

SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS' AWARD GIVEN TO LORAIN LAVENDER

The 1985 Board of Directors' special award went to Loraine Lavender for her long service to the Society and to her interests in promoting history in New Mexico. The sculptural award this year is entitled "Lawman."

In presenting the award President John Conron read the following introduction and poem written by Fern Lyon as a tribute to Loraine.

The person we honor this evening has long been a stalwart supporter of our Society, and indeed of society in general. There's no way we can really do her justice, but in recognition of her friendship, her generosity, and her wisdom, we offer these lines:

When she was only nine years old
She wrote the beginning of our rhyme
"I was born at Palo Alto
Where I was living at the time."

Distinguished for lots of things since then,
Some of them misleading
There was hot pursuit on horseback, at age four
When she escaped arrest for speeding.

Also at a tender age
She learned how to abet
Women in politics and at the polls
With her mother, a suffragette.

She was an actress in secondary school
Under a somewhat strained condition
Her leading man was brother Norman
Director said love scenes lacked conviction.

She went on to Stanford University
And although still petite
She led a team of women
Winning the inter-class track meet.

Then later on in her career
Although she never grew very tall
She joined other Phys. Ed. teachers
Playing PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL.

No million-dollar contracts there
They barely paid their way,
But she's our only president
Who's played basketball for pay.

Sometime later she headed east
And worked amid the cattle
Upon the famous family ranch
Near the village of Datil.

She ended up in Santa Fe
Keeping books for Pot Creek
And looking about for more to do
She hadn't far to seek.

She helped start League of Women Voters
Served its boards both city and state
And also the board of Altrusa
And uncounted others, to date.

In League she worked both long and hard
Reforming state personnel.
She served on the State Personnel Board, too,
And did her job very well.

Besides reforming the Spoils System
She worked for Constitutional Convention
And for the Historical Society of Santa Fe
And Historic Sites Preservation.

Most important to our own noble band
She was our president in '75
And a good many long-time members
Vow she kept us alive.

Then in '81 she had bad luck,
A Datil burro mauled our lass.
That may make her our only president attacked
By an onery New Mexico jackass.

But now she is fully recovered
Still works hard for us, on our board
We all warmly thank this fine lady
And happily present this award.

(Fern Lyon)

TWO RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT ANNUAL MEETING

At the recent annual meeting of the Historical Society of New Mexico held on April 20, 1985 in Las Cruces, the members voted unanimously to pass two important resolutions. *Resolution One* expresses our members' concerns about the recently mandated requirement to charge admission fees for state museums. *Resolution Two* addresses the missing Mormon Monument which stood along the Albuquerque to Santa Fe highway, now Interstate 25.

Resolution One

Whereas It has come to the attention of the Historical Society of New Mexico (hereinafter referred to as the H.S.N.M.) that the New Mexico Legislature has mandated that the Museum of New Mexico adopt an admissions fee schedule for entrance to certain units of the Museum including the Palace of the Governors, Museum of International Folk Art, and the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (currently under construction) and

Whereas The H.S.N.M. feels that certain educational services should be offered free of charge to the citizens of and visitors to New Mexico by the State of New Mexico and

Whereas the H.S.N.M. recognizes that the Museum of New Mexico is providing a valuable education experience to citizens of and visitors to New Mexico, then

Be it Resolved that in an expression of grave concern over this unfortunate state of affairs, the H.S.N.M. asks that New Mexico's legislative and executive branches of government reexamine this matter. We strongly urge the New Mexico Legislature and the executive branch to insure that no fees be charged for admission to the above-mentioned units of the Museum of New Mexico.

Resolution Two

Whereas The Mormon Battalion Monument, previously located on the west side of the Highway I-25 south of La Bajada, was dismantled by the New Mexico Highway Department when the highway was re-designed, and

Whereas The bronze plaque and the wagon wheel commemorate a significant event in the history of New Mexico,

Therefore Be it known that the Historical Society of New Mexico, at its 1985 Annual Business Session, by resolution of its members requests that this monument be reset at the proposed rest area in the same location in the near future. □

Loraine Lavender and sculptor Curtis Fort with the 1985 Board of Directors' Award



The Board of Directors' award is the work of a budding New Mexico artist, Curtis Fort. Curtis was born in the southeast part of the state, near Hobbs. He grew up on a ranch and has worked some of the most important and largest spreads in the state, such as the Bell and Vermejo ranches. He is a self-taught sculptor, working in bronze using the so-called lost wax technique and acknowledges the influence of Frederick Remington. This was all done while still a working cowboy. He continues to help out on the ranches of friends, looking upon this experience as a way of keeping in touch with ranching and the outdoors. His ranching experiences and a deep interest in history of the west give him the inspiration for the subjects of his art — an authenticity seen in cowboys, Indians, lawmen, trappers, as well as deer, elk, cattle and so on. Those of you who read "American West" will recall that Curtis was written up in the spring 1984 issue which came out during the annual meeting in Taos last year.

Curtis donates his art work to the Society, the only cost is that of the casting. He also does the same thing for the New Mexico Stockman's Association. We appreciate his enthusiasm and generosity. S.W.

Socorro - Facts Not Fancy

by Myra Ellen Jenkins and Spencer Wilson

(Continued)

The Town

While the adjudication of the Socorro grant was working its way through the courts to a final settlement, other events were having profound impact on the town and the people. In early 1881 the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad built into Socorro and the boom was on. The old Spanish and Mexican plaza of several hundred residents was now linked to the rapidly expanding industrial society to the east and to the rest of the world. Explorers, traders, miners, soldiers, and some travelers had visited Socorro ever since the opening of the Santa Fe Trail. Some of these hardy adventurers had settled and married into local families, especially after the Mexican War and after New Mexico had become a territory. But this earlier contact with the East was nothing in comparison to the influx following the completion of the railroad in 1881.

A veritable flood of foreigners came to Socorro. The area promised to become a center of mining, agriculture, and a transportation hub for railroads spreading out in all directions. Immigrants came from all parts of the United States and Europe - Swiss, French, German, English, Italian, Scots, and Irish. There were Chinese, Blacks, and German Jews fleeing oppression in Europe. Within a space of three or four years the population had swelled from 1200 to more than 4500. These newcomers soon dominated the business, political, and social life of the old plaza. The first newspapers arrived at the same time.

These new settlers were very much in character with their counterparts throughout the West. They expected their town to be the biggest, best and richest in the territory. One historian has aptly described them as the "boosters," determined to forge their town into the mould or image of the society they had left behind them. Many of the older inhabitants did not like this invasion of strangers with their pushy ways, and in time they showed their resentment.

One of the earliest steps taken by these newcomers was to incorporate the town. This step was highly symbolic of a settled, legal, and grown municipality. Incorporation was seen as a way of encouraging economic development by attracting investment and immigration and contributing to the general prosperity of Socorro. Charles Longuemare, owner and editor of the *Bullion*, claimed credit for getting the incorporation effort going in late 1881. He wrote that the "late highly esteemed Rev. Bonito Bernard, ... parish priest of Socorro," was first to suggest a municipal form of government, "which would be an acknowledged power to foster and encourage all laudable public and private enterprises." So the two, according to Longuemare, rallied the support of the other newspaper and the move to incorporate was on.

The previous February, 1880, the territorial legislature had passed an act providing the legal basis for towns and other organizations to incorporate, and the state was set for Socorro. By December 12, 1881 a petition for incorporation was presented to the county commissioners and the machinery was set in motion. The county sheriff took a census of the plaza, a special election was held on January 16, 1882 and the results were presented to the commissioners on January 23rd. The commissioners determined that five hundred and seventy votes were for incorporation and only twenty-two against. The court then decreed that the City of

Socorro was incorporated and that a general election of officers should be held on January 31. The names of the election officials reflected the cross-section of Socorro - Antonio Y. A. Abeytia, W. J. Dougherty, John A. O'Neal, William M. Pancoast, and William Tell De Baun. De Baun was then elected the first mayor of the new town.

All did not go well for the new town, however. It appeared that the incorporation papers were defective in that the town council did not have the power to raise revenues to pay for civil improvements. The newspapers were calling for street improvements, sidewalks, water works, a street railway, gas works, and fire protection. All of the projects were clear indications of a "progressive" town, but they also had to be paid for by local revenues. The trouble may have also stemmed from problems with the legislative act of 1880. On April 1, 1884 the legislature passed a new act providing for the disincorporation of "certain cities" and, significantly, provided further for the payment of all debts incurred by those "certain cities" in the interim. This act may have resulted from a court suit brought against the city by a citizen for payment of an outstanding debt.

In the case of Socorro there may have been one other element. The earlier inhabitants, predominantly Spanish descendants of the original grantees, resented these aggressive newcomers. Disincorporation was one way to express that resentment.

On June 1, the county commission prepared to abide by the new legislative act by settling "the affairs of the City of Socorro, and demand of the mayor and city council all books, papers, etc., when the business of the city will be adjudicated, settled and all the outstanding debts paid."

The territorial act and the action of the city were challenged in court. On December 1, 1884 the *Bullion*, and therefore incorporation supporter Languemare, splashed headlines, "Glory Halleluhah! Socorro is Reincorporated... Judge Bell sustains the city government." Again in the same issue, Languemare wrote: "Socorro Incorporated. On December 1st Judge Bell rendered his decision respecting the status of this city. The municipal government of Socorro is recognized by the Courts. This can be construed in no other light than a triumph of the cause of progress and good government." He went on to hope that, "All jealousy should be smothered..."

As further evidence of the reincorporation of the town the city council published "The Revised Ordinances of the City of Socorro" which, they pointed out, were "Adopted since the Reincorporation of the City" effective December 29, 1884. All of the ordinances enacted prior to that date were repealed, an entirely new set of ordinances consisting of twenty-six chapters were passed, and the entire set of ordinances became effective on December 19, 1884. The book was then signed by Mayor F. A. Thompson and attested by the City Clerk, Samuel C. Meek.

The matter of incorporation was not settled, however, for it continued to drag on through the courts and the legislature. In the following year, 1885,

another court challenge was before the territorial supreme court, but no decision was handed down. By June 1886 the city council directed the clerk and treasurer to prepare a financial statement of the city. This was done to support the city's case which was still pending in the supreme court. The newspaper reported that the case was not to be heard until January, 1887. The city attorney, however, was confident the lower court judgment in favor of the city would be upheld in the higher court. Besides, said the editor of the *Bullion*, the city was within the law in issuing bonds and warrants to pay for improvements and none of this would affect the selling of those bonds.

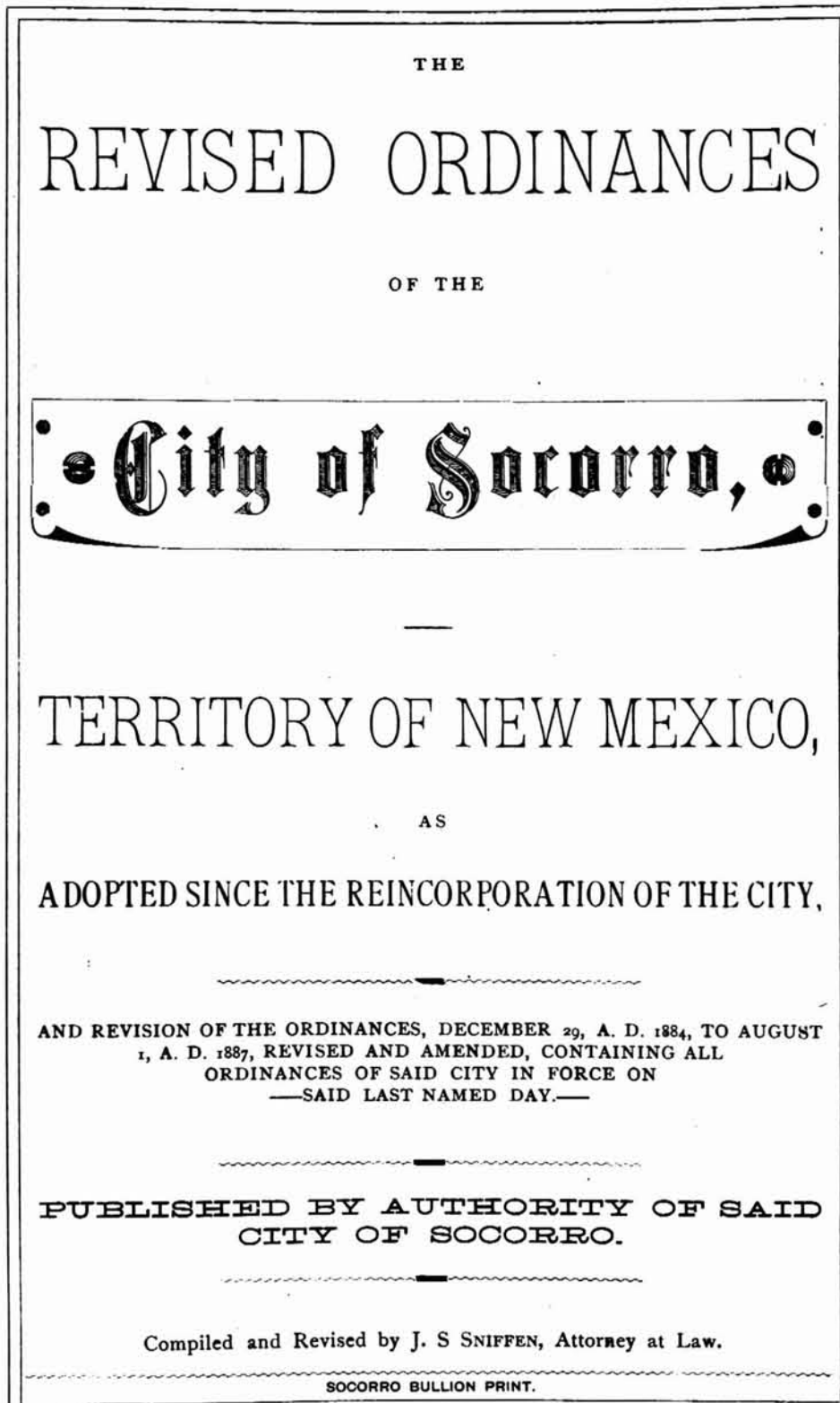
The paper went on to attack the Socorro Grant in an attempt to discredit it. Presumably this was meant to show that the grant had never existed, which would then leave the incorporated town as the sole institution. The editor was entirely in error, but an ethnic and cultural split result along the lines of the grant supporters versus the town supporters.

Whatever the case, the issues of special legislation by the territorial governments, including that of incorporation and disincorporation, went all the way to the Federal Congress. In July, 1886, Congress passed an act entitled Limiting Territorial Legislation. This had the effect of prohibiting "local or special laws in the territories, including the matters of incorporating or amending the charters, and limiting city indebtedness to no more than four percent on the value of the taxable property."

In December the *Bullion* reported that neither the territorial or congressional acts in any way interfered with the city from "carrying out its contract...for the construction of the water-works." The paper also noted "that the district attorney has agreed with me to dismiss the mandamus suit against the city to test its corporate existence..." Obviously the supporters of incorporation had sparked the mandamus action, one requiring in this case that the city show its proof of incorporation. "When this is done the city will be free from all litigation, and we have no reason to fear any disincorporation act will be passed at the next session of the legislature..."

In the next session of the legislature, January, 1887, Senator Candelario Garcia entered a bill to disincorporate the town - "if not a death blow to our progress, it would immediately and seriously impair...the development of this city [and] county..." noted the *Bullion*. Garcia obviously picked up enough support from both houses of the legislature for the bill to pass. Apparently the Garcia bill was proposed and supported on the basis of "bitter prejudices...by giving voice to his bitter hatred of all things American." According to the news accounts Garcia "denounced all Americans in Socorro as thieves, adventurers and schemers..." The Garcia bill passed.

Territorial Governor Edmund G. Ross was certainly no stranger to the inner workings of legislative bodies and to the supreme moments when a conscientious politician must take a stand. In 1868 then U.S. Senator from Kansas, Edmund G. Ross, had cast the deciding vote against the conviction of President Andrew Johnson during those impeachment proceedings. In so doing he probably protected the Constitution from serious damage, but he also was forced out of office and business in Kansas. He moved to New Mexico and, ultimately, revived his fortunes, even to becoming territorial governor. His action on the Garcia bill was quick and decisive. On January 20, 1887 Ross returned the bill to the legislature "without the Executive approval." He vetoed it on the basis of it being contrary to the recent Congress-



Title page of the Revised Ordinances Books, courtesy Myra Ellen Jenkins.

sional act because it was "local and special legislation." He went on to explain the virtues of incorporation as basic to the "principle of our entire political system... as it exists under the Constitution..." "An incorporated city," he said, "is an American institution..."

There was literally jubilation in the streets of Socorro when the telegram announcing the veto arrived. "GARCIA DEFEATED!"

*Sound the Loud Trimbrel [sic] and
Bang the Old Liar!*

*Beat the Old Hewgag and Light the
Bonfire.*

*Ross is the man that all must
Admire.*

*Garcia shall Now to Oblivion
Retire.*

The list of legislators who voted against the Garcia bill was as indicative of unity as the bill was an indication of racial bitterness. Telegrams of thanks went out from Socorro to: Charles H. Armijo of Doña Ana, W.E. Dame and W.J. Davis of Santa Fe, Juan G. Martinez of Taos, D. Romero of Mora, and Gavino Vigil of Taos, among others. Garcia's motives may have had more to do with a local situation than with the whole territory. Garcia, however, was not beaten yet. He promptly put another disincorporation bill into the hopper! This time, however, his support had withered away. The legislature adjourned; the bill died without action. The newspaper gloated that "the demagogue and disincorporation... Candelario's treacherous scheme" was defeated!

Defeated perhaps, but the issue was not yet dead! Two years later, on July 30, 1889, the incorporation question was again resurrected and on that date put before the citizens of Socorro for a vote. The minutes of the County Commissioners report that the vote was ten in favor and 214 against the incorporation! Apparently Socorro again ceased to exist as an incorporated town! As of this writing neither I nor Bruce Ashcroft, to whom I am indebted for this last challenge, can provide any explanation for this last attempt at disincorporation of Socorro. The town government continues to function, supported by later legal opinions.

The Grant and the Town

As previously noted the Socorro grant was adjudicated and confirmed as a four-square-league grant measured from the center of the Church. In August, 1892 the Court of Private Land Claims issued the final decree describing the grant. At the same time the Court appointed the City of Socorro and Candelario Garcia as trustees of the grant. Mr. Garcia had obviously reversed his position and was probably a major property holder.

Finally in 1893 the Socorro grant was itself incorporated by act of the legislature. No other than Candelario Garcia was made co-trustee with the city with the right to convey his land to the city or, if he did not, then the city was to be the sole trustee. The city council soon became the sole trustee of the grant with the power to give deeds to the known residents. The grant and the city had come together in the council, but to this day they remain totally separate institutions. M.E.J./S.W.

Thank You, Doña Ana Historical Society

The Board of Directors of the Historical Society of New Mexico wishes to express its appreciation to the Doña Ana Historical Society for their aid in hosting events and serving us all so well at the wine tasting party in Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Potter's delightful home.

—John P. Conron, President
Historical Society of New Mexico

THE SOCIETY'S PUBLICATION PROGRAM CONTINUES APACE

New Books in Print and on the Way

The Historical Society of New Mexico's publication program is thriving, with new books in print and others scheduled to be released in the coming months. Under our joint publishing agreement with the University of New Mexico Press six books are already in print with five others in progress.

Scheduled for release as you receive this issue of *La Crónica* is *Rebellion in Rio Arriba - 1837* by Janet Lecompte. The book details a time when Hispanics and Indians of Northern New Mexico revolted against the Spanish government and killed Governor Albino Perez and sixteen of his officials.

Available in the fall will be a book by Bruce T. Ellis, with the lengthy but explanatory title of *TEMPLES OF THEIR TIMES - Bishop Lamy's Santa Fe Cathedral, with notes on the Old Spanish Church and Convent formerly on the site.*

Another project that has been in the works for the past two or three years is a large format, lavishly illustrated, popular history book. *NEW MEXICO - The Distant Land* will be in bookstores in July of this year. The text has been written by Dan Murphy, with photographic research by John O. Baxter. This book is being published under the overall sponsorship of your Historical Society by Windsor Publications of Northridge, California. A pre-publication announcement has gone out to all members. We expect the book to introduce New Mexico's long and exciting history to the youth of our state, to the adult who wishes to be reminded and to the new arrival who wishes to learn.

NEW MEXICO - The Distant Land can be purchased at the pre-publication price of \$18.70 plus \$2.50 postage and handling directly from:

Windsor Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box 9071
Northridge, CA 91328-9071

BOOK AUCTION NETS A PROFIT

The book auction held during the annual meeting of the Society in Las Cruces this past April was both fun and profitable, for the Society, as well as the purchaser. The auction has been a regular conference event for the past six years. Books are donated by our generous members and many bargains and fine books are, thereby, made available through a lively auction process. Auctioneers this year were Spencer Wilson, John Conron and Bill Lock. Books for this year's auction were donated by:

Myra Ellen Jenkins
Bruce Ellis
John Sherman
Don Alberts
Joe & Diana Stein
Harriet D. Nye

We thank each of them. If, inadvertently, I have left a donor's name off the list, I herewith apologize; it, certainly, was not my intention to forget you!

Remember that the auction will take place again next year at the Annual Conference and Meeting scheduled for early June on the World College campus. The College is, as you know, at the old Montezuma Hotel complex located six miles west of Las Vegas, New Mexico.

We are asking for donations of books, or objects of historical interest, which will make the 1986 auction another success. Donations are, of course, tax deductible. J.P.C.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS AWARDS

The Historical Society of New Mexico presented awards during the banquet at its recent Annual Conference held at the Holiday Inn de Las Cruces.

The awards recognize individuals and organizations for their contributions to the fields of history and historic preservation.

1985 PAUL A.F. WALTER AWARD
TO
NANCY BROWN
FOR

service to the Historical Society of New Mexico through her promotion of history and related disciplines.

1985 EDGAR LEE HEWETT
AWARD
TO
THE CHAVES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR

its vigorous and exciting promotion of regional history to the generations of today and the generations of tomorrow.

1985 DOROTHY WOODWARD
AWARD
TO
EDWARD A. PERKINS
FOR

A half century of arousing the interest of students in New Mexico history.

1985 GASPAR PEREZ de VILLAGRA
AWARD
TO
FERENC M. SZASZ
FOR

his study of the beginning of the Atomic Age in *The Day the Sun Rose Twice.*

1985 GASPAR PEREZ de VILLAGRA
AWARD
TO
CHARLES H. LANGE
ELIZABETH M. LANGE
and
CARROLL L. RILEY
FOR

the multi-volume edited series *The Southwestern Journals of Adolph F. Bandelier.*

1985 FRAY FRANCISCO
ATANASIO DOMINGUEZ AWARD
TO
CHRIS WILSON
and
THE LAS VEGAS CITIZENS
COMMITTEE FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
FOR

the two-volume, detailed survey of the historic architectural patrimony of Las Vegas, New Mexico.

1985 EDGAR LEE HEWETT
AWARD
TO
HAL RHODES
FOR

his continuing presentation of New Mexico's past through his television series *The Illustrated Daily.*



Charles and Elizabeth Lange with the Gaspar Perez de Villagra Award.



President John Conron presents the Dorothy Woodward Award to Edward Perkins.

Nominations Are Sought for 1986

Nominations are being solicited for the 1986 Awards, which will be presented at next year's annual meeting banquet.

For information write to The Historical Society of New Mexico, P.O. Box 5819, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502.

MUSEUM OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART IN SANTA FE APPOINTS NEW CURATOR OF SPANISH COLONIAL COLLECTIONS

The Museum of International Folk Art has announced the appointment of Donna Pierce as curator of Spanish Colonial collections. Pierce has been assistant director of the museum since November 1983, and is a doctoral candidate at the University of New Mexico. Her dissertation topic is 16th century Colonial Mexican painting.

Pierce lived and worked in Mexico for four years, doing archival and travel research. She was supported by two consecutive Samual H. Kress Foundation Grants, an American Association of University Women Grant, and a Bainbridge Bunting Memorial Fellowship. "I am very pleased at the opportunity to work with the museum's collections of New Mexican Colonial art," said Pierce. "These collections are among the best in the world, and this is an exciting step into the field I have trained for."

Pierce has published widely. Her masters degree from Tulane University in New Orleans is in Spanish Colonial art history, with a thesis on the Trinity in New Mexico Colonial folk art. Her bachelor's degree, also from Tulane, is in Latin American history.

She is guest editor of the spring issue of "El Palacio," which is the Museum of New Mexico's 70 year old historic magazine. That issue will be devoted to the topic of Santa Fe Fiesta. Pierce is also co-curator of a major exhibition at the Museum of International Folk Art opening during the summer of 1985, entitled "Viva La Fiesta: A Celebration of Santa Fe's Fiesta."

The Museum of International Folk Art is a unit of the Museum of New Mexico, which is a division of the Office of Cultural Affairs. The museum system also includes the Palace of the Governors, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Laboratory of Anthropology, and the state monuments. □

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

Contributing Members:

Susan Brown McGreey - Santa Fe
June Bishop Hunker - Santa Fe
Michael Pijoan - Corrales
Richard Donnelly - Midland, Texas

Benefactor Member:

Margaret G. Lee - Las Cruces

BOOKS:

VERNON GLOVER RAILROAD BOOK PUBLISHED

The United States Department of Agriculture has published *Logging Railroads of the Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico* by Vernon Glover. Glover, one of New Mexico's leading authorities on our state's railroads, has written another chapter in the long and fascinating history of our railroads. In this publication he has detailed the history of the railroads built to service the business of logging in the Sacramento Mountains in the southeastern portion of New Mexico.

The railroads also brought vacationers up into the mountains to Cloudcroft, where rustic cabins, vacation homes and a lodge gave relief from the heat of the desert during the summer months. The Cloudcroft Lodge, built in 1910-1911 after the earlier more rustic wooden lodge burnt, still serves as a hotel.

The 8½ x 11 format paperback book can be purchased directly from the Historical Society of New Mexico. The price is \$6.95, plus \$1.00 postage and handling. Order from the Society's Post Office Box 5819, Santa Fe, NM 87502. □

FOUR LEAGUES OF PECOS: A LEGAL HISTORY OF THE PECOS GRANT, 1800-1933.

G. Emlen Hall

Albuquerque: University of
New Mexico Press
1984. Pp. xxi, 367. Illus., maps, in-
dex. \$24.95 cloth, \$14.95 paper.

Reviewed by John L. Kessell

It is 1885. James M. Seymour of New York City owns the land, 18,768 acres in San Miguel County, New Mexico Territory. Or does he? He holds legal title. Or is it legal? The original owners, the Pecos Pueblo Indians, had abandoned their Spanish "grant" of four square leagues, and then sold it. But Indians have no right to sell their land, do they? According to the recent *Joseph* decision of the United States Supreme Court, it appears that the advanced, town-dwelling Pueblos do have the right. But how are they to exercise it?

And what about all those Hispanos who have been living on the land for generations, farming and increasing? Most can claim only through adverse possession; others say they have title. Are they to be evicted? Is anybody paying taxes on this land? Perhaps the government, if indeed it admits negligence in allowing the Pecos to sell, should recover the land for the Indians, or at least compensate them. But where would that leave Seymour and the

Hispanos?

Four Leagues of Pecos is legal history by a lawyer who has lived on the grant in question, who knows the heirs in the case, and who writes with verve. His familiarity with the terrain and the people, and his commitment to the active voice, breathe life into what could have been a deadly recital. The eloquent, first-person opening and closing statements (preface and epilog), in fact, demonstrate just how rigorously Hall has held his literary urge in scholarly check throughout the long and involved proceedings between.

Beginning in 1803 with formal distribution of irrigable land to the settlers of San Miguel and San José del Vado, well downriver from the Pecos Indian remnant, on through myriad changes under three sovereigns to the 1930s and recognition of 339 perfected claims within the Pecos Pueblo grant (and the government's \$1.50-an-acre compensation to the Indians), the author weaves the divergent strands of the New York Pecos, the Jémez Pecos, and the Hispanic Pecos into a comprehensible pattern. He brings notable events — the 1812 act of the Spanish Cortes authorizing sale of unused Indian communal lands, the 1858 confirmation of Pueblo Indian grants by Congress, the *Joseph* and *Sandoval* decisions, the Pueblo Lands Act — and notable persons — Juan Esteban Pino, Donaciano Vigil who "always kept his balance," John N. Ward, Francis C. Wilson, and John Collier — home to the Pecos grant.

There is plenty of irony. How, for example, Hispanic Pecoseños, unlike residents of other Spanish community grants, were protected in their common lands, insofar as these lay within the bounds of a Pueblo Indian grant, until eventual allotment "privatized" such lands among them. Sometimes encroachment pays.

It is as if Hall is addressing a jury. Time and again, as he explains to us pa-

tiently the niceties of the case, he anticipates the outcome to reassure us that each piece of evidence is relevant. His research is impressive and his argument evenhanded. If you disagree with his colorful characterization of Domingo Fernández as "a skillful, manipulative, educated, and corrupt native Santa Fean" (p. 21), or Kirby Benedict as "the outlandish, creative attorney for the defendant" (p. 115), or Clara True as (that controversial, feisty, meddlesome Pueblo advocate" (p. 218), then you had better dig deeper. And that is what history is all about.

James M. Seymour of New York never visited his Pecos grant. The agents and lawyers he hired to assess what he had bought in the 1880s cannot have known the intricate confusion of its history or guessed the long and tortuous path to clarification. It remained for Em Hall of Harvard Law and East Pecos to give us this exemplary land-and-law case study. Only in New Mexico.

J.L.K.

A Special Thanks to Dr. & Mrs. Michael Pijoan

We are indebted to Dr. and Mrs. Michael Pijoan of Corrales, New Mexico for their most generous donation to the Historical Society of New Mexico. The donation has been earmarked to cover expenses of a special Oral History project undertaken by John Pen LaFarge. Pen is interviewing Santa Feans who lived in and remember those past, and often romantic, days when Santa Fe was entering the twentieth century and beginning to rediscover its earlier architectural and cultural heritage.

The project is expected to be edited and annotated for publication by the Society.

Thank you, Mike and Barbara Pijoan.
—John P. Conron, President
Historical Society of New Mexico



Board of Directors awardee Loraine Lavender threatens photographer Luke Lyon with the beautifully sculptured, but potentially lethal bronze casting — "Lawman."

FROM:

La Crónica de Nuevo México No. 21
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
Post Office Box 5819
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

TO:

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87501
Permit No. 95

This newspaper is published by
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF
NEW MEXICO

P.O. Box 5819
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

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