to his Cedar Crest Resort, about a mile north, and renamed it "Cedar Crest".

It would be 22 years before a post office would carry the name "Tijeras" again – in 1947. But before that, Tijeras residents were served by the post office inside Walton's Store, just south of Tijeras, run by Oscar and Eda Mae Walton. Eda Mae served as postmistress, and the office was called "Zamora". Then, long-time Tijeras resident Nora Caverly suggested that the office be renamed "Tijeras", and that's just what happened in 1947. The Tijeras Post Office has run continually since then in several different locations with various postmasters.



A photo captioned "Christmas Mail 1919" shows the Campo Store and Dance Hall as it looked that year, when it served as the post office. One of the two girls holding mail bags may be Mary Campo, the daughter of Carlos and Dina Campo. Thanks to a generous donation from Campo descendant Chuck Jackson, the since-changed structure is being renovated by EMHS to serve as our official headquarters. This photo is from an album kept by a young girl named Ruth Hill, who kept company with (and later married) Percy Glasebrook, the brother of Larry Glasebrook, who established Well Country Camp near San Antonio. This and 11 other historic photos will appear in the 2024 East Mountain Historical Society's annual calendar, which will available in late September.

A Tribute to Molly's Bar

Molly's Bar, a Tijeras landmark since the 1950s, has closed due to the recent death of Paula "Dianne" DiLallo, who worked and managed Molly's for 29 years. Dianne became co-owner and manager of Molly's in 1994 when she married Romeo DiLallo Jr., son of Molly Simballa; Romeo Jr. died in 2016. Molly previously had run a Molly's Bar in Albuquerque with Romeo's father, who died in 1946. She then founded Molly's Bar in Tijeras with her second husband, Tony Simballa, and she became a local fixture, helping neighbors and serving as a justice of the peace. The story of Molly's Bar is included in the Places section of the EMHS history book, *Timelines of the East Mountains*.



Photos Courtesy of mollys-music.com

EMHS recently became aware of the death of one of our Centennial oral history subjects, Lois Cavasos, an honorary member of EMHS from Stanley, N.M. Second oldest of 12 children, she was born Lois Elliott in Tolar, N.M. and moved to the Estancia Valley after marrying Houston Cavasos in 1940. Lois, who died in December, is survived by several children, grand children, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

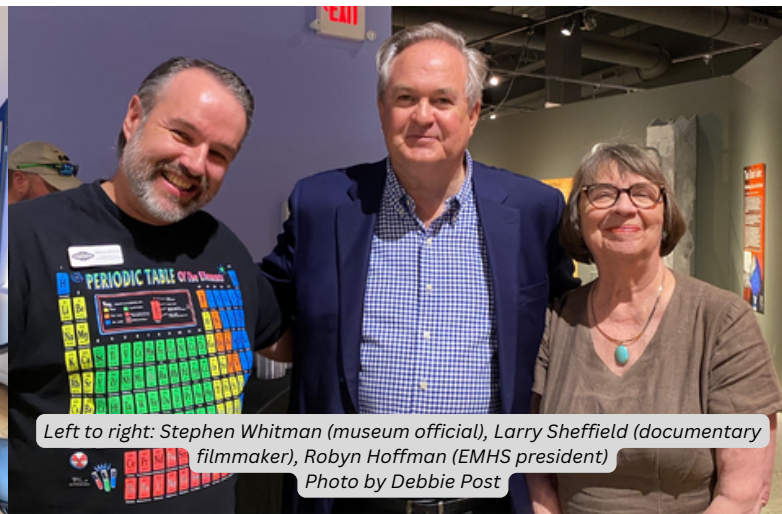
Tijeras 50th Anniversary Celebration

BY: DEBBIE POST

On Saturday, July 29th, the Village of Tijeras held a celebration of their 50th Anniversary in honor of the proud past and bright future of this mountain community. Fun for the whole family included a parade down Historic Route 66, car show, live music, craft fair, food trucks, and activities for all ages. The historic Santo Niño Church was opened to the public with EMHS displays focusing on Tijeras and area history, and with fun facts from 1973, the year of Tijeras' incorporation. A constant stream of visitors came through the historic church, and EMHS members helped them understand the history of the historic church building and the area. Many visitors shared their own memories and family histories. EMHS also sold many books and calendars, handed out membership information, and greeted VIPs. Many thanks to Lisa and Joel Darnold, Rick Holben, Hallie Brown, Caroline Hess, Robyn Hoffman, Debbie Post, and Nick Kennedy and the Tijeras Village Staff.



Vanishing Map and historic panel displays in the historic Santo Niño Church with EMHS Board Member Debbie Post in 1970s tie-dye shirt, headband and beads.
Photo by Hallie Brown



Left to right: Stephen Whitman (museum official), Larry Sheffield (documentary filmmaker), Robyn Hoffman (EMHS president)
Photo by Debbie Post

EMHS Attends Manhattan Project History Event

BY: DEBBIE POST

On Friday, July 14th, several EMHS members and officers attended a program on Manhattan Project documentaries at the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History near Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque. The monthly “Science on Tap” series provides lectures for adults, with beverages by the “Bombs Away” brewery. We heard award-winning documentary filmmaker, Larry Sheffield, talk about his series on J. Robert Oppenheimer, the Trinity Site (first detonation of a nuclear device), White Sands Missile Range, and the community of Alamogordo. If you were at the 2022 EMHS Annual Member Meeting, you will remember that Larry was on our expert panel as an advisor on the historic preservation of the Stone House property in San Antonio. Larry’s documentary films focus on local New Mexico stories and experiences, bringing to light new perspectives on these key events of the 20th century. Learn about more Science on Tap programs at <https://www.nuclearmuseum.org/visit/events> or phone the museum at 505-245-2137. Thanks to Lisa Darnold for advertising the event to EMHS.

EMHS CODE OF CONDUCT

The activities, services, and events of the East Mountain Historical Society [EMHS] are intended to allow for inclusive collaboration between EMHS members and other partners. This policy applies to all such activities of the organization, whether in-person or on-line. All participants in the Organization's activities and events shall:

- Provide a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment where all are free to full express their ideas and identities free from discrimination or harassment.
- Foster collaboration for the purpose of generating ideas and activities that benefit and develop the capacity to achieve the mission of EMHS.
- Treat all parties with respect.
- Maintain polite interactions with others, even when there is disagreement.

EMHS reserves the right to ask anyone in violation of these policies to leave the event, activity or Society. If you have any concerns or would like address or report an issue, please contact any member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors as listed on the website.

All spaces at East Mountain Historical Society's activities and events shall be governed by this policy ("Non-Harassment Policy"). All EMHS members, board members, and partners are held to the following non-harassment policy.

EMHS is committed to providing a harassment-free experience for everyone who engages in our programs and services. We welcome everyone and value diversity of race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, and citizen, marital, veteran and HIV status. We do not discriminate, nor tolerate discrimination or harassment, based on any of these factors. EMHS is committed to maintaining a harassment-free environment for its activities. Inappropriate language or imagery is not permitted.

Anyone in violation of these policies may be asked to leave EMHS's events or activities, at the discretion of any member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. Should the violation be severe or repeated, the Board of Directors may suspend or prohibit further membership activity of the violator.

We value your participation and hope that by communicating these expectations we can all enjoy an environment that is welcoming to all.

Save the Date for EMHS Annual Membership Meeting!

Sunday, November 12, 2023, 2pm - 3:30pm

Tijeras Village Hall Council Chambers

12 Camino Municipal, Tijeras, NM 87059

Renowned jeweler, silversmith and owner of the Tiffany Turquoise mine Douglas Magnus is the guest speaker. We will recap we will recap the year's accomplishments, vote for officers and board members, hold a silent auction for history books, and enjoy cookies and snacks.

EMHS at the BernCo East Mountain Celebration

Save the date for Saturday, October 14th! EMHS will once again have a booth at the BernCo East Mountain Celebration, with demonstrations of vintage crafts, activities for kids, and sales of our book Timelines and new 2024 Calendar.

East Mountain Historical Society

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