

BULLETIN



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Photo by Wesley Bradfield. Courtesy Museum of New Mexico, Neg. No. 52459.

Cross of the Martyrs on dedication day, Sept. 15, 1920.

Dedication ceremony gathering for the Cross of the Martyrs during the Santa Fe Fiesta, September 15, 1920. Photographer: Wesley Bradfield. Courtesy Museum of New Mexico, Neg. No. 52459.

This was an obviously well-attended event. The large number of people surrounding the Cross indicate that the land area to the west has eroded to its current knoll topped by the Cross.



Cross of the Martyrs

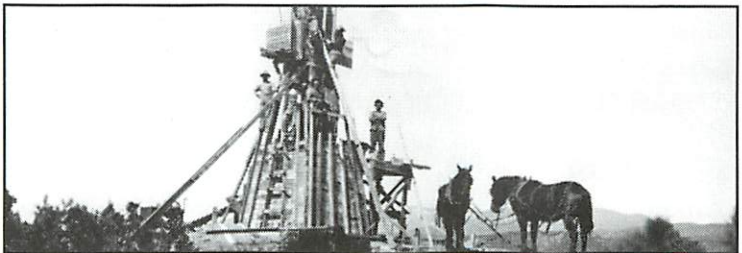
Mary Ann Anders, Ph.D.

In August of 1993 the Historic Santa Fe Foundation became the owner of the original Cross of the Martyrs located on a tract of land adjacent to Paseo de la Cuma in the La Cuma Addition of Santa Fe. This acquisition was the result of at least two years of negotiations among the Near North Neighborhood and numerous concerned individuals to purchase the property from the Orthodox Catholic Mission Parish of St. Joseph and deed it to the Historic Santa Fe Foundation for preservation in perpetuity. This Cross of the Martyrs is considered to have a significant place in the history of Santa Fe and the bequest of the property to the Foundation will insure its safekeeping and maintenance. However, this cross is not to be confused with later crosses erected in different locations.

The original Cross of the

Martyrs was erected in 1920 under the auspices of the Historical Society of New Mexico and the Knights of Columbus to commemorate the deaths of the 21 Franciscan friars at the hands of the Pueblo Indians in the revolution in the Province of New Mexico on August 9th and 10th, 1680. This event was the result of the influx of Spaniards into what is now New Mexico. In 1598 a group of Spanish colonists, led by Juan de Oñate of Zacatecas, Mexico, established a settlement along the banks of the Rio Grande north of present day Española. In 1610 Governor Pedro de Peralta relocated the capital of the province to Santa Fe. Between 1610 and 1680 colonists moved into New Mexico, living primarily along the Rio Grande. Franciscan Friars established missions at most of the Indian pueblos. But life was not always peaceful.

*Courtesy Museum of
New Mexico
Neg. No. 57998*



Construction of the Cross of the Martyrs, 1919-1920.

The Indians, in order to regain control of their homeland, in 1680, led by Popé, a San Juan Indian, united, and in what has come to be called the Pueblo Revolt, killed 21 Franciscan friars and numerous colonists. The rest of the settlers fled south to El Paso. It was not until 1692 that the province was resettled under the leadership of Governor Diego de Vargas.

The Historical Society of New Mexico, established in 1859, had long supported the preservation of documents, artifacts and all things relating to events and people important to New Mexico's history and it was fitting that the group "take the lead in fostering the movement to erect in enduring form this beautiful Cross in memory of the cas-socked heroes of the Church." (Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Historical Society, August 2nd, 1920, State Records Center and Archives).

The plan to erect the Cross, according to Col. Ralph Emerson Twitchell, received enthusiastic response around the state. Mrs. Ella C. Weltmer and Mr. Samuel G. Cartwright of Santa Fe contributed the land on which the Cross now stands. Among monetary contributors were Hon. Benjamin F. Pankey, Lt. Gov. of New Mexico, the

Water & Light Co. of Santa Fe, Mr. William D. Murray of Silver City, Mr. E. P. Davies, representing the Knights of Columbus and Col. Twitchell.

The Cross was designed by Ralph Emerson Twitchell, Edgar L. Street and Walter G. Turley. It was constructed of reinforced concrete by the Midland Bridge Company. It is 25 feet high, eight feet in depth and weighs 76 tons. The Cross was dedicated during the Santa Fe Fiesta in 1920.

In 1712 an annual fiesta had been instituted by municipal authorities to commemorate the events of 1682 and it had become a permanent celebration for the town. The dedication activities for the Cross of the Martyrs during the fiesta in September of 1920 were both colorful and lent historical weight to the festivities.

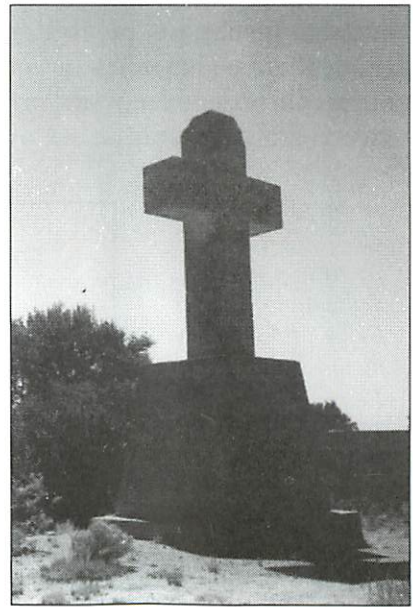
The dedication ceremonies began in front of the Palace of the Governors with about 500 spectators in attendance. Former Governor L. Bradford Prince, president of the Historical Society, gave a brief history of the rebellion that led to the friars' deaths and characterized the event as a sad blow to the Franciscan Order. He went on to speak of the martyrdom of the friars and the military achievements of Don Diego de Vargas's

reconquest and occupation of Santa Fe. The listening crowd applauded when Prince held up a framed document which he declared to be an order written by Vargas. After Prince's speech, a procession of spectators on horse back and in motor cars, led by Jose D. Sena in a cavalier's plumed hat and velvet breeches, as master of ceremonies, wound its way to the Cross for additional speeches. Governor Larrazolo, who was to have given an address on the Order of St. Francis, was unable to attend because of illness but there were other dignitaries on hand to add to the festivities.

The Cross continued to be used for fiesta activities for a number of years. The *New Mexican* reported in 1925 that the procession to open the fiesta was an impressive affair that attracted about 3,000 participants, including a band and the clergy. Bonfires on the hillside illuminated the cross and were repeated by bonfires on Fort Marcy across the canyon.

By some accounts a new Cross of the Martyrs was erected near the ruins of Fort Marcy sometime in the 1930s and by other accounts not until many years later. Historically, this near north edge of Santa Fe was defined by the hill that ran parallel to the northernmost

acequia and was the north limit of the irrigated fields. Until after the arrival of the railroad, this area was undeveloped except for a few houses, some military buildings, and a cemetery. In 1887 St. Catherine's Indian School was begun. Around 1900, the Presbyterians acquired property for a school and by 1912 two small residential areas began. In 1920 the Bridge of the Hidalgos was built and residential areas along Old Taos Highway began to take shape. Rosario Boulevard was built by 1933; about 1940 a small subdivision had begun. Today the area around the property that contains the Cross is densely



Cross of the Martyrs, 1994.

populated with residences. Eventually the Fiesta Council determined that it had no more use for the property in connection with the Santa Fe Fiesta and activities were moved to the site near Fort Marcy ruins. (Santa Fe Historic Neighborhood Study)

Although the exact chain of title has not been determined, the Cross has been owned by the School of American Research, the City of Santa Fe, the Orthodox Catholic Mission Parish of St. Joseph and now the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. It is the intention of the Foundation to maintain the Cross and property as a site significant to the history of the City of Santa Fe and that it shall not be used for residential, commercial or any other purpose except as provided in the Declaration of Cov-

enants and Restrictions.

Today the Cross is surrounded by condominiums and houses on the south, east and west and is barely visible through dense foliage from Paseo de la Cuma on the north. Yet, if one ascends the stairway leading to the Cross and its small parcel of open land, the Cross conveys to the viewer its commemoration of a major event in New Mexico's history.

ENDNOTES

Sze, Corinne P. and Beverly Spears. *Santa Fe Historic Neighborhood Study*. Santa Fe: City of Santa Fe, 1988.

The Historic Preservation Program for New Mexico: Volume I, The Historic Back-

Gathering for the dedication of the Cross of the Martyrs during Santa Fe Fiesta, September 15, 1920.

Photographer: H.C. Tibbitts

Courtesy Museum of New Mexico

Neg. No. 52462



ground. Santa Fe: State Planning Office, 1973.

"Cross of Martyrs Dedicated."
Santa Fe New Mexican, 15
September 1920.

"Throng Pays Mead to Martyrs."
Santa Fe New Mexican, 3 Au-

gust 1925.

Records of the Historical Society
of New Mexico, 1859-1959.
Minutes of the Executive
Committee of the Historical
Society, August 2, 1920.

Historic Santa Fe Foundation
Properties. Cross Acquisition
files.

*Dedication
ceremony during
Santa Fe Fiesta,
September 15, 1920.
Courtesy Museum of
New Mexico
Neg. No. 52464*



*Courtesy Museum of New
Mexico
Neg. No. 52460*

*Procession to the Cross of the Martyrs during Santa Fe
Fiesta, September 15, 1920. Photographer: H.C. Tibbitts*

Apartment No. 7, El Zagan

Dale F. Zinn, Architect

In the summer of 1994 the Foundation lost a dear friend in Sylvia Loomis. Sylvia not only resided at El Zagan for many years, (40+) but also guided the management of the property as secretary to Mrs. Dietrich and then as secretary of the Foundation. She was in some ways the spirit of El Zagan's timelessness and resistance to change.

I became Property Management Committee representative in 1986. Sylvia, in her soft but effective way of lecturing, reminded me of the RULES. We didn't have leases at El Zagan until a few years ago—we had Sylvia's Rules instead. They were simple lists of things one could or could not do. One rule was that knickknacks and personal items were forbidden on window sills because they cluttered the picturesqueness of the building. Sylvia and I agreed on the scope of this picturesqueness and the maintenance of El Zagan as a reflection of a simple life lived in Santa Fe in the early 1900s. A common refrigerator (behind the flowered doors in the open hall) and electric hot plates were the limited enhancements for the apartment dwellers in those early years.

Frankly, I think Sylvia felt that was going far enough.

Sylvia left apartment #7, but her spirit lives on at El Zagan, I am sure.

In the past few years we have taken the opportunity of each vacancy at El Zagan to upgrade the utilities, check structural components and accomplish a little archaeology when given the chance.

The renovation of Sylvia's apartment was overseen by me and Regina Nordstrom, Brazilian architect and part-time Foundation employee. The initial 1995 project involved in-



Sylvia in front of wishing well, Aug. 30, 1979. Courtesy The Santa Fe Reporter. Photo by William Clark.

vestigation of possible problems with structural conditions in the floors and the upgrading of the electrical services to meet codes.

Pleasantly enough, the structural problems were minimal. In this case, *vigas* in the back bedroom were set in the dirt and fill was packed in around the wood members. The floorboards were nailed on to the buried wood members, but were really supported by the dirt after the wood members started to decay—a typical Santa Fe problem. Treated wood replaced the decayed wood, and the original floorboards were renailed or replaced to match the old where necessary. Electrical upgrades provided many places where patches in the wall were made necessary. The adobe walls were mended and the thin skim coating of mud and lime plaster was patched. The dim rooms then came to life with new white paint and glossy yellow trim, matching colors found under layers of paint.

Windows were repaired and made to operate easily; the plumbing was upgraded, but not too much—the claw foot tub is still there—and floors were re-finished with the painted wood surfaces that have long been the accepted historic finishes at El Zaguán. The total cost of the



Mischka is as much a part of El Zaguán as was her owner, Sylvia. She is dutifully attended to by HSFF staff and the tenants of El Zaguán.

project was approximately \$15,000. Architectural services were provided at no cost.

One key item to accomplishing this work is the historic documentation and recordation of the apartment. Finishes, structural components, and floor plans were the clues used to determine how the apartment fits in with the history of El Zaguán. It is clear that the unit was modified and extended at least twice. The fireplaces and library cases under the large north windows are obvious later additions.

Stay tuned as the Historic Preservation Division Grant to provide research and investiga-

tions through a Historic Structures Report will shed more light on the mysteries of El Zaguan.

Sylvia, I hope you have a chance to visit some day, but not late at night when Lois is working or I am sending out faxes.



Above: Outside kitchen door with unusual window. Photographer: Lynne Andrews.



Bedroom fireplace after renovation. Photographer: Lynne Andrews.



Detail view of fireplace and windows in the renovated front parlor. Photographer: Lynne Andrews.

Wientge House Photos Donated to Foundation

Corinne Sze, Ph.D.

Paul E. Steele, who now lives in Virginia, has generously donated copies of historic photographs from his early years at the Hayt-Wientge House. This striking Victorian home has looked out over Santa Fe from Paseo de la Cuma and the heights north of town since 1882. It was purchased by Mr. Steele's grandmother, Christina Mugler Wientge, in 1888, a year after her marriage to Frederick Wientge.

Christina, her widowed mother, and siblings had come to New Mexico from Kansas for health reasons. Christina's sister, Anna Mugler, a milliner and pioneering business woman, opened a shop on the Plaza. Her business was located on the first floor of the Thomas Catron building (formerly owned by James. L. Johnson) when it burned in 1888. After Catron rebuilt in 1891 she shared a business space with Fred Wientge. The Mugler millinery business was inherited by a cousin, Anne Hase, and continued on the Plaza until 1943.

Christina was also a partner in her sister's shop for a time before she married. Fred Wientge was a jeweler who had come West in 1883. He and Christina

had four daughters, Eve, Freda, Charlotte, and Anita, who were all young in 1898 when Wientge died of typhoid suffered as a result of service in the Spanish-American War. Christina continued to raise her children in the house on the hill, which remained in the family until the 1970s.

After Paul Steele's mother, Freda, married David Steele, her family also lived at the Wientge home. Dave Steele had a trucking business for a time and freighted coal and groceries from the railyard in Santa Fe to the Española Valley. After the Crash of 1929, Steele worked for the WPA and later went into landscaping and kept saddle horses.

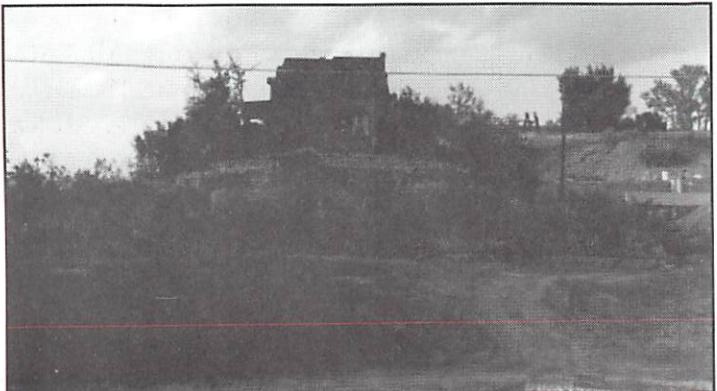
Marion Mayer has researched the Mugler family and written several informative newspaper articles. Her help in contacting Mr. Steele's cousin, Happie Davis, and her daughter, Chris McKay, the family historian, is much appreciated.

The Research Committee is always grateful for contributions of historic photographs of Santa Fe. They are invaluable in documenting the buildings and social history of times gone by.

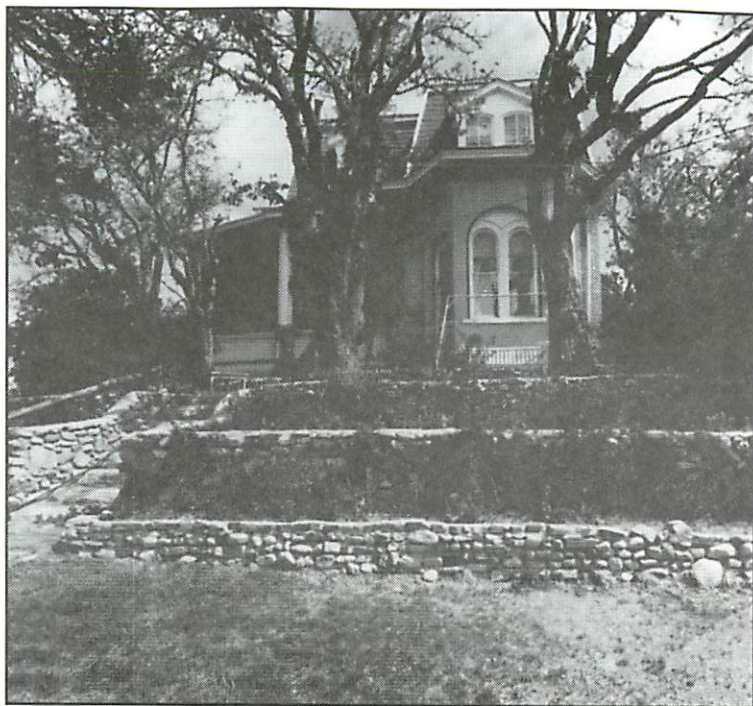
First-floor shop in the Catron Block, built on the northeast corner of the Plaza in 1891. Left window says partially “Mugler Millinery”; right window reads “Fred W. Wientge, Filigree Jewelry.” According to an inscription on the photograph in the collection of Chris McKay, pictured in 1892 are left to right: Anna Mugler; Mrs. Dooley, a clerk; Fred Wientge; Jesus Mirabel, a workman.



Vehicles of David Steele’s trucking business before 1929 parked behind the Hayt-Wientge house with the Cross of the Martyrs in the background.



Note open space before condos.



Hayt-Wientge House where Paul Steele lived until entering the army air force in 1943.



Paul E. Steele in 1943 in front of the Hayt-Wientge house on first leave home.

Paul Edward Steele, age 2 1/2, in Indian outfit with faithful dog Stan in front of stone terraces built around the Hayt-Wientge house by his father, David Steele.



Donna Quasthoff—

Volunteer Extraordinaire

Donna's retirement from HSFF Board of Directors gave impetus to an event the Board has long considered: a formal but festive calling together of all former Board members, to mix with those current, enjoy light refreshments, compare past and present tasks, and honor one of our own. May 4, 1995, was the date; La Fonda Hotel the perfect setting. Speakers included Don Van Soelen, former Board member, whose excerpted remarks appear below; Phillippe Register, architect; Irene von Horvath, artist, architect, and preservationist; Marina Ochoa, representing the Archdiocese of Santa Fe; and

Dale Zinn, architect and current Board member. Julie Dougherty receives the credit for organizing this event and seeing to the care and feeding of some fifty satisfied participants.

All photos accompanying this article are courtesy of Hope Curtis.

Donna Quasthoff was born in 1924 in the heartland of America, Chicago, Illinois. She commented in a 1987 interview that she felt very fortunate to have been born in Chicago, a city where she could easily pursue her interest in art.

"In grammar school I had two scholarships to the Chicago Art Institute—and early exposure to some of the best sculpture. And Chicago is noted for its architecture and sculpture," she said.

Donna's early training was in keeping with her life-long fascination with form and texture and, as she says, "the rhythm of shapes." In high school she studied with noted liturgical artist Sister Helena Steffens-Maeler and developed an interest in this art form that



Donna and Dale Zinn, past president.

was ultimately to find expression in the magnificent bronze doors that she sculpted for Santa Fe's St. Francis Cathedral.

She was awarded scholarships to the Chicago Art Institute where she graduated in 1946 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and then taught sculpture until 1949. In that year, she left for Paris to study with cubist sculptor Ossip Zadkine of the Academie de la Grand Chaumiere and upon her return to the United States worked as a draftsman and sculptor in New York for several years.

In 1954, following the example of many an artist enchanted with the light and landscape of this area, Donna moved to Santa Fe, where she embarked on a career as architect and sculptor. She became a registered architect in 1973, became a member of the American Institute of Architects in 1974, and earned a Masters of Architecture degree from the University of New Mexico in 1975.

In the ensuing years, Donna worked for several architectural firms in Santa Fe, including Truman J. Mathews; McHugh, Hooker, and Kidder; and W.C. Druger and Associates. She also held the post of state architect, which she described as a "very stressful job" with too many

projects and too little help, and received a number of commissions for sculptures.

Donna's sculpture projects include the Orpheus and Eurydice fountain in the upper court of the Santa Fe Opera, an altarpiece and stations of the cross at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, commemorative medallions for the 50th anniversary of New Mexico statehood and the 350th anniversary of



Donna Quasthoff with plaque.

the founding of Santa Fe, and the figure of Christ the Good Shepherd at Holy Faith Episcopal Church in Santa Fe. Her sculptures have been exhibited in New York and Chicago and were included in an overseas exhibit sponsored by the Department of State.

Her most outstanding sculptural works are the bronze plaques that cover the oak doors at the entrance to St. Francis

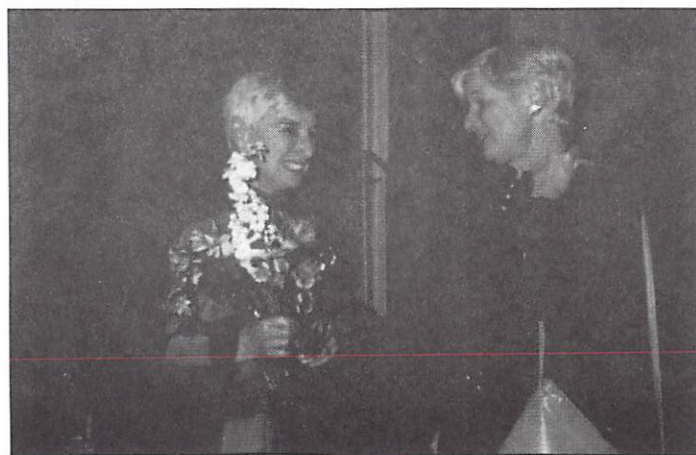
Cathedral. Completed in 1986, the 16 plaques depict, in beautiful detail, churches that previously occupied the site of the Cathedral. The doors have been described as “a remarkable marriage of sculpture and architecture, fulfilling Victorian essayist Walter Peter’s definition of art as giving . . . the highest quality to your moments as they pass.”

In 1990 Donna was the recipient of the Governor’s Award for Excellence and Achievement in sculpture for her work on the Cathedral doors; the Governor’s Award is the highest award that the State can bestow for achievement in the arts.

In 1966 Donna received the Craftsman Award from the New Mexico Society of Architects and, in 1977, an Award of Honor from the State of New Mexico’s Cultural Properties Review Committee for her architectural ser-

vices on the restoration of the Pinckney R. Tully House in Santa Fe, a Foundation-owned property. Most recently, Donna was honored for her many years of work in historic preservation when she was named a recipient of the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Award by the Historic Preservation Division of the State of New Mexico. As the award letter noted, these awards are given annually “to persons, organizations, and projects . . . deserving of recognition for their contribution to the preservation, interpretation, recognition, appreciation and/or understanding of New Mexico’s cultural heritage.”

In the course of a preservation career that included 12 years as a member of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation board of directors, Donna has compiled a record of exemplary work as a preservation architect. She



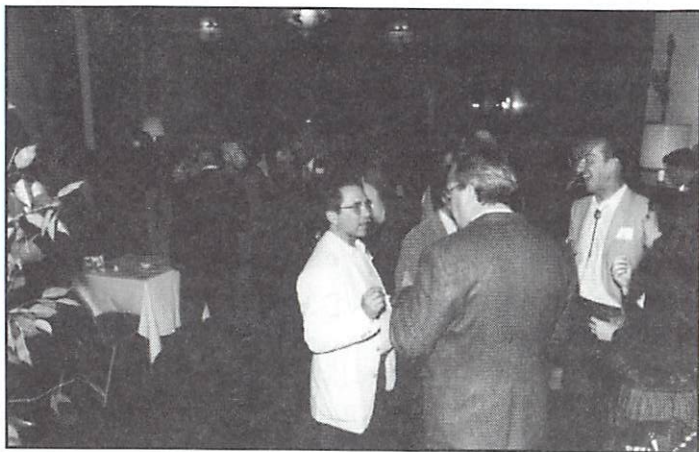
*Donna Quastoff and Lois
Snyderman,
HSFF Executive Director*

provided invaluable advice and assistance on a wide range of historic building renovation projects and consistently adhered to the highest preservation standards.

In addition to her volunteer work for the Foundation, Donna was the architectural consultant for the rehabilitation of the historic Ranger Dormitory at Mesa Verde National Park and the ranch house at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park.

Donna once commented that she was grateful that she had had the good sense to move to New Mexico early in her career. We who admire her as an architect, a sculptor, and a dedicated preservationist are also very grateful that she made that move. And we say thank you, Donna, for all you have done for us and for Santa Fe.

The festive gathering in the Santa Fe Room at La Fonda.



*Randal Bell, past president, and
Lois Snyderman, HSSF Executive
Director*

Arroyo Chamiso Neighborhood Association

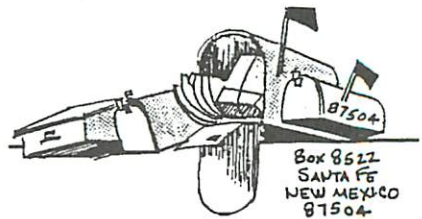
Barbara A. Robinson, President

In the middle and late 1970s the area now encompassed by the Arroyo Chamiso Neighborhood (ACSyL) Association began to attract more developers, and residents realized the need to organize to protect their interests. In April 1978 formal association documents were filed with the State of New Mexico. It is interesting to note that among the original concerns of the residents were traffic, infrastructure, thoughtless drivers and zoning.

The City of Santa Fe was working on the South Sector Plan, the Highway Corridor ordinance, hiking trail plans, and placement of parks. Among the developments of the early 1980s, which have been brought up again recently, were La Entrada and the Ridgeview Development.

One of the most controversial and time-consuming projects ACSyL has dealt with over the years is La Entrada, a seven-plus acre property on the southeast corner of Zia Road and St. Francis Drive. In 1986 it was re-zoned from R-1 residential

ACSyL
Arroyo Chamiso - Sol y Lomas
DE VARGAS HEIGHTS SOUTH
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



to SC-1 shopping center district. According to a report in the *New Mexican* of May 11, 1991, Stephany Wilson of ACSyL is quoted as saying "when the property was annexed into the city in 1986 the original developer planned for a 150,000 square-foot retail space for a supermarket and a large hardware store." She said the neighborhood opposed those plans as they weren't needed in the area and would dramatically increase traffic.

Many meetings with developers and the planning commission were held. In January 1991 after the developer could not seem to get it together, he asked for an 18-month extension, which the association supported. Then in September 1991, the developers applied for a change in zoning ordinance to allow an all-suites hotel in the SC-1 district. City planners

were not enthusiastic about the idea but the neighborhood liked an all-suites hotel more than a large shopping center.

In 1993 it was announced that Mega Foods was proposing a 56,000 square-foot warehouse on the property. Although the neighborhood association liked the idea of a store smaller than originally proposed, the membership was divided, citing traffic safety and the perceived use of neighborhood roads by shoppers coming and going to the store. The problem dissolved when Mega Foods went bankrupt.

The neighborhood character has changed dramatically since 1978. New schools have been built, massive development has taken place on the former St. Michael's High School property, three apartment complexes have appeared on St. Francis Drive near the city limits, and Old Pecos Trail has been widened with the idea of diverting traffic onto St. Francis and St. Michael's Drive from Old Santa Fe Trail. In the early 1980s when a survey of city parks was made, it was noticed that our area is deficient. Alvarado Park, a small neighborhood spot east of Old Pecos Trail, is the only concession made to us so far. A park has been promised for several years

but so far has not been started.

In 1992 Ouida MacGregor, our District 2 council member, had an ordinance passed that places a "sunset clause" on developments. The Development Review Committee would be allowed to review approval of re-zonings by the Council two years after the approval if substantial construction of a shopping center hasn't been completed and would allow for review of subdivision plats not recorded two years after their final approval. It will be interesting to see whether this ordinance can be put into effect on the La Entrada property.

ACSyL has 300 paid members (households) and an active governing board of directors. The monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church on the corner of Arroyo Chamiso Road and Calle Ojo Feliz. The association has been cooperating with other associations in supporting decisions of the Council made in accordance with their existing ordinances. They welcome visitors and inquiries.

Please contact Barbara A. Robinson at 984-2631 for more information.

CHIMAYO REVISITED:

1900-1925

A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT

Ruth Holmes

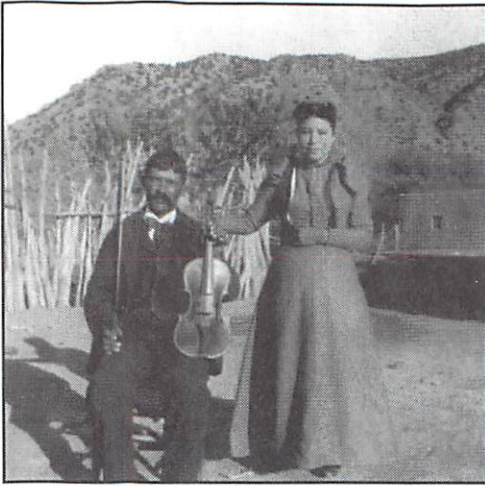
From April 23, 1995, through October, El Zagan was host to a very special exhibit. Well received by the public, the show elicited comments of sincere appreciation and heartfelt reflections. The quotes that follow tell a story of their own. These excerpts are paired with images from the photographic display.



“Offering the community a slice of its own history creates a special chemistry for those who come to view it. Elderly women walked closely together, pointing to the photographs and reaching to a flood of memories. Family groups, often three generations of breadth, told anecdotes of the ancianos now long gone. The exhibit had come to life in a powerful and poignant way; connections to the past had been rekindled.” Peter Malmgren, Chimayo

“In an age when people and communities discard their history and culture as easily as yesterday’s newspaper . . . keeping it, preserving it, cherishing and honoring it — these are small and significant acts of heroism.” Tom Collins, The Santa Fe Reporter





“The work of gathering old photographs and personal life histories has been a collaboration . . . about half were [taken by] Prudence Clark, our first missionary teacher [who] had the wisdom to document those early years with photographs. . . . The remainder came from the attics, mantels, and walls of homes throughout our community.”

Peter Malmgren, Chimayo

“Lucy Collier, Peter Malmgren, and Don Usner have done an excellent job of documenting the exceptionally rich history of Chimayo . . . The social/cultural history of Hispanic New Mexico is essentially the history of its families. Of course, natural resources, changing economies, and politics . . . shaped the Plaza de Cerro. Yet, as noted by Mr. Usner, the true essence of the Plaza was ‘less a collection of buildings than a collection of families.’ Or, as one life-long Plaza resident fondly recalled: ‘All the Plaza was my family, and it was beautiful.’ Consequently . . . the essence of Chimayo’s history is not the architecture, spatial design, or physical character, but its people. It’s about the richness of life in a tight knit community; filled with all its cultural nuances, human quirks, and societal eccentricities.”

Antonio Delgado, Taos





"We see the exhibit as the beginning of a process to gather photos and documents, to share stories, and to create a community collection that will remain in Chimayo for children and parents to take pride in and to learn from. There are lessons to be learned from our viejos, who lived their lives based on important values of hard work, family strength, cooperation with one another, and a deep sense of faith."

Chimayo Cultural Preservation
Association exhibit brochure

The HSFF hopes that the success of this exhibit has inspired viewers and readers to reflect upon their own family histories, their own memories, documents and photographs. The Foundation's archives are a secure and appropriate place to preserve such materials. We would welcome similar research documents.

Have YOU checked your attic lately? That old memorabilia box under the bed? The family album put together by someone's great aunt? Come to us before such reflections on the past are further ignored, or worse, discarded.

Woolworth's Stays for Now

*Lois Snyderman,
HSFF Executive Director*

Some of you may have heard the rumor, widely circulated several months ago, that the lease on Woolworth's was about to expire and the venerable store's days on the Plaza were numbered. To determine if this was true, the Executive Director met with the store manager, Mike Collins, who informed her that he had been busy answering calls from anxious Santa Feans who had heard the same rumor and that he had reassured them that Woolworth's current lease "runs" until January 1998.

Mr. Collins was kind enough to take the time to provide information on the history of Woolworth's, the only remaining retail establishment on the Plaza not primarily oriented to the tourist trade. It is also the only remaining Woolworth's in New Mexico, and (most likely) the only one in the nation that sells chile ristras and frito pies.

When it opened in 1935, the Santa Fe Woolworth's was half as large as it is now; a major expansion (to its present 15,000 square feet) took place in the 1960s. The store has approximately 50 employees, some of whom have worked there for many years.

According to Mr. Collins, Woolworth's main source of income is Santa Fe residents, who frequent the store year-round; it could not exist on the tourist trade alone. In keeping with its predominantly "local" character, as much of 30 percent of its "buying budget" goes to vendors in the Santa Fe area, an unusual situation for a Woolworth's store, which usually buys almost solely from "national" vendors.

Mr. Collins commented that Woolworth's hopes to occupy its Plaza site for many years to come, and that he is grateful for the support shown by the residents of Santa Fe.

One of Woolworth's long-time employees, Teresa Hernandez, began at the store in 1953, when the work week was 44 1/2 hours long and the pay was 75 cents an hour. Ms. Hernandez noted that special attention is given to the shopping needs of the elderly who live in nearby retirement homes and to customers who speak only Spanish.

It was Ms. Hernandez who introduced the Frito Pie to Woolworth's in the 1960s us-

ing a "model" sold at local drive-ins but altering its ingredients to suit the tastes of Woolworth's customers. Needless to say, it was a great success.

After almost 60 years on the Plaza meeting the shopping needs of residents and tourists

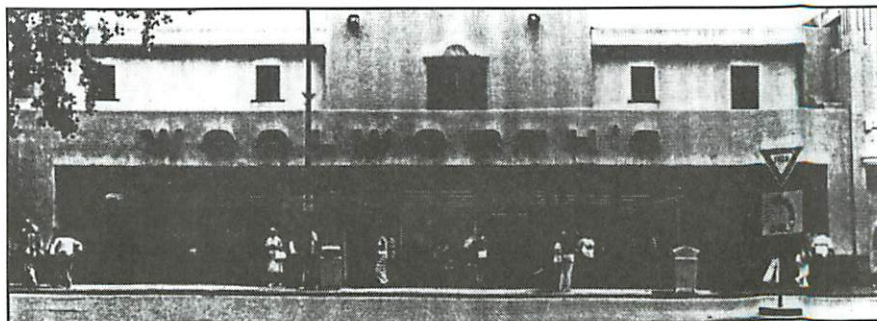
alike, Woolworth's can rightfully be considered a Santa Fe institution and an important link to an earlier era in the city's commercial history. HSFF hopes Woolworth's will be with us at the same site for many years to come; we would like to hear our readers' comments on the subject.



F.W. WOOLWORTH CO. 1950.

Photo by Tyler Dingee

Neg. No. 91916, Museum of New Mexico Photo Archives



WOOLWORTH'S. 1976-1977.

Photo by Authur Taylor

Neg. No. 117309, Museum of New Mexico Photo Archives

New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance Formed

*Lois Snyderman,
HSFF Executive Director*

The preservation movement in New Mexico is being strengthened by the addition of a new state-wide preservation organization, the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance. The 20-member Alliance steering committee will focus on providing assistance to community-based and local preservation organizations, will become involved in preservation issues of state-wide importance, and encourage state support for preservation efforts.

The steering committee includes attorneys, historians, planners, archaeologists, architects, and architectural historians who have already approved a mission statement and are working on the by-laws and articles of incorporation. Other items on their agenda include the selection of an Alliance Board and the preparation of a preservation survey form, which helps identify preservation issues.

The survey will be distributed across the state to a wide variety of private organizations and public agencies concerned with the preservation of New Mexico's cultural and natural

resources. It will also enable the Alliance to develop an appropriate work program, which is focused on state-wide preservation needs and concerns.

Once the steering committee has completed the task of establishing the basic legal framework for the new organization, the Alliance will seek members from across the state. Members will develop the organization's program, work on committees, serve on the board, provide professional expertise in a variety of preservation-related fields, and act as regional eyes and ears for the Alliance.

New Mexico is one of only four states without a state-wide preservation organization. The number of "statewides" (as they have been nicknamed) has increased rapidly in the last decade, as it became apparent that they were effective in providing information and assistance to community preservation organizations; in acting as the spokesman for preservation concerns before state legislatures and public agencies; and in monitoring and taking action on preservation issues that were

beyond the scope of community groups.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a national preservation organization located in Washington, DC, has recognized the importance of statewides and has made assistance to them a priority. The Trust has created two programs: Statewide Partners and the Statewides Initiative.

Member organizations in the Statewide Partners program must have nonprofit status, a board that meets on a regular basis, an annual membership conference, and a mission statement and work plan. Organizations that attain this status can join the Partners program and participate in National Trust fundraising and membership workshops and benefit from on-site consultations with Trust staff.

The goal of the National Trust's Statewides Initiative program is to hire professional staff to provide administrative assistance, an important step in developing a strong, effective organization. Under the Initiative program, the Trust makes three-year challenge grants available (on a competitive basis) to volunteer-run statewides so they can acquire paid staff.

Within the next year, the New Mexico Heritage Preser-

vation Alliance will be applying to the National Trust for Statewides Initiative funding for a staff person; the steering committee is working closely with Trust staff to ensure Alliance eligibility for the program.

The New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance represents an exciting new development within the state's preservation movement. The Alliance invites all New Mexicans who are concerned about the preservation of the state's historic, architectural, and scenic resources to participate in its work and to support its efforts to preserve and protect these resources.

Additional information about the Alliance can be obtained by calling Lois Snyderman, Executive Director, Historic Santa Fe Foundation at 505/983-2567.

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A Glimpse into Santa Fe's Past—

Christmas Passed

January 2, 1864
Santa Fe New Mexican

In our last number, we made some allusions to some of the spiritual significance of this day for it was at had. Now, it has passed . . . and we can state its appearance, as it came and went at Santa Fe. The outward manifestations of christmas eve are over gorgeously brilliant in this city of the Holy Faith. As the natural darkness of night sets in, the whole city and the suburbs around, light up with a blaze of light. This is in commemoration of the light which shone around the shepherds the night of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Every catholic, prepares before the night is ushered in, a sufficient of the driest and most flammable of wood, to make piles in front and upon the roof of his house. The churches and their spires, are covered with candles, piles of light wood or other means of making a sudden illumination. It must be remembered that the roofs of buildings in this country are flat, and covered with earth. When darkness pervades then all these piles and

other means to illuminate are set on fire, the glow and splendor of the light which follows, is at once animating, beautiful and grand. Such was peculiarly the case the last christmas eve. From the plaza and the residence of the Governor, to the humblest dwelling upon the hills, around, from the roof of the poorest worshipper to the gorgeous blazings of the churches and their spires, all was gleaming and wreathing with flame and light. Throughout the streets and houses, all faces and voices, bore expressions of gladness, exultation and festivity. So commences christmas at Santa Fe. . .

Christmas in the Ancient City

January 25, 1937
Santa Fe New Mexican

The following description of Christmas in Santa Fe is contributed to the Kansas City Star by Mrs. Jean Calhoun Pence, now a resident of this city. Mrs. Pence is the widow of Judge Charles R. Pence, who served a term on the Jackson County, Mo., circuit bench.

If you wish to get away from the usual, come to Old Santa Fe

at Christmas time. This is one of the few places retaining its ancient customs. At this particular time it is like a village in some far land with its rows on rows of luminarias, outlining all the roofs and patio walls gleaming like golden balls in the night — too beautiful and fairy-like for mere words to picture. A little of Old Mexico is here; a sort of perpetual romance reflecting the habits of its people, a really picturesque people, their leisurely ways never quite commonplace, even to our more practical eyes.

On Christmas eve before each tiny adobe dwelling burns the ocote bonfire built log-cabin fashion at the door or in the more pretentious homes, further back in the patio, where often one catches pretty glimpses of the Nativity. All the family is gathered about. The little fires are lighted at early night-fall to guide the Christ Child to each lowly abode; a sweet and lovely custom. The luminarias are nothing but brown paper bags partly filled with sand to steady them and to hold the candles which burn surprisingly long. The effect is almost ethereal.

Inside the dwelling places little gifts, goodies and toys are put into an Indian jar (the pinata) and hung from the ceiling. The children are blind-

folded and all with long sticks, strike at the pinata until some lucky one breaks it and the treasures come pouring out, and old and young, amid much fun and laughter, scramble for the gifts.

On Christmas morning come little tappings on your door. On opening one sees groups of lively children, black eyes shining, lips smiling and calling, "Mees Christmas." One would feel ashamed indeed to let any go without a gift of candy, nuts or oranges. It gives one a thrill, a lumpy throat, for without exception these children are very poor, yet happy, gay, courteous.

Between Christmas and New Year's day, we drive out across the mesa to the little mining town of Madrid, when having its one glorious time of the whole year. Ordinarily dingy in the extreme poverty-stricken, nothing growing, not even the hardy pinon, it now is blooming like many, many roses, with 40,000 electric lights. There is a lovely tree before each door, also a great central tree, all illuminated in colors. There are Biblical scenes — the wise man, the stable and manger, the glowing star, all with innumerable lights, the gift of the company. For this one week the people of this community are gay. . . .

1996 HSFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

| | |
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| Chairman: | Julie P. Dougherty |
| 1st Vice-Chairman: | Susan Mayer |
| 2nd Vice-Chairman: | Judith Reed |
| Treasurer: | Laurel Seth |
| Secretary: | Dale Zinn |
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| Eleanor Bove | Robert Vigil |
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| Ruth Holmes | Corinne Sze |

Executive Director

Lois Snyderman

Name _____

Address _____

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THE HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 2535, Santa Fe, NM 87504-2535

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES, 19 _____

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|-------|
| Individual | \$10.00 | _____ |
| Family | \$15.00 | _____ |
| Commercial | \$25.00 | _____ |
| Patron | \$50.00 | _____ |
| Sustaining | \$100.00 | _____ |
| Life | \$1000.00 | _____ |

_____ I would like to be a volunteer.