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Historical Society of New Mexico Notes

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NOTES

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of New Mexico is the oldest organization of its kind west of the Mississippi. In the past decade, every year has seen the formation of a new local historical society affiliated with the state organization. The early history of the society has been told in many articles and speeches, but a review of recent developments will be useful to old members and newcomers.

It comes as a surprise to most people, especially those writing from other states, to learn that The Historical Society of New Mexico is not a state-supported agency. All of its officers and staff are unpaid volunteers; income is from dues and contributions only.

There are many points of cooperation with the state: The University of New Mexico now is sole owner and publisher of the quarterly *New Mexico Historical Review*. The State Museum of New Mexico houses among its own collections most of the material collected in the past by the Society and major documents have been deposited at the State Records Center and Archives. The State Planning Office handles much of the investigation of sites proposed for historical registry. In several other Western states, the historical societies are official state agencies, receiving state funds to support museums, archives, sites, and publications.

In the beginning, the Society led the way in all of this work. It was organized December 26, 1859, with Col. John B. Grayson (within four years to die a Confederate major-general) as its first president. The Society adjourned September 23, 1863, and was reestablished December 27, 1880, under the guidance of William G. Ritch and L. Bradford Prince. On November 19, 1959, the Society's hundredth anniversary, it was re-incorporated.

The *New Mexico Historical Review*, founded by The Historical Society of New Mexico in 1926, was for many years published jointly with The University of New Mexico, which provided the

editor, while the Museum of New Mexico kept the business records. In July 1963, by a three-way agreement, full control of the *Review* was given to the University, where Eleanor B. Adams is now editor. A subscription to the *Review* is included in the annual dues of all members of the Society. Manuscripts and editorial correspondence concerning the *Review* should not be sent to the Society but directly to The Editor, *New Mexico Historical Review*, The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106. Copies of most back issues are still available, usually at \$1.25, with a few at higher prices. Two cumulative index volumes are available: for Vols. 1-15 at \$2.00, for Vols. 16-30 at \$2.50. Orders should be addressed to the University of New Mexico Press, The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106.

A primary function of The Historical Society of New Mexico is to aid the formation of local societies and to coordinate their activities on a statewide basis. At present, local groups have been or are being formed in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Roswell, Las Cruces, Silver City, Deming, Taos, Española, Los Alamos, Farmington, Lovington, Raton, Socorro, Tucumcari, Alamogordo, Las Vegas, Cimarron, Bernalillo, Belen, Springer, and Tularosa. Nearly all of these are affiliated with the state society. Affiliation of a local chapter costs \$10.00 a year. This does not mean that all local members automatically become members of the state society—individuals must join the state society separately. A handbook, *Organizing Local Chapters of the Historical Society of New Mexico*, by Victor Westphall, is available for \$1.00.

The objectives of the Society are to encourage in every way possible a greater appreciation of New Mexico history, through collecting, preserving, and publishing; through aid to museums and archives; by preservation of historic landmarks; and through all related activities. The program varies slightly in emphasis from year to year. At present, the Society is aiding the State Planning Office in the survey of historic sites that need preservation. The Society is also making an inventory of historic documents and family papers that may remain in private hands. Another activity is election of prominent figures of the past and present to a New

Mexico Hall of Fame. This year the Society has organized an all-day history conference in Albuquerque.

Bequests, gifts, and endowments are sought and welcomed, whether in property, cash, documents, photographs, or historical objects. The Society is a nonprofit corporation and all such gifts are tax-deductible.

The schedule of dues is as follows: individual active member, \$6.00 annually; institutional member, \$6.00 annually; contributing member, \$10.00 or more annually; life member, \$100.00 in one payment; advisory council member \$1,000.00 minimum. Membership is individual, not family, and is open to any one interested in the purposes of the Society. It is not necessary to be a member of a local society to join the state Society, or vice versa. Most people join both.

A special drive is now under way to encourage a group of contributing members, such as business firms and prominent individuals, who will assure contributions of \$50.00 a year to underwrite maintenance of an active headquarters for the Society. Through such an office the Society can stimulate membership growth and increase historical activity on all fronts. The registered legal office of the Society at present is at the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe. As a practical matter, much of the daily routine work has always been handled through the personal address of its president, currently Mr. Jack D. Rittenhouse, c/o University of New Mexico Press, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106. All work of the Society is controlled by its officers and directors. The president of each affiliated local society is automatically a director of the state Society.

Additional information on how to join The Historical Society of New Mexico, to aid its work, or on how to form a local society, will be furnished upon request. Few other endeavors can contribute so richly to the heritage this generation will transfer to the next.

JACK D. RITTENHOUSE, President.

HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW. Back issues are priced at \$5 per volume or \$1.25 per issue, except for issues in short supply at \$3 each. At present, virtually all issues are in print from 1928 through the current volume. Reprints of selected articles are available at fifty cents each. Volumes out of print may be obtained from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

OLD SANTA FE. Published quarterly, 1913-16. The file contains articles of historical interest. The following issues are available at \$1 each: Vol. I, Nos. 1, 2, 3; Vol. II, No. 6; Vol. III, No. 12.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO PUBLICATIONS IN HISTORY

Albert Franklin Banta: Arizona Pioneer, edited by Frank D. Reeve. 149 pp., illus., index. Vol. XIV, Sept. 1953. \$2.25

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO PAPERS

Colonel José Francisco Chaves 1833-1924, by Paul A. F. Walter, Frank W. Clancy, and M. A. Otero. 18 pp., illus. No. 31, 1926. English edition, \$1.00. Spanish edition (1927), \$1.00

Early Vaccination in New Mexico, by Lansing B. Bloom. 12 pp. No. 27, 1924. \$1.00

In Memory of L. Bradford Prince, President of the Society, by Frank W. Clancy. 15 pp. No. 25, 1923. \$1.00

Journal of New Mexico Convention Delegates to Recommend a Plan of Civil Government, September, 1849. 22 pp. No. 10, 1907. \$1.00

A LIST OF HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS, AND A CATALOG OF BOOKS PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

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