

LA CRÓNICA

November 1985

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ISSUE NUMBER 22

Historical Society of New Mexico Issues a CALL FOR PAPERS

The 1986 Annual Meeting of the Historical Society of New Mexico will be held in Las Vegas, New Mexico, June 5-8. Sessions for delivery of papers are scheduled for the 6th and 7th. Headquarters for the conference will be the facilities of the Armand Hammer United World College of the American West, including the former Montezuma Hotel, which will be a century old in 1986.

The Program Committee invites submission of proposals for complete sessions, individual papers, workshops or other products of historical research and the practice of history, so long as it is related to New Mexico. Proposals should include a short description (a paragraph to one page) of the suggested topic or session and brief biographical information on the presenters. Each paper or presentation should be limited to 20 minutes. Sessions should include no more than three participants plus the chairperson.

The Program Committee includes Richard Ellis, University of New Mexico; Thomas Chavez, Museum of New Mexico; Charles Bennett, Museum of New Mexico; Austin Hoover, New Mexico State University Library; Sandra Schackel, New Mexico Historical Review; Joe Stein, Las Vegas, New Mexico; and Michael Olsen, New Mexico Highlands University. Proposals may be sent to Olsen at 1729 Eighth Street, Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701. Telephone: (505) 454-0383.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS IS DECEMBER 15, 1985

NEW DIRECTOR CHOSEN FOR MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Clara Apodaca, State Cultural Affairs Officer, and Cleta Downey, President of the Board of Regents of the Museum of New Mexico, announce the appointment of Thomas A. Livesay of Dallas, Texas, as the museum's new director.

"I am very excited about this position and about New Mexico," says Livesay. "The enthusiasm of the Board of Regents and cooperation of the staff was paramount in my decision to make this change. The staff and the collections comprise the worth of a museum, and in this case both are of excellent quality."

Livesay was assistant director for administration for the Dallas Museum of Art, and former director of the Amarillo Art Center. He has curatorial and research experience, with a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of

Texas. Livesay also has fund raising and teaching experience, and writes critical reviews for newspapers and magazines. He wrote the brochure for the Dallas Museum's exhibition on Tesuque photographer Eliot Porter in 1980, and writes and edits on subjects ranging from photography to the American quilt.

Livesay assumed his position at the Museum of New Mexico on October 1. As director he will oversee the operations of the entire system, which includes the Palace of the Governors, Museum of Fine Arts, Laboratory of Anthropology and Museum of International Folk Art — all in Santa Fe, and the state monuments. The monuments are Coronado, Fort Selden, Fort Sumner, Jemez and Lincoln. The Museum of New Mexico is a division of the Office of Cultural Affairs.

Former director Jean Weber resigned in January of this year, and a nationwide search resulted in Livesay's appointment. □

RAILROAD DESIGNATED ENGINEERING LANDMARK

Harry Auld, President of the New Mexico section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, presented a plaque to the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad which designated the railroad as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark under the History and Heritage Program of the American Society of Civil Engineers. This very important honor was based on the formidable challenges to the construction of the railroad presented by the natural terrain. The C&TSRR is a surviving example of the contribution of the civil engineers to the development of the west.

(From the Chama Valley Dispatch, Oct. 1985, v.2 #6) □



\$500.00 REWARD for Historical Crime Stoppers

A \$500.00 reward is offered by Norman Cleaveland for the first historian or buff to provide him with accurate documentary citations that refute the validity of Frank Warner Angel's conclusion that

- (a) "It is seldom that history states more corruption, fraud, mismanagement, plots and murders, than New Mexico has been the theatre under the administration of Governor Axtell." and
- (b) the implication in Angel's question about Axtell's Saturday's Coach Plan, i.e. "Was there ever a cooler devised plot with a governor as sponsor?"

The documentation sought should not only answer Angel's question in the affirmative but should also specify who, when and where any governor in addition to Axtell committed and covered up equally serious crimes and with the full collaboration of top judicial and military figures.

Cleaveland doubts that accurate documentation of any such assumptions is possible because he believes that Angel's reports were essentially accurate. Further, Cleaveland is convinced that past failures of historians to mention such crimes as Saturday's Coach Plan in their accounts of Axtell's era provides a serious obstruction to the high educational value that history should provide.

To apply for the reward, write Norman Cleaveland, P.O. Box 4638, Santa Fe, NM 87502. Telephone: (505) 982-2418. □

AN EXCITING NINE MONTHS IN COLFAX COUNTY

by Norman Cleaveland

From July 1875 until March 1876 life for William Raymond Morley and his family in Cimarron, Colfax County, New Mexico, was more exciting than usual because:

1. During that July Mrs. Morley was hauled down to Santa Fe and indicted by a federal grand jury for robbing the Cimarron post office. Some of the roughest sections of the Santa Fe Trail were included in that trip of well over 300 miles in a buckboard.

2. Six weeks later a good friend of the Morleys, Rev. F.J. Tolby, was murdered and some sixteen men were then lynched or otherwise murdered around Cimarron, a village of some 300. Six of the victims died in the St. James Saloon across the street from where lived the Morleys including baby Agnes who eventually became Agnes Morley Cleaveland and my mother.

3. During the following January, New Mexico's legislature in Santa Fe attached Colfax County to Taos County for judicial purposes, obviously to prevent prosecution of those responsible for the murder of Tolby. As the New Mexico correspondent for the New York Sun, he had exposed some of the corruption of the Santa Fe Ring, a clique of highly educated and experienced lawyers who dominated the political and economic life of New Mexico. As top officials of the Territory, most Ring members were under oath to uphold the law.

4. A few days after the courts were removed from Colfax County, the press of the *Cimarron News & Press* for which Morley was one of the two owner-editors, was dragged into the Cimarron River. This newspaper was then claiming a circulation of "second to none" in New Mexico, probably because of its all-out attacks on the Santa Fe Ring.

5. During the next month (February) the trial of Mrs. Morley on the post office robbery charge, a trial that both she and her husband were demanding, was postponed until July.

6. Then during March, President Rutherford B. Hayes was bamboozled by the Ring into authorizing the use of the U.S. Cavalry from Fort Union on March 18th, 1876, to shoot down Morley and three of his associates in a particularly treacherous manner. However, in its final stages Morley was tipped off and the conspiracy failed, possibly because on March 17th Mrs. Morley gave birth to W.R. Morley, Jr. Apparently frontier chivalry forbade the shooting of the father of a day-old baby.

7. The excitement around Cimarron then subsided a bit, but those guilty of the above-mentioned crimes managed effective coverups, remnants of which continue to this day.

Historians apparently find little fault with the documentation that supports the above, but at times they seem unhappy because I appear so emotional and ask such awkward questions about the continuing coverups. This included the Ring's century-old claim that it was the proprietors of the *Cimarron News & Press* rather than the Santa Fe Ring that sparked all that violence which became known as the Colfax County War. N.C.

A Correction To: Socorro — Facts Not Fancy

To the editor of La Crónica:

This is from the "my face is red" department. The railroad arrived in Socorro in 1880 — not 1881! Surely I can blame someone else!

Spencer Wilson

Socorro's Vines and Vintners
by Phyllis O. Reich
begins on page 2. ☞

SOCORRO'S VINES AND VINTNERS

by Phyllis O. Reiche

In April of 1884 the *Socorro Daily Sun* carried this advertisement:

Finest wine in the city —
40,000 gallons — at
L & H Huning and Goebels

Although this amounted to approximately ten gallons for every man, woman and child in Socorro, Huning and Goebel's was only one of several establishments in town selling wine, and home winemaking was common. Wine was not only a popular beverage but, by 1884, already an old New Mexican tradition.

The first grapes planted in the state were those brought to Senecu, near Socorro, by Fray Garcia de Zuniga around 1630. Along with the vines, the missionaries planted other fruits, vegetables and cereals, both for their own sustenance and as an incentive to the Indians to convert to Christianity. The grapes were the species *Vitis Vinifera*, European grapes, and the variety was probably the common Spanish Monica. Here, however, they came to be known as Mission Grapes. Along with adding variety to the diet, the grapes were also to provide wine for church use, and therefore a winery was built at Senecu. It was undoubtedly primitive, but during its forty years of operation, the Spanish authorities were very pleased with the quality of the wine.

In 1675, however, the mission was attacked by Apaches who killed the priests and some of the Indians. The survivors fled to Socorro, abandoning Senecu forever. Five years later, in 1680, the Pueblo Revolt drove all the Spanish, along with their Indian converts, from New Mexico. The refugees resettled in three villages in the valley of El Paso Del Norte near modern El Paso, Texas. Again grape vines were planted and flourished.

Although Cortez had encouraged the planting of vineyards and orchards, around 1595 the Spanish government officials became concerned about protecting revenues from their wine trade with the colonies and prohibited planting of any new vineyards or orchards in the New World. Although the ban lasted 150 years, it did not affect the missionaries because the Church was strong enough to ignore it. Consequently, vineyard grew wherever the missionaries went, and, when New Mexico was recaptured in 1693, vines were again planted.

When Nicholas de La Fora made his inspection trip of the area from 1766-68, he was impressed by the "very good grapes, in no way inferior to those of Spain." The wine was good enough to become an important export in the annual caravans that went south to Mexico during the Colonial Period. The 1804 official report of the Vera Cruz Consulado placed it among the top three exports, along with wool and peltries.

By 1812, when Pedro Bautista Pino of Santa Fe compiled an economic report on the province, Indian raids were having such a drastic effect on trade that wine was the only revenue-producing product. The quantity of that was small, but the quality impressed Pino: "In no other country in America can wine be found with the taste and bouquet of the wine of New Mexico."

By mid-century, when New Mexico had become a United States territory, home grown wines were frequently mentioned in reports and journals. In 1855 a visitor to New Mexico wrote to the *Evening Post* of his travels through the territory. He was favorably impressed by two things in Socorro. While most of the towns along the Rio Grande had to depend on the river for their

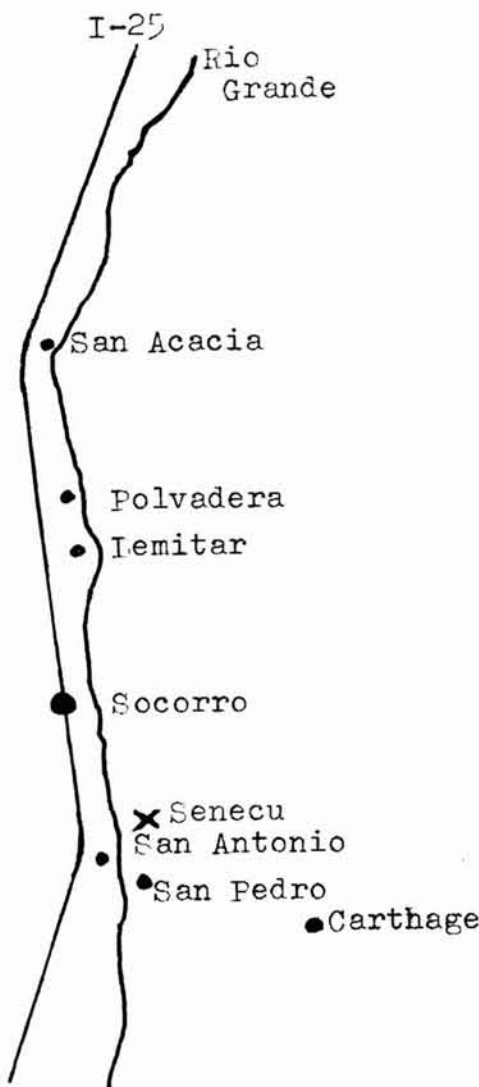
water, Socorro was fortunate to have what he called "the perpetual and abundant spring" of Socorro Mountain. Although by the time the water reached the lower areas of town, it had watered crops and animals, had ground grain, washed clothes and bathed people, he still considered it one of the best supplies he had seen in New Mexico.

It also watered the grapes which he described as "most luscious, ... cultivated after the French and Italian mode, kept trimmed closely to the ground, not growing more than two or three feet high, supporting themselves by their own stocks when a few years old." This described the generally-practiced stump method of pruning. The correspondent went on to describe the wine and brandy made from the grapes. He was not otherwise impressed with the village, however, and added, "The country furnishes no evidence of the advantages of the grape culture, either on the morals or the temporal prosperity of the community."

The grapes were also mentioned in a report on the mines of New Mexico prepared by Indiana State University personnel in 1865:

The vine thrives most luxuriantly in the southern part of the territory; and the wine of the region from Socorro, or even Albuquerque, to the Texas line at Franklin, or Mexican line at El Paso, is celebrated for its fine quality. It sells at from four to five dollars per gallon. The grapes are delicious and can be bought by the quantity for about three or four dollars a bushel.

In 1868 the governor urged New Mexicans to engage in the culture of grapes, and the next decade saw many new vineyards come into being. It was



also in 1868 that the Italian Jesuits, requested by Archbishop Lamy, arrived in New Mexico. They planted a vineyard east of Albuquerque's Old Town Plaza and encouraged others to do so. They also built a winery and became leaders of the industry. By 1880 New Mexico was the fifth largest wine producer in the United States, and expectations for the industry were high. The dark sweet

Mission grapes were still the favorite, although some Muscatel, small, sweet and pale yellow in color, were also grown. The Muscatel, however, were largely replaced by Muscat of Alexandria before the end of the century.

The coming of the railroad in 1880 brought rapid growth to Socorro, and many of the newcomers planted orchards and vineyards, sometimes experimenting with new varieties of grapes. New methods in viticulture were also introduced by immigrants from Europe. The Mission grape, however, retained its popularity. The editor of the *Socorro Sun* considered them "the greatest product of the valley" and praised them for "delicacy of flavor, adaptation to soil and climate, and for abundant yield of fine wine." Michael Fischer, a German immigrant who lived on the west side of the plaza, had 2,000 of these vines growing behind his house.

At Polvadera, a ditch company was organized in 1883, bringing 3,000 more acres of land into production at a cost of \$3,200. Along with other crops, 100,000 new grape vines were planted. In 1885 the *Socorro Bullion* ran this advertisement:

For Sale: A fine ranch of 45 acres at Polvadera with 7,000 bearing grape vines, a fine orchard ... wine cellar, wine vats and press and all the apparatus for making wine.

No price was included in the ad, but good land in the Socorro area was reported to be available for \$5 to \$25 per acre.

Polvadera, however, was not the only scene of activity. In the fall of 1885, Charles Davis planted 1500 fruit trees and several thousand grape vines on his property just southeast of Socorro. The Gordo Blanco Vineyard of Las Cruces advertised grape cuttings for sale in Socorro with prices per thousand of \$4 for Mission, \$10 for Muscat of Alexandria, and \$20 for Black Hamburg. The \$10 premium for the best wine in the Socorro Fair that year was won by L & H Huning. In 1887 Ambrosio Romero of San Antonio sold 4,000 pounds of grapes he had raised on 350 vines.

Expansion of the industry continued in the 1890s with good to excellent crops reported most years. Juan Jose Lopez of Lemitar had several vineyards of Muscat, Muscatel, Flame Tokay and Mission. In 1895 he harvested more than 20 tons which he said sold easily at good prices. Other growers mentioned in the local papers around the turn of the century included Juan Jose Baca, Abraham Coon, M. A. Saylor, W. H. Byerts, Julius Campredon, Hubbard, Marcellino, and Yunkers of Lemitar. Julian Montoya of San Pedro advertised native wines for sale. It was said that the favorite wine of Archbishop Lamy had been that from San Pedro.

Another Socorro winemaker was the flamboyant Giovanni Biavaschi. He was a native of Valtellina, Italy, who had lived in the mining town of Kelly before establishing his large farm and vineyard in northwest Socorro. By 1895 he had a distillery in operation and was making brandy from some of his wine. He also made an unusual quince liqueur. In 1896 he began construction of his new saloon building on the southeast corner of the plaza. Like Biavaschi, the building was unique, with a stone-walled cellar that attracted a good deal of attention. The building itself was made of pressed brick. It is still in use as a saloon, the Capitol Bar. By the end of 1896, Biavaschi was adding a second building, and later he included a reading room with the country's major newspa-

pers and magazines. In 1902 he remodeled a storeroom on the northeast corner of the plaza to serve as his wine room. He also had a restaurant and rooms for rent.

Biavaschi is remembered as a rotund man with a large red mustache and a very red face. He usually wore a huge belt buckle which was quite prominent on his expanded waistline. He is variously described by those who remember him as a real entrepreneur, a colorful character or a con-man. No doubt he was something of each.

Abraham Coon had a fifty-acre orchard and vineyard southeast of Socorro from which he shipped fruit yearly. In 1899 he, too, began operating a distillery in the center of town. His brandies were made from peaches, prunes, apples and grapes. The *Socorro Chieftain* noted that the brandies from Coon's and Biavaschi's had all the headaches removed before bottling!

W. H. Byerts was another notable in Socorro's fruit industry. By 1900 he had planted 10,000 fruit trees west of town and was in the process of planting 10,000 more. He continued until it was estimated, perhaps on the high side, that he had 50,000 trees. He also had very fine strawberry beds. He raised small, white, seedless grapes which he gave to Mr. Hammel of the Illinois Brewery who made wine from them. Although Byerts had a well, in 1908 he also called on the resources of Socorro Mountain when he drove a tunnel into the side of it to supplement his water supply. At 300 feet it was reported he had sufficient flow to fill a five-inch pipe.

Land advertisements during this first decade of the 20th century included such extras as "228 fancy grape vines" or "1,000 grape vines," apparently an attractive asset to any property.

In 1901 an annual report of the Department of Interior described New Mexico's vineyard practices. Using the stump method of pruning, vines were generally planted every six to eight feet, in rows eight feet apart, allowing over 1000 plants per acre. The vines were staked for the first two years and cut back to the strongest eye at the first pruning. The second year all the buds were rubbed off to a height of fifteen to eighteen inches. The third year the canes were pruned down to about eighteen inches, leaving two or three buds. The vines were tied up in the fall and covered with earth after the first frost. They were uncovered in March, a week or two before pruning. Each acre under this practice produced an average of 12,774 pounds of grapes or 910 gallons of wine.

Along with the progress in Socorro's grape industry there were also problems. The town's population grew in the 1880s and reached a peak in the early 90s. In fact, it was reported to be the largest town in the territory at one time during this decade. Then, due to mine closings, its population declined rapidly to only 1515 people by 1900. There were also weather problems. In 1895 a severe hail storm did quite a lot of damage, only to be followed about a month later by a flash flood which took its toll on the vineyards.

In the early 1900s a flood destroyed vineyards, farms and homes in the Polvadera area, including those of Paul Jean Frassiniet whose family had emigrated from France in 1876. He moved to a ranch west of Magdalena, but later retired in Socorro where he established a small vineyard and made wine for his own use. His expertise was much in demand by local vintners during the spring pruning season.

In 1909 Biasvaschi was in the news again. The sheriff had closed his saloon for failure to pay his license fee. Being resilient, however, by 1912 he was again in business, this time in the mining town of Carthage. The vineyard he had owned in Socorro was destroyed some years later when the area flooded and water stood among the vines for several weeks.

The Tafoya family operated a winery in San Pedro for a number of years. It was located at their home, which stood at the southwest corner of the church. The walls of the house still stand, but there are no signs of the winery, which included some large partially covered wooden vats. The vineyard was south of the house and winery. It was destroyed by a 1926 flood. The area covered by the vineyard is now distinguishable only by a difference in the flora from that of the surrounding area.

Another flood, in 1943, destroyed a winery in Polvadera which had existed from the late 19th century. Heavy rains in the Polvadera Mountains were responsible for this flood.

Another major problem encountered in commercial grape production was the late and short ripening season of the Mission grapes, from late August through September. An experimental vineyard was planted in 1900 at the Agricultural Experiment Station near Las Cruces in the hope of finding new vinifera varieties which ripened earlier

vities of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Prohibition followed from 1919 until 1933, and that undoubtedly took its toll on the commercial operations. Grape growing continued in private vineyards, though. In fact, the number of vines throughout the state more than doubled between 1920 and 1930. During the 40s and 50s, however, there was a sharp decline. The last winery in the Socorro area was one in San Acacia operated by Joe Sarlonque under a grower's license until mid-1962. Apparently the major problem he faced during the last few years of operation was winterkill.

The greatest portion of wine made, however, was probably that of the home vintners. The methods were diverse, but, in general, sophisticated equipment was unknown. Barefoot stomping seems to have been the rule, even in many of the commercial operations. Frequently this was done in a saddle-shaped device of hardened, perforated cowhide, with the juice collected in skins. In some cases the grapes were stored in buildings with earthen floors for a week before the wine was started. Then the fermentation of the juice was done in wooden barrels for a period of forty days. After this the barrels were sealed and the wine drawn off as desired. Concrete vats were also frequently used, and some can still be found in adobe sheds in the valley. Sometimes these were lined with a fine



and later to extend the shipping season. Horticulturist Fabian Garcia was in charge of the project and planted 52 varieties, of which more than half came from California. Although severe spring frosts in 1904 caused damage, Garcia was able to draw conclusions and recommend varieties for commercial and home use when the project was concluded in 1905. When they dug up the vineyard, however, it was discovered that many of the vines were infected with Crown-gall disease which would have eventually proved fatal. The only treatment was destruction of the vines. The California grapes were primarily the infected ones, but the disease was transmitted by flood irrigation, and any Mission or Muscat grapes nearby became infected, too.

Garcia recommended the stump-pruning method and the traditional winter covering on all but a few varieties. Without this treatment the vines were extremely vulnerable to the cold winter winds, but with it labor costs became prohibitive as it required hills three to four feet high with most of the labor done by hand. Picking the grapes was also very labor-intensive due to the short vines.

Another problem that arose was alkali buildup, due to the continued irrigation. This caused the vines to become chlorotic and lowered the quality of the grapes. When the damage to the vines became severe, they were removed and replaced by other crops.

By around 1910, the Socorro papers had replaced their coverage of the local grape industry with articles on the acti-

clay which was fired in place. Vats under trapdoors in the floors of houses were also common. Wooden barrels or cowhide bags were generally used for storage. Although the wine was generally praised, undoubtedly the quality varied considerably.

Occasionally a very old vine can be found surviving in the valley near a ditch bank, but most have disappeared, as has most of the equipment. Many of those vines have been dug in recent years by local people wanting to revive the old grapes. New grapes, too, are being planted in increasing numbers. With this resurgence of interest, we seem to have come full circle. In 1883 the editor of the *Socorro Bullion* made this prediction:

We see in the present attention given to grape culture in this section an important and growing industry which, in a few years, will assume proportions of no ordinary nature.

With our increased knowledge and technology, perhaps that prophecy is more appropriate a century later.

P. O. R.



SOURCES

Much of the information used in this article came from Socorro's old newspapers: *Socorro Sun*, 1880; *Socorro Daily Sun*, 1884; *Socorro Bullion*, 1883-87; *Socorro Chieftain*, 1892-1912.

BOOK REVIEWS:

MABEL DODGE LUHAN New Woman, New Worlds

Lois Palken Rudnick
Albuquerque: University of
New Mexico Press
6½ x 9½, 384 pages, black and
white photographs, notes, bibliog-
raphy, index. \$19.95.

Reviewed by Fern Lyon

Mabel Dodge went to Taos in 1918. She proved to be the most exciting individual to hit that area since Popé went there in 1680 to foment the successful Pueblo Indian Revolt.

Mabel and Popé had a number of things in common. Both were revolutionaries who took a dim view of the white man's materialistic civilization. Both had a mystical attraction for followers, both could turn dangerously tyrannical. Both were intent on preserving Pueblo Indian culture.

Mabel Dodge was, of course, intent on much more than that. From her 1880s childhood as the daughter of a wealthy Buffalo, New York, family, she lived an intricate and flamboyant life. She became involved with an astonishing number of significant people, causes, and social issues of her day, both here and in Europe. She was intimate with Gertrude and Leo Stein and the modernist artists in France in the early years of this century. In its second decade she established a salon in New York where she welcomed all sorts of "movers and shakers" as she called them in her book of that name. Her New York intimates included Marxist John Reed, dancer Isadora Duncan, birth control advocate Margaret Sanger, psychiatrists, radical labor union organizers, reformers, journalists, avant-garde artists and poets — all of them stimulating, most of them controversial.

She came to Taos with her current husband, artist Maurice Sterne. In Taos she fell in love with Antonio Luhan, an Indian from Taos Pueblo, and began fighting for Pueblo rights. At the same time she built a big house in the village and invited artists and writers she knew or admired to come share her new "cosmos." Among those who came were D.H. Lawrence, Andrew Dasburg, Willa Cather, Georgia O'Keeffe, and many others. Resulting activities ranged from sublime to chaotically ridiculous.

Dr. Rudnick skillfully organizes all this material into an admirable biography. It must have been difficult to keep it from resembling a monumental soap opera, but she did it. She views the whole business sympathetically, but with cool objectivity, and she never underestimates its basic importance in our social and artistic life. She is as candid about Mabel Dodge Luhan as that lady was about herself. Mabel comes through as brilliant, troubled, honest, articulate, inconsistent, lovable, exasperating, and fascinating. This biography should do much to establish her in her rightful place in the history of 20th century American culture. F.L.

Another major source was interviews with people who were kind enough to share their memories with me. These included Abe A. Baca, Clarence Hammel, Fidel Tafoya, Mrs. Carl Dagostino, Fabian Romero, Isidro Romero and Mrs. Ann Olsen.

References to grapes and wine in New Mexico's early history were found in a number of books, including *The Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft*, Volume 27, published in 1889 and *Hispanic Culture of the Southwest* by Arthur L. Campa, published in 1979.

Correspondence to the *Evening Post* was published in the *New Mexico Historical Review* in April 1963. *European Grapes*, by Fabian Garcia, was a pamphlet published by the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station in 1906. It provided not only information of the vineyard planted in 1900 but also historical background on grapes and wine in the territory.

LOUIS FELSENTHAL: CITIZEN-SOLDIER OF TERRITORIAL NEW MEXICO

Jacqueline Meketa
University of New Mexico Press
1982. 152 pages, illustrations, notes,
bibliography, index. \$15.95 hard-
cover, \$8.95 paperbound.

In 1980, the Historical Society of New Mexico and the University of New Mexico Press concluded plans for a program to jointly publish history titles. Both parties have designed this new history series to bring to light works on topics relevant to New Mexico that have been overlooked or that deserve revision or reprinting. With the help of the press, the Society is realizing one of its chief goals of encouraging the research, writing and reading of New Mexico and southwestern history. Jacqueline Meketa's *Louis Felsenthal* is the second title jointly published by the press and Society.

Born in 1832 in Prussia to a Jewish merchant family, Felsenthal made his way to Santa Fe in 1858 to seek his fortune in business. Once in Santa Fe he associated himself with other prominent German Jews of the Territory: Charles Clever, Bernard Seligman and the Spiegelberg brothers. Experiencing limited business success, Felsenthal fell back on his clerical and linguistic skills as a means of financial support. He became a clerk in the House for the Ninth Territorial Legislative Assembly. In 1861, Felsenthal, a supporter of the Union cause as were most Germans living in the United States, enlisted as a captain in the New Mexico Volunteers and raised two companies of infantry when the Confederate invasion of New Mexico became imminent. He saw action at the Battle of Valverde, and afterwards served garrison and escort duty until 1866. Following his service in the Army, Felsenthal became a claims agent in Charles Clever's Santa Fe law office. Advancing age and ill health finally forced Felsenthal to draw a small veteran pension and accept retirement in a soldiers home in California where he died of natural causes in 1909.

It is noteworthy that one of Louis Felsenthal's most enduring contributions to New Mexico took place in 1859 when he and other influential and civic-minded residents of Santa Fe organized the Historical Society of New Mexico. He also aided in the reorganization of the Society in 1880. It seems, therefore, particularly appropriate that the Society sponsor this title that does so much to fulfill the expressed goals of its publication program.

The book is far from a traditional biography, however, and emerges by the manner in which Meketa places Felsenthal in historical perspective as a social history written from a "bottom up" vantage point, rather than from a view from the top of the pyramid. Written in a highly engaging and prosaic style, and thoroughly researched, *Louis Felsenthal: Citizen-Soldier of Territorial New Mexico* is a must for both those individuals interested in the history of Territorial New Mexico, and collectors of Southwestern book Americana, especially in consideration of its "average bloke" vantage point.

This book, as well as the other books in the continuing series, can be purchased at your local friendly bookstore, or directly from UNM Press. □

MAXWELL MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

ANASAZI WORLD

August 31, 1985 - March 1, 1986
"Anasazi World" is a photo panel exhibition that provides an up to date and accurate synthesis of Pueblo Indian culture history emphasizing the essential unity of Pueblo culture, the sources of its diversity and its continuity through time. It explores the relationship between the Anasazi and modern-day Pueblo communities and presents new archaeological findings from Anasazi sites. There are 105 exceptional color cibachrome prints mounted on panels with graphics and text. The photographs were taken by Dewitt Jones over a six-month period while he was on assignment for *National Geographic*. Interpretive labels for the exhibition were thoroughly researched and written by Dr. Linda Cordell, Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico. An informative and richly illustrated catalog accompanies the exhibition.

PEOPLE OF THE SOUTHWEST

Permanent Exhibit
"People of the Southwest" focuses on the history of man's inhabitation of the Southwest through the Spanish period. The exhibit is based on the common shared problems of the Anasazi, Mogollon, Hohokam and Fremont cultures in obtaining food, shelter, clothing and spiritual comfort.

FROM THE WEAVER'S VIEW: INDIAN BASKETS OF THE AMERICAN WEST

May 18, 1985 - March, 1986
"From the Weaver's View" is a major basket exhibit that concerns itself with the complicated art of Western North American Indian basketry. To assist the viewer in understanding the subtle differences in baskets as being evidence of complex cultural patterns, a large variety of baskets from the museum's fine collection are exhibited. Over 200 baskets and 70 photographs are utilized in the exhibit to illustrate to non-basket-makers the subtle character of basketry.

Museum Hours:

Weekdays, 9 am - 4 pm
Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm
Closed Sundays and Holidays

Location:

University Blvd. one block north of Grand Ave., Albuquerque, N.M. □

THE LA FONDA PARKING LOT AND SANTA FE HISTORY

The Museum of New Mexico, in cooperation with the La Fonda Corporation and Davis & Associates Contractors, is currently conducting extensive tests and limited excavations in the parking lot of the La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe. The future site of a three story parking garage has revealed remains dating from pre-Revolt Spanish Colonial through the Territorial and early Statehood periods. The work is being conducted by John A. Ware and R.N. Wiseman of the Museum.

Because of time limitations, excavations are being concentrated on a series of Spanish Colonial pits and possible structures confined to the northern part of the location. The pits contain well-stratified fill and a wealth of refuse items including Indian ceramics, animal bone, smelting slag, and occasional items of European manufacture.

Although excavations have not yet progressed sufficiently far to be certain, two of the pits exposed in the test trenches are each several meters across and possess relatively flat bottoms and slightly undercut walls reminiscent of pit house or dugout type construction. The animal bones — including cow, sheep, goat and wild species — and plant remains — including corn, pinon, and possibly apricot and cherry — come from well-controlled contexts and should provide an invaluable study collection by which to ascertain the early New Mexico Spanish food economy. The presence of numerous example of Rio Grande Glaze E and F Indian ceramics as well as the somewhat later dating Tewa series plain wares and polychromes indicate both pre-Revolt and later Spanish Colonial periods are represented. □

NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW: A REPORT

The *New Mexico Historical Review* published two special issues this year. The January issue, edited by Richard Greenleaf of Tulane University and honoring former editor Eleanor Adams, contained several strong essays on New Mexico and the Borderlands. The fall issue also centers on a special topic: Indians of New Mexico.

Paul Hutton assumed editorship of the *Review* on July 1, 1985. Sandra Schackel continues in the position of assistant editor, and Nancy Brown has been promoted to office manager. Lynn Brittner, our former editorial assistant, now holds a coveted internship with the Smithsonian Institution. □

BOOK OFFERS COLORFUL INSIGHT INTO NEW MEXICO HISTORY

For those readers who enjoy history, *New Mexico: The Distant Land*, sponsored by the Historical Society of New Mexico, should be at the top of their book list. Recently published by Windsor Publications in Northridge, California, the book is full of fascinating episodes from the state's history. Author and archeologist Dan Murphy has included more than 250 rare paintings, maps, lithographs, drawings and vintage photographs to bring these pages to life. The book also includes a section that outlines the beginnings of business in New Mexico, prepared and written by historian John O. Baxter.

This hard-bound book is available in bookstores across the state, and the author has scheduled two autograph-signing sessions in Santa Fe and Albuquerque so that history buffs will get the chance to buy an autographed copy of *New Mexico: The Distant Land*. Those sessions will be at:

Waldon Books
4250 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, NM 87501
November 9, 1985
12:00 - 3:00 PM

NEW MEXICO

THE DISTANT LAND



An Illustrated History by Dan Murphy

Salt of the Earth Bookstore
2128 Central Ave. SE
Albuquerque, NM
November 2, 1985
2:00 - 5:00 PM

Members and friends of the Historical Society of New Mexico can order copies directly from the Society at P.O. Box 5819, Santa Fe, NM 87502. The cost is \$24.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling. Members may take a discount of 10% off the retail price. □

Dinosaur Debut: A 20th Century Happening

by Jennifer Gold

New Mexico Museum of Natural History announces Grand Opening: January 11 and 12, 1986 are the dates to remember! That weekend, the public can take its first "Walk Through Time" in the Museum's exhibit galleries. From the 11th on, the doors of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History will be open. And open they will be — in grand fashion. Music, live performances, scientific demonstrations, celebrity appearances, and a variety of refreshments will be included in the festive celebration. The "World" hot air balloons will be tethered at the Museum to add to the excitement, and KOB Radio will broadcast from the gala.

On the eve of the Grand Opening, there will be a private, ticketed dinner in the Museum. Foundation members, Museum supporters, legislators, and New Mexico residents interested in natural history will be invited to enjoy entertainment and dinner served in the exhibit galleries and other areas of the building. The dinner is being held to recognize and thank supporters, provide a preview of the exhibit program, and raise funds for future museum programs.

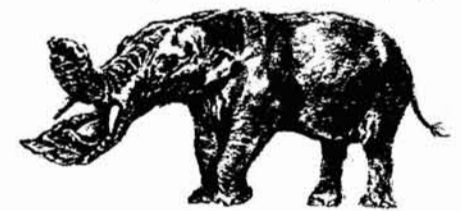
Before the Grand Opening, on January 7-9, national and local media will be present to usher the Museum into the



major museum community with nationwide exposure and recognition.

The elaborate opening is being orchestrated by the Junior League of Albuquerque. Several committees have been working with Museum staff since June to organize, manage, and publicize the opening and associated special events. The committees' sensational progress testifies to the League's many years of experience and proven record of success in promoting and supporting the endeavors of civic organizations.

The Junior League needs volunteers during the opening to set up and take down tables, chairs, and booths; take tickets at the door; and, in advance of the opening, send out mailing and help with other assignments. Please call 841-8872 if you would like to help. J.G.



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FROM:

La Crónica de Nuevo México No. 22
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
Post Office Box 5819
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

TO:

This newspaper is published by
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF

NEW MEXICO

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

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