

Kick Off of National Preservation Week



(©Kirk Gittings/Syntax, Photographer)

The Albuquerque Chapter, AIA, held a group photo session on Saturday, May 11, 1991, at the KiMo Theater, Albuquerque, New Mexico. This event was held in recognition of "National Preservation Week." The photograph will be entered in a nationwide contest sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and will be on display at their annual conference this coming October in San Francisco. Copies of the photo are available for purchase from the Albuquerque Chapter/AIA office (505) 255-2170.

"THE LAST CONQUISTADOR: JUAN de OÑATE AND THE SETTLING OF THE FAR SOUTHWEST" by Marc Simmons, University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Avenue, Norman, OK 73019, (405) 325-5111. 224 pps., 24 illustrations, bibliography, \$24.95.

A biography of Don Juan de Oñate, the first colonizer of the old Spanish borderlands, has been published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

The Last Conquistador: Juan de Oñate and the Settling of the Far Southwest, by Marc Simmons, chronicles the life and frontier career of Oñate, who was the central figure in a string of dramatic episodes associated with the colonization of what was a far corner of the Spanish Empire.


In 1598, Oñate led a formidable expedition of settlers on an epic march northward to the upper Rio Grande Valley. This remote frontier he renamed Nuevo Mexico (New Mexico), changing it from La Tierra Nueva, the New Land, a name given it by the early Spaniards. There he established the first European settlement west of the Mississippi, launching an important chapter in early American history.


In his activities, Oñate displayed qualities typical of Spain's 16th-century men of action; in his career can be found summation of the motives, aspirations, intentions, strength and weaknesses of the Hispanic pioneers who settled the Borderlands.

For this first full-length account of Oñate's life, Simmons has drawn upon much new material that has emerged from Spanish archives in the last decade. Simmons paints a vivid picture of the multifaceted Oñate and his exploits, and also notes the political, social and cultural forces that contributed to the explorer's successes and failures. In addition, Simmons places the entire story within the larger context of national and international development.

Oñate represented the end of a tradition, Simmons writes. "He was the last conquistador, the final knight in burnished armor who sallied northward under authority of Cross and Crown to find wealth, glory and fame."

Marc Simmons has his doctoral degree from the University of New Mexico and has published many articles and books on the American Southwest.

News continued on page 15 


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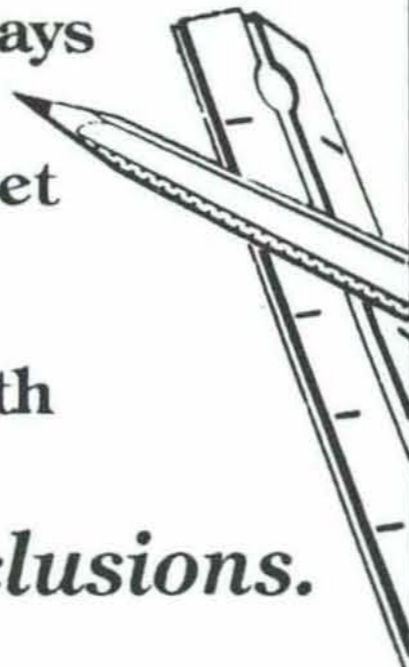
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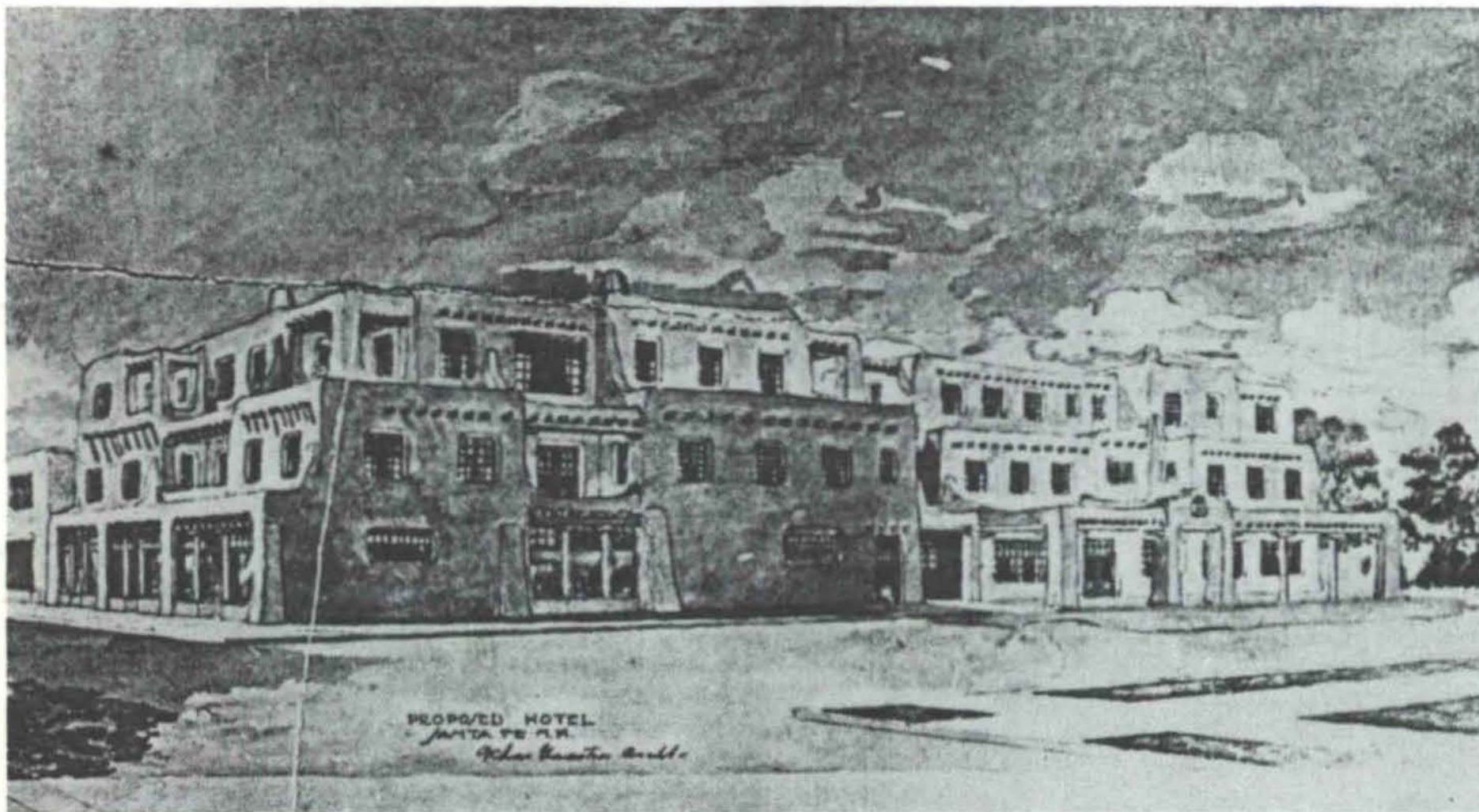
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Architect T. Charles Gaastra Designed Hotel for Santa Fe Plaza

In 1919 Santa Fe architect T. Charles Gaastra designed a hotel for the northwest corner of Santa Fe Plaza. The drawing shows us a large hotel, rendered in the Spanish Pueblo Revival style that was just beginning its strong and vibrant life—a life that has extended into Santa Fe's preferred architectural style in 1991. The hotel was not built, rather T. Charles Gaastra designed another building for the site—the Cassel Building of 1921, which was a movie theater flanked at the street front by two retail stores. As the years unfolded the Cassel Building/Theater underwent remodeling until it evolved into the present dress as The First National Bank of Santa Fe.

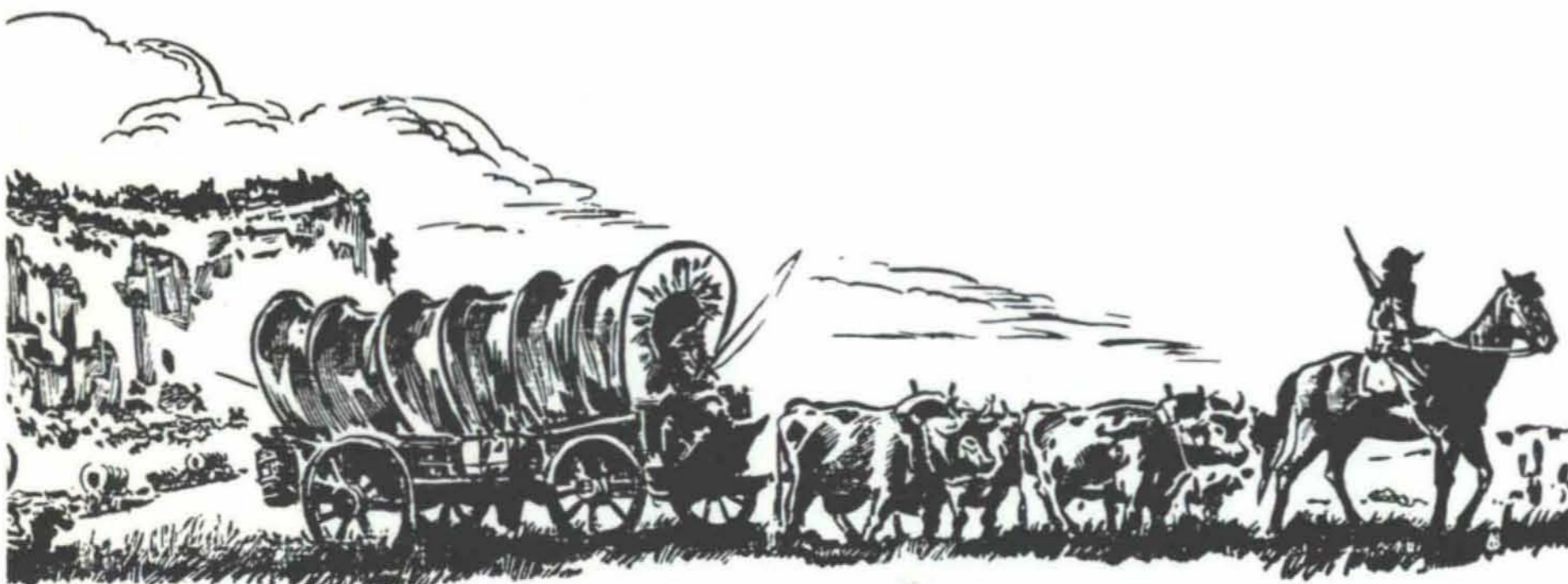
Historical Society of New Mexico has Important Santa Fe Trail Book Available

The Historical Society of New Mexico has just received a *bonanza*. *John Riddle and Nancy Riddle Madden have donated their remaining volumes of Records and Maps of the Old Santa Fe Trail* which was originally researched and authored by their father, Kenyon Riddle.

Following Kenyon Riddle's death in 1957, additional information was found in his notes. Accordingly this new information, along with three additional map sheets, was included in a second edition of the book and released in 1963.

All unsold copies of the 1963 edition are now in the hands of the Society and copies are available from the Society's office in Santa Fe. The price per copy, along with the packet of eight maps, is \$20.00 plus \$2.50 postage and handling. This truly is a bargain. Please order directly from:

Historical Society of New Mexico
 P.O. Box 5819
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
 or call John P. Conron at (505) 983-6948 to pick up copies at his office.



SPACEWEEK: A Week of Fun in Alamogordo

ALAMOGORDO, NM — SPACEWEEK at the Space Center was a week-long extravaganza celebrating space exploration, the most extensive Spaceweek to date at the International Space Museum and OMNIMAX®/Planetarium complex.

For the twelfth consecutive year, volunteers in cities throughout the United States organized Spaceweek events for the week of July 16 through the 24th. The Spaceweek '91 theme was "Look to the Heavens and Learn" and nationwide attendance was expected to top 850,000.

The schedule of events included special stargazing sessions at nearby White Sands National Monument, co-sponsored by the Space Center and the Alamogordo Amateur Astronomers. Dr. John P. Stapp was present to autograph his collection of humorous insights and sidelights called "Dr. Stapp's Almanac and Rational Calendar."

Other highlights included a Youth Day at the Space Center when adults were encouraged to explore the facility with the enthusiasm of youth. On Space Food Day, space foods were on display and available for tasting. On the evening of July 19 a dinner took place at the Holiday Inn with astronaut Mike Mullane as honored guest and speaker.

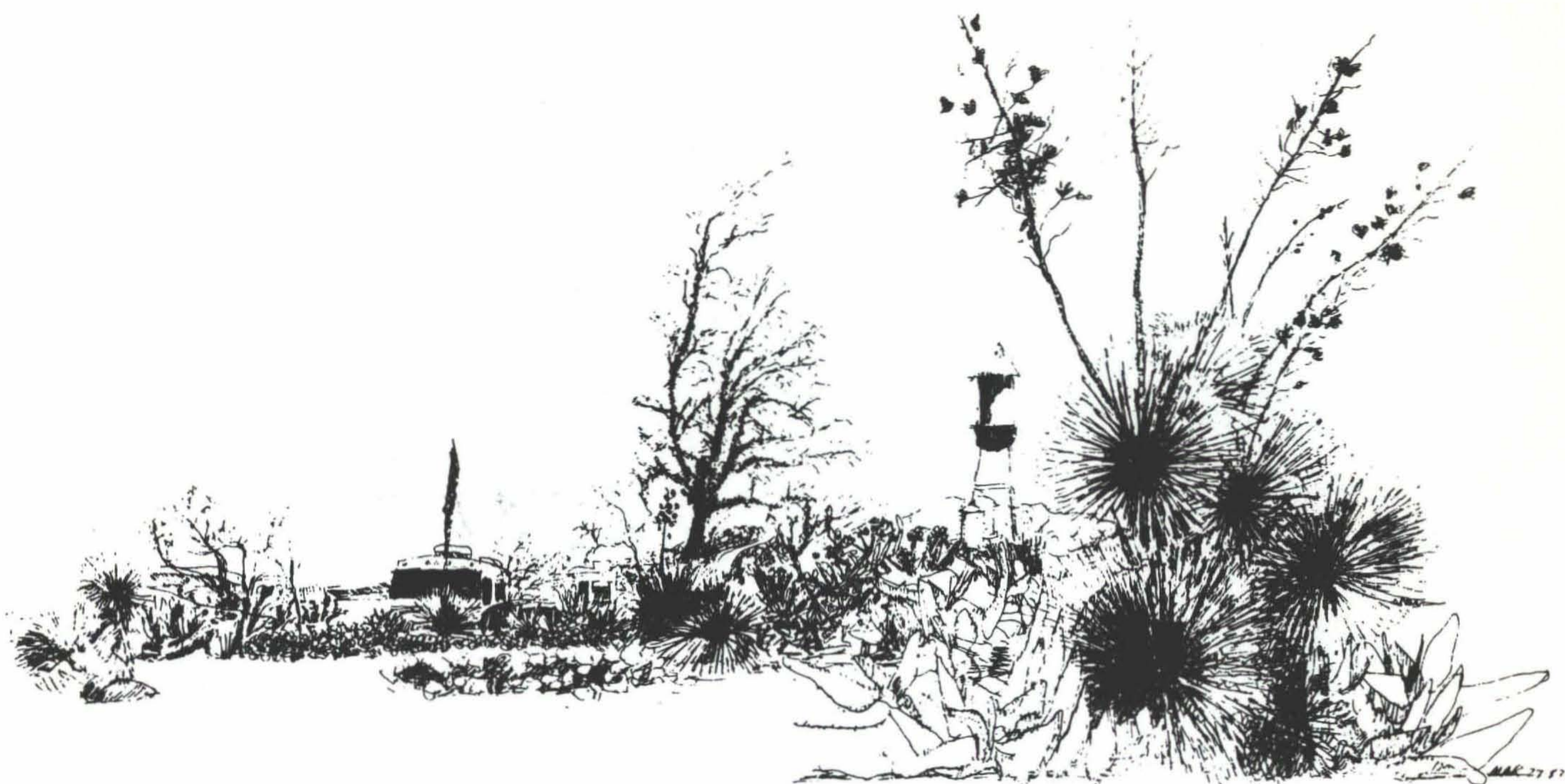


Chaves County Historical Society Announces a New Book:

Treasures of History II - Chaves County Vignettes has been published by the Chaves County Historical Society. The book includes 55 vignettes about people and events of Roswell and Chaves County. Further the book contains many previously unpublished photographs and over 60 "Treasures of History" features from the *Roswell Daily Record*. The book was authored by historians Elvis Fleming and Ernestine Chesser Williams, with additional articles contributed by Lynn Perrigo and Peggy Stokes.

The book is available from the Chaves County Historical Society, 200 North Lea, Roswell, New Mexico 88201. The price is \$9.95 paperback and \$13.95 hardback.

The Albuquerque Chapter/AIA has moved from the Sunshine Building to new officers in Nob Hill. The new address is: 111 Carlisle Boulevard, SE, #5, Albuquerque, NM 87106. Phone (505) 255-2170; FAX (505) 255-2157.



Now, after years of decay, Columbus is perking up. A sure sign is a \$180,000 building going up in the center of town, the largest built since the 1916 Villa raid. The new two-story building will house a bed and breakfast inn. Columbus also has a bank, a grocery store, beauty shop, art gallery, tea room, post office, filling station, clothing store, library, village hall and police and fire departments—and the Columbus Museum which is housed in the old railroad depot.

(Ralph Looney, "Surprise, Pancho! Columbus, N.M. is Alive and Well," *The Albuquerque Tribune*, June 19, 1991. Drawings by John McClure III, Country Western musician and songwriter, who divides his time between Columbus and Mesilla.)

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