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## Dr. Bertha Dutton and Her Dirty Diggers

by Jo Tice Bloom

In the early 1940s, Dr. Bertha Dutton had established herself as an archaeologist and ethnologist in the American Southwest. In that small world she had come to know everyone and every place. She was in her forties and ready to give girls opportunities she had not had growing up in the Midwest. Working with friends and Girl Scouts from Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, she began the Girl Scout Mobile Archaeological Expeditions in 1947. For two weeks teenage Girl Scouts traveled from Santa Fe to Flagstaff and back, learning about ancient and contemporary inhabitants of the Southwest. In later years the Girl Scouts also excavated ancient sites, especially Pueblo Largo in the Galisteo Basin. The girls learned and lived the theme, "Man and Nature in the Southwest."

After arriving from Nebraska in 1928, Bertha Dutton began her exploration of the Southwest under Edgar L. Hewitt at the University of New Mexico. She earned degrees from the University of New Mexico while working at the museum. During graduate work she led field schools in Chaco Canyon as well as Meso-America. Her 1952 doctorate from Columbia University established her as a Meso-Americanist, but her heart was in the American Southwest. Throughout her career she was involved with education, whether at the Museum of New Mexico, or the Museum of Navajo Ceremonial Art. She taught at St. Michael's College. Thus it was logical step to provide an educational opportunity for Girl Scouts.



In dress uniform at Hyde Memorial State Park

Working with the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., the School of American Research and the Museum of New Mexico, Bert put together an opportunity for high school aged Girl Scouts to explore the archaeology, ethnology and culture of northern New Mexico and Arizona. She planned a circle tour, utilizing her knowledge of places and people to provide an extraordinary experience. The amazing part, looking back, is the logistics that were worked out. With 16 girls and 6 staff members, transportation and food were a major concern.

I was a 15 year old high school student

and Senior Girl Scout in 1948 when I met Bert. My mother had learned about the Dirty Diggers from another Girl Scout mother whose daughter had participated in the first expedition in 1947. Thanks to my mother, I have the letters that I wrote that summer along with a scrapbook she insisted I make. The 1948 expedition was typical of the trips Bert led. Thus my letters provide a picture of the expedition as seen through the eyes of one participant. Additional information has been gleaned from El Palacio reports Bert made each year. Since I have more information on the 1948 expedition, details are for that year.

In 1948 transportation was solved by working with Jack Stacy who had been in the touring business since the 1920s when he started as a driver with Fred Harvey Company's Indian Detours. He had vehicles, he knew routes, and he knew the mechanics and repair shops throughout the area to be traveled. One or two flat tires a day was normal and they had to be repaired or replaced daily. The roads used were not the best, although many were paved. However, the heavy loads and poor roads made maintaining the vehicles difficult. Jack had experience in dealing with such circumstances. The vehicles were leased from a Santa Fe tour company. A Chevrolet sedan, a nine passenger Cadillac touring car, and Oldsmobile station wagon provided the wheels for everyone for the approximately 1100 miles covered those two weeks.

Staff was an important part of all groups. In addition to Dr. Dutton and Jack

learned fast from the girls who built and maintained the fires and she turned out delicious, filling meals. Bert, Whip and Pete drove the station wagon and the Chevy, while Jack maneuvered the Caddie.

Camping was routine. Among the



Swimming in Beaver Creek, Oak Creek Canyon.

requirements for participation, the girls had to have camping skills including building fires, cooking over an open fire, digging latrines, and pitching tents. Great laughter ensued at Hyde State Park on the first day when we discovered that the New Jersey girls didn't know how to make a "cat hole" latrine. In New Jersey camps, we learned, you couldn't dig holes! We used a kaper chart throughout the trip, each girl having rotating daily chores. Each pup tent was shared by two girls who were responsible for its care and use. We had indoor facilities at the Slim Pickings Ranch near Lupton, Arizona, and at the Isleta Pueblo school. This also meant showers. Otherwise we, for two weeks, had little bathing, except in Oak Canyon. Thus the name "Dirty Diggers." We camped on private land, as at the Museum of Northern Arizona or in Oak Creek Canyon. Once or twice we camped near the sites we were visiting, even in places where no camping was the rule, as at Coronado State Park. But mostly we camped in public campgrounds, many sparsely used. Bert did a fine job in locating camp sites.

Pearl was in charge of food; we carried staples with us. Perishable groceries were purchased along the way. Breakfast and dinner were cooked. Nosebag lunches were consumed on the fly, generally at noon. Occasionally we had afternoon snacks, or milk shakes and malts when we stopped for mail and groceries. The emphasis was on nutritious, filling food with no real worry about weight gain. We were too busy for the latter. Every girl, according to the kaper chart, helped with meals and cleanup, easing life for Pearl.

All this cost each girl \$70.00 in 1948. For an additional \$1.00 accident and sickness insurance was available. Each family was responsible for transportation to and from Santa Fe. Most girls had \$10-20 dollars for spending money.

On a July Saturday, I joined 14 other girls in Hyde State Park outside Santa Fe, where we camped. My first reaction was: "Gosh! New Mexico is amazing!! The mountains come right up out of the

plains."

On Monday we went into Santa Fe. I wrote: "The cars haven't arrived yet, so I'll review the morning's activities. When we got up half the girls started getting ready. After breakfast we changed to our uniforms, and went down to wait. We

took several pictures. "Later -- Lunch at last!!! This morning when we arrived in Santa Fe, we went to the Museum of New Mexico where Bert met us. She introduced us to Mrs. Marjorie Tichy who took us thro the Hall of Archaeology. She gave us the history of the Pueblo Indians. First there was civilization about 10,000 yrs. ago. Then came the Basketmakers. Basketmakers III started making pottery. After this came the pueblos of Chaco. Then the present day Indians. She showed us a mummy baby from Jemez Springs."

Continuing to quote from my letters: "Then we went to the Hall of Ethnology where Bert lectured us... At eleven thirty Dr. Sylvanus Morley spoke to us for a short while. Then we ate and went to town... Bert told me I was going to be on a 'man-on-the-street' radio program with Luckie, Joan, Whip and Pete. Then we got into Mrs. Luckie's Jeep, Bert's '28 Model A Ford, Whip's coupe and Pete's car and headed for the Laboratory of Anthropology. There we went into the auditorium where we heard Dr. Kenneth Chapman who lectured us on Indian pottery. It was very interesting. The Zuni Pueblo is the only one now making good pottery. At 3:00 we left for the radio program. It was swell, and we had loads of fun. When we got back the rest of the girls were at the National Park Service, Region III headquarters, listening to a lecture by Mr. Natt Dodge on natural parks and monuments... We got back to camp, we repacked our duffels, and I left out quite a bit."

"Tuesday: we're on our way!!! We left Hyde Park at 8:30 am after packing the Olds station wagon (seats 6,) the Chevie (6) and the Cadillac (9). I rode in the Cadillac. Right now we are stopped for the flat the Olds had. "Food!! We're at Coronado State Monument. We went thro the Kuaua ruins. We got to go down in a restored kiva. It was the Painted Kiva. Originally there were 85 layers of plaster, 17 painted. It was cool and stuffy."

And on we went. The two nights we had

at Chaco Canyon, meant we had full day to explore Pueblo Bonito, Chetro Keti and the Basketmaker III site, as well as the small pueblo Bert excavated. Our guide was Gordon Vivian. In Gallup we shopped, bought 2 new tires and some groceries, and headed for the Petrified Forest Museum. We stayed, showered and washed clothes at a nearby ranch."

On Friday I wrote: "What roads they have here in Arizona! This morning we pulled out of the ranch on time. Jack Stacy had taken the tires to Holbrook, so we stopped for 20 minutes. At 11:00 we arrived at the Meteorite Museum. Dr. H. H. Nininger gave us a short talk and a demonstration. Then we headed for Meteor Crater. After lunch we headed for

green pines, the mountain creek running below. It was simply gorgeous. We camped about 5 miles from the highway on Beaver Creek. It was a beautiful spot. We camped under the trees by the creek. Farther down was a swell swimming and washing spot, so we all went down there. The water was wonderful. We had loads of fun. After dinner we pitched our tents again and had a sing. Later we went swimming by camp in five foot water with sandstone ledges on all sides. Finally we crawled into bed. Most everyone couldn't sleep for the mosquitoes, but I slept like a log, literally."

On Monday, the next day, we toured Tuzigoot National Monument, mailed 75 postcards and 20 letters, had malts and



Typical tent for two girls

Flagstaff. About 4:00 o'clock we arrived at Dr. Watson Smith's excavations. We walked around for while; then headed for a campsite. We camped beyond Smith's camp; seven miles from the nearest water which is piped fifteen miles to a stock tank. After dinner we walked over to see the other camp and Mr. Smith showed us around and answered our questions. We turned in about 9:30."

The next day, "we were supposed to get mail today, but we arrive in Camp Verde tomorrow, which means mail early Monday morning. This morning we visited Wupatki National Monument. We saw the Citadel and Wupatki ruins. We also visited a Navajo hogan and summer camp. Then we headed for Sunset Crater. Sunset Crater caused a prehistoric land rush. When it erupted in 1066, it covered over 80,000 acres with cinders. The cinders held moisture, so it made the land farmable. This caused the Indian farmers to come and settle. In one square mile in Wupatki, there are 200 ruins. We reached the crater after lunch. There we saw the Ice Cave which has ice the year 'round. On the way out, Jack took the wrong turn and got to the museum before we did. Bert and Whip went through Schultz Pass which was beautiful, even if it did rain. Then Whip missed Bert's turn and ended up in Flagstaff. Finally we all got together at the Museum of Northern Arizona. Now we are camped across the road. Later tonight we pitched our tents for rain. Sally [my tentmate] and I fixed ours up real swell."

That evening around the campfire we listened to Dr. Harold S. Colton talk about the Indians of the area and the next morning he escorted us on a private tour of the Museum of Northern Arizona. We also had the opportunity to meet some local Indian artists and purchase jewelry from them. Then we turned south from Flagstaff.

"We left Flagstaff after lunch and headed for Oak Creek Canyon. It is beautiful. The red sandstone cliffs, the

milk shakes in Cottonwood, and stopped at Montezuma's Well and Montezuma's Castle National Monuments. Mr. Albert Schroeder, the ranger, guided us around and described the culture. Climbing to the top of the cliff dwellings - all 7 ladders-- gave us a wonderful view over the fields. That night another camp on the creek provided time for swimming.

Leaving Montezuma's Castle, we stopped in Camp Verde for mail and then began the climb up the Mogollon Rim. For automobiles it was difficult day. When the group reached the top of the climb, "we waited for Jack to come back with the station wagon and lunch. After lunch we went into Sitgreaves National Forest. In the early PM, we stopped along the Mogollon Rim and noticed that the Caddie hadn't been with us. Finally it arrived after I helped Jack fix the twisted spring, raising the total delays [today] to: 5 flats, [due to] blowouts, lost tread; 1 muffler broken, 1 twisted spring."

That day we were scheduled to learn about the Forestry Service and lumbering in the national forest. However, 20 fires had broken out the day before, caused by lightning, and the ranger, Mr. Hodgin, was unable to give us as much time as planned. We camped in a campground and spent the evening viewing elk.

Another typical day followed: "When we reached the Tonto Rim, we waited for the Chevie and the Caddie. When they arrived we found out that they had another flat and a broken muffler. Later when we turned to go to the Rynch Ranch, the station wagon had a flat. We got water and went on. Then we hit an electrical storm and downpour. The station wagon began to leak on all of us. Soon we met a new resident who was having trouble, so we helped him up a hill. Later he couldn't get around a log, so we helped him again. Then we had lunch in the rain. Finally we got to the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. About 11 miles from the turnoff we had another flat. They left six girls, the driver and the

station wagon and went onto Kinishba. At 7:30 the Caddie came back to get us."

Fifteen year olds often come up with reports that reveal naiveté and poor logic as follows. Twelve days out, on Thursday, I wrote: "We're exploring Kinishaba runs. Very interesting. We found a tarantula and Jackie caught it to take it back to New Jersey. We slept between two ruins last night. Yesterday I saw 3 deer, 3 burros, 2 rabbits, numerous chipmunks, sheep and several squirrels. This morning I see lots of Apaches. We just passed 3 horses and a colt."

We spent that night at Sheep Springs, 30 miles west from Springerville.

On our last day: "We reached Isleta after having two flats and losing Bert. We ate [lunch] on the Continental Divide and slept at the Isleta Indian School. We had a wonderful meal and showers." The next morning "we went through the Isleta pueblo. All the buildings are one-story and they have one kiva. It was very interesting."

Into Albuquerque and the group began breaking up and departing. Two girls headed for the airport. "The rest of us went out to Roosevelt Park for lunch. We all went wild. I was to meet family friends there, so the rest left after we ate. As they left they sang our song:

Oh we're so happy we took this trip  
In the land where there aren't any chiggers.

We hunt for potsherds all day long  
For we are Dutton's dirty diggers.  
I burst out crying. It was a wonderful trip and I enjoyed every moment of it. The gals were swell."

The next year 1949, the increased number of applications brought about two mobile expeditions, utilizing different routes than in '47 and '48. Girls

The ensuing years brought new routes. New sites were included and often the itinerary included ceremonial dances at a pueblo. From Moriarty, New Mexico to Flagstaff, Arizona, from Datil, New Mexico to Arches National Monument in Utah, the expeditions covered northwestern New Mexico, the Four Corners area and northeastern Arizona. Each trip included a visit to Mesa Verde or Chaco Canyon or Canyon de Chelly. Usually there was visit with contemporary Indians in their homes. Always there was the opportunity to purchase Indian handiwork. One year the final day was spent at the Fiesta in Santa Fe.

While Hyde State Park was a good site for the first few days, in 1948 Bert moved the original encampment to her home, El Rancho Del Cielo just outside of Santa Fe on Zia Road. Here she could store equipment, and the girls could help prepare the equipment for the expedition as well as help put it away for the winter.

1951 brought an innovation - a real excavation for the Girl Scouts. For the next 8 years, the girls worked primarily at Pueblo Largo in the Galisteo Basin. This was on private land and the Sawyer Cattle Company of Dallas gave the permission for the Diggers to excavate the ruins. Over the years, the Diggers excavated, labeled, cleaned, sorted and prepared many artifacts for acquisition by the Laboratory of Anthropology. Their work contributed greater knowledge of prehistoric peoples.

In 1952, an English Girl Guide joined the group as a staff member, funded by the Juliette Gordon Low World Friendship Fund of the Girl Scouts of the USA. Later she married a New Mexican



Packing up one morning in Chaco Canyon

were returning and wanted different experiences. 1949 saw 8 girls returning. This was the year that "The Diggerpoof Song" was written:

*From the pup tents down at Dutton's, to the place where Pueblos dwell,*

*To the dear old mountain rocks we love so well - Where the Diggers all assemble, with their tea-cups raised on high*

*And the magic of our singing casts a spell.*

*Yes, the magic of our singing, of the songs we love so well*

*"Tell me why," "We are the Diggers" and the rest,*

*We will serenade our Bert, while life and love they last,*

*Then we'll pass and be forgotten with the rest.*

chorus

*We are poor little Diggers who have lost our potsherds*

*Boo-hoo-hoo!*

*We are poor little Scouts who've been led astray*

*Following Bert,*

*Girl Scout songsters out on a spree*

*Digging to the end of eternity.*

*Lord have mercy on such as we*

*Following Bert.*

and moved to Santa Fe.

Over the years scholarships were provided to individual Diggers by the Kiwanis and the American Association of University Women as well as by private donors.

After 11 years of leading Girl Scouts, Bert was ready for rest. About 250 girls had experienced her leadership, her inspiration, her friendship. About 40 went on to earn doctorates, primarily in archaeology and history. She became a mentor to many of us and a friend to all of us. In 1983, when she turned 80 years old, a number of us showed up in Santa Fe to celebrate her life. She had been honored by the Girl Scouts of the USA with a Thanks Badge; by New Mexico Magazine as a Living Treasure; by the Archaeological Society of New Mexico with a honorary life membership; by the Marmon family of Laguna Pueblo by adoption into the family; and by New Mexico State University with an honorary doctorate in 1973. She was revered as an outstanding archaeologist, ethnologist and museum curator. Her trips opened the eyes of teenage girls and perhaps her greatest honor was as a role model for them.

Many of Bertha Dutton's papers are at



Eating lunch and fixing a flat

the Laboratory of Anthropology in Santa Fe. Last fall a local Girl Scout mounted an exhibition there on the archaeology of the Galisteo Basin, featuring Dutton's Dirty Diggers.

When I think back about those magical two weeks, the most vivid memory is of a moonlit night in Chaco Canyon. We had explored Pueblo Bonito, Chetro Kettle and other sites with Bert and the ranger. Pearl had cooked a tasty, filling dinner, as

always. We had sung around the campfire and slipped into our sleeping bags under the moonlight and stars. Then we heard the pounding of horses' hooves come closer and closer. Suddenly silhouetted against the clear night sky, were Navajo riders, cantering along to the trading post whose lights shone nearby. Magical! Mystical! Memorable! Thank you, Bert.

#### Notes

1. Barbara A. Babcock & Nancy J. Parezo, *Daughters of the Desert: Women Anthropologists and the Native American Southwest, 1880-1980* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1988), p. 135.

2. Bertha Dutton's reports are found in *El Palacio*, v. 54, pp. 191-194 (1947); v. 55, pp. 252-256, (1948); v. 56, pp. 278-285 (1949); v. 57, pp. 366-371 (1950); v. 58, pp. 354-370 (1951); v. 59, pp. 342-352 (1952). Additional information from Catherine S. Fowler, "Bertha P. Dutton and the Girl Scouts in the Southwest," an unpublished paper, 2007.

3. Bertha P. Dutton, "The Diggers Complete their Fifth Season of Senior Girl Scout Archaeological Mobile Camps," *El Palacio*, November, 1951, volume 58, pp. 358-359. ~JTB

Jo Tice Bloom retired after teaching American history for forty years in colleges and universities around the country. She now teaches New Mexico history at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces. She and her husband John Porter Bloom make their home in Las Cruces, New Mexico. (Photographs for this article courtesy of Jo Tice Bloom.)



## 2007 New Mexico Most Endangered Places

Many historic properties and landscapes across the state of New Mexico are threatened by demolition, neglect, lack of maintenance, inappropriate development, insufficient funds, or by other forces. "Collectively, these historic assets contribute to the quality of life we enjoy and shape the daily experiences of living in small towns, cities, and rural high desert across the state. It is an understatement to say that our historic resources help to paint a distinct New Mexico portrait, and it is certainly no understatement to conclude that their loss would leave large gaps in that canvas," according to New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance executive director Gary Wolff.

The New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance, since 1999, has maintained a statewide Most Endangered Places list. Bringing attention to threatened buildings, sites, and places has raised awareness in communities statewide and assisted in protecting the state's heritage. Places named to this year's list include five historic buildings, three historic communities, two historic routes merging diverse cultures, and two natural and cultural waterways.

#### Community Historic Structures



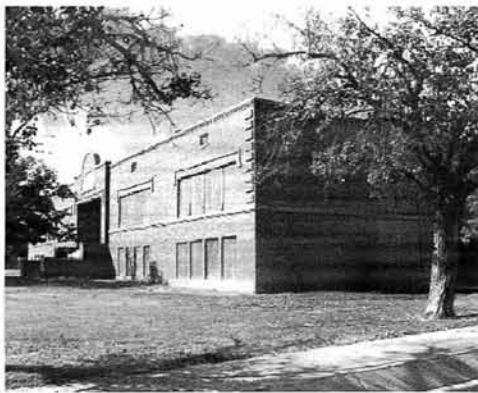
#### 1. Sierra County Courthouse and Jail Site, Hillsboro, Sierra County

This historic area includes brick ruins of Sierra County Courthouse and the rock masonry remains of the jail. The original courthouse and jail served Sierra County from 1894 to 1930, when the county seat was transferred to Hot Springs, current day Truth or Consequences. The most famous event relating to New Mexico History was the 1899 murder trial of cattleman Oliver Lee (1865-1941), who was accused of murdering prominent lawyer Albert Fountain and his eight-year old son, Henry.

#### Threat

Shortly after the county seat was moved from Hillsboro, the courthouse was razed and material salvaged. At present only a scenic brick arch remains. The jail remains largely intact, but needs protection and preservation. The owner favors protection of the site and is willing to sell it to an appropriate entity—community, non-profit, or governmental—to assure its preservation. The citizens of Hillsboro have been given the first opportunity to

purchase the site in anticipation that the owner will have to place it on the general market in the future. A definite opportunity exists to get the site into some kind of protected status.



#### 2. Old Lordsburg High School Building, Lordsburg, Hidalgo County

This impressive two-story red brick building with chimney, designed by architect Henry J. Trost, was built in the 1920s. It is one of a very few historically significant buildings still standing in Lordsburg. Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor attended classes in the building that holds sentimental value for thousands of current and former Lordsburg and Hidalgo County residents who received their education there. A restored building could provide the community with a building to be used for offices, cultural and entertainment center, museum, or meeting rooms.

#### Threat

The High School suffers interior damage as a result of a leaking roof for many years. An additional threat to the building is the potential for demolition by those who oppose renovation and preservation. Further deterioration will undoubtedly lead to the eventual demolition of the building. Concerned citizens are encouraged to explore 'reuse' of the historic site and ways to make saving the brick schoolhouse economically feasible.



#### 3. Amador Hotel, Las Cruces, Doña Ana County

This Spanish Pueblo Revival style two story stuccoed adobe structure has 28 inch thick adobe walls on the ground

floor and 17 inch thick adobe walls on the second level. It was built in the 1860s and began as a rooming house that evolved into a luxury hotel. The building also served as the County Courthouse on two separate occasions, the City's post office, a jail and the Citizen's Bank of Las Cruces until 1985 when the County bought the building and used it as the Doña Ana County Manager's Complex. Since July 2006, the hotel, listed on the new Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties, has remained vacant. The Amador Hotel building is described as one of the most important historic buildings in Doña Ana County and it was well known throughout the southwest for its hospitality as a hotel through the late 1960s. It is rumored among locals that Benito Juarez, president of Mexico from 1857-72, stayed in room 24. Citizens have recognized that it is one of the most significant historic places in the City of Las Cruces.

#### Threat

A significant threat to the structure is the need for funds to restore the structure to a public use. Present opportunities to eliminate the threat rest with the Doña Ana County Historical Society under the guidance of Board member C. W. Ritter who has formed the Amador Foundation. Its mandate is to raise funds to restore and renovate the building and to work with government officials and the public on determining an appropriate public use for the building.



#### 4. Ulibarri General Store in Tierra Amarilla, Rio Arriba County aka Rosina T. Archuleta store

The structure, built in 1880, is part of the Tierra Amarilla Historic District. It is known to the locals as the old Ulibarri Store (mercantile), and in earlier days was a brothel, a restaurant and a hotel. It is located directly across from the Rio Arriba County Courthouse on the main street. The building is listed on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties. Today the store and adjacent house is under ownership by the grandsons who were reared by the original occupying family. The 12 inch thick adobe walls and upstairs' rooms remain as designed over a century ago.

as does the foundation, then constructed of rocks four feet and larger.

#### Threat

Damage to the adobe buildings has resulted from the piling of plowed winter snow 10 feet high on the north side and causing the snow melt to run into the structure and adjacent city buildings. Likewise, snow removal to the ditch running south between the store and house has caused walls to buckle. Demolition of the historic buildings has been suggested by officials. The need for adobe restoration and the implementation of historic preservation guidelines is essential.



#### 5. Kit Carson House National Historic Landmark, Taos, Taos County

The home/museum is located just off the Taos Downtown Historic Plaza. Owned by Kit Carson Home and Museum, Inc., the site is listed on the National Register, State Register, and the Town Register of Historic Sites. Since 1904, the museum has been a mainstay in Taos as thousands of visitors have passed through its doors. Kit Carson and his family lived in the house for 25 years.

#### Threat

Located on the property is the Romero House, constructed in 1845. This building is experiencing a deteriorated roof which has resulted in the closure of the building. Of critical importance is the need to generate the necessary funds to restore the failing roof system.

#### Historic Communities



#### 6. "Old Hachita" Ghost Town & Mining Area, Grant County

The Old Hachita ghost town and historic mining area is located approximately two miles south and seven miles west of Hachita, with an elevation of 4800 feet. Old Hachita is distinguished by an abandoned

settlement within the Eureka Mining District that includes the ruins of three saloons, two general stores and several residential buildings along with a steam smelting works, head frames and mine shafts. It is located on private, BLM, and state land. The "Old Hatchet Mine" is listed on the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties. The history and heritage of the nearby community of Hachita is inextricably linked to that of Old Hachita, and has a rich history itself as detailed in the book *Adios Hachita - Stories of a New Mexico Town* by George Hilliard (High Lonesome Books, 1998).

New Mexico has a rich mining heritage and Old Hachita has a multi-layered story to tell: including the pre-historic mining of turquoise by Native Americans; the 1882 establishment of a post office under the name of Hachita from the Spanish word for hatchet; the economic spurt to the mines from the construction of the nearby El Paso and Southwestern railroad in 1902 that spelled doom for the residential community as the "New" Hachita came into existence around a watering stop for the train seven miles east of now "Old Hachita"; and the demise of mining activity in the 1920's, with the gradual abandonment of the mine. The site is the most significant heritage feature on the southern portion of the Continental Divide and is easily accessible from State Highway 9.

#### Threats

Threats include neglect, vandalism, and weathering. The main opportunity for the elimination of the threats may lie with the Bureau of Land Management, in cooperation with the main private property owner, as they developed a similar project for the ghost town and mining area of Lake Valley where they maintain resident volunteers to oversee the site. The greater relative isolation of Old Hachita, the lack of resources available to the BLM and the fact that the main property owner lives in England may preclude something similar to the Lake Valley development in the near future. Private development of the area, as is the case with Shakespeare and Steins, could also reduce the threats. Potential opportunities also exist under the New Mexico Site Stewards program for site monitoring.



#### 7. The Village of Columbus and Historic Aerodrome, Luna County

The Village of Columbus achieved its moment of fame early in the morning of March 9, 1916, when approximately 485 Mexican revolutionaries led by General Francisco "Pancho" Villa crossed into the United States. Before the town was fully awakened by his attack, ten civilians and eight soldiers had been killed. President Woodrow Wilson ordered General John J. Pershing to lead a punitive expedition into Mexico to capture Villa and to prevent further raids. Many buildings and sites survive to convey the story of this incident. During the activity led by Pershing, the first 'Aero Squadron Landing Field' became the site of the first operational use of airpower by the US Military. Experience gained here proved invaluable to US Expeditionary Force in France. Properly titled the "Birthplace of Military Aviation," the site is important to the history of the Army and the present-day Air Force. The Village of Columbus, including Pancho Villa State Park, is a National Historic Landmark and is listed on both the

National Register of Historic Places and the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties.

#### Threat

The surviving historic buildings are vulnerable to deterioration and loss. The Village of Columbus is encouraged to seek adequate financial resources to properly preserve this nationally significant place and to prevent improper development.



#### 8. Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark

Adjacent to the Village of Santa Clara and between Silver City and the town of Bayard, the State of NM owns and manages the expansive property. Fort Bayard is on the National Scenic Byways Trail of Mountain Spirits.

Fort Bayard encompasses southwestern history of many eras into one setting. The Mimbres culture and Apaches made their homes on the site. Tents provided shelter until adobe officer's quarters were built in the 1870s. The majority of remaining buildings were constructed between 1890 and 1930. Fort Bayard was established to protect the miners and ranchers from Apache raiding parties. With the arrival of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, a depot was built in nearby Bayard in 1891. During the early 1900s, the fort was converted from a military post to an army medical center to fight tuberculosis. After 1965, the state became owners of the site. Maintenance of the residences, offices and grounds has been inconsistent. Adjacent to the fort is a National Cemetery. The current Veteran's Hospital will be moving into a new facility within two years, leaving the fort vacant.

#### Threat

Without security, inhabitants, and maintenance, the fort faces an unknown future. The majority of water and sewer pipes are over 95 years old. Funding and thoughtful, comprehensive 'reuse' planning by local leaders and organizations is critical to restore and preserve the multi-cultural heritage of the fort.

#### Historic Waterways



#### 9. Santa Fe River, Santa Fe County

This river starts in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at an elevation of 12,000' and flows through a narrow valley until exiting the mountains in a wider alluvial valley just east of the city. From there, the river flows in a Westerly direction with a gentle slope and a broad, shallow valley within which the river has recently (past few decades) cut a channel of some 5 to 25 feet. West of Santa Fe, the river enters the Santa Fe Canyon upstream of La Bajada. From La Bajada to the Rio Grande, the river channel slopes gradually down to the Rio Grande. The Santa Fe River is the reason that the city of Santa Fe was established. The river has supported the agricultural base through more than 30 acequias, which once operated and irrigated at least 1000 acres of crop land.

#### Threat

For the past 20 years, the river has been dry for most of the year. The river is completely impounded by twin reservoirs upstream of the city, which retain the drinking water supply for the city and nearby portions of Santa Fe County. Water is released only for purposes of reservoir management (maintaining some spare capacity as insurance against sudden precipitation).

There is an unprecedented opportunity to revive the river through mobilizing public opinion and the will of the City and County governments. Water to support an environmental flow in the river is available in the storage reservoirs, but the political will to release the water has been lacking. Simultaneous to this designation, American Rivers designated the Santa Fe River on its 'at-risk' list.



#### 10. Historic Ditches and Canals of Bernalillo County

This 300-mile ditch and drain network is located in the North and South Valleys of Bernalillo County within the administrative boundaries of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. Many of the irrigation ditches in the valley date from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The drains date from the 1930s. Distinguishing characteristics of the irrigation ditches include narrow right-of-ways, with banks typically wide enough to accommodate only a single-file walker or single maintenance vehicle. They are typically dirt-packed, with large cottonwood trees, willows, and other vegetation growing in abundance in many places. Where ditches are vegetated, a wide variety of birds and other wildlife can often be seen. Adjacent land uses are largely residential and agricultural. The system is inextricably linked with the cultural and economic history of the region. The history of constructed waterways in the middle Rio Grande Valley goes back hundreds of years. Ditches were first developed to irrigate farms and orchards by Puebloan people and, later, by Spanish colonists and other peoples of European descent. In 1923, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) was formed to consolidate, manage and maintain the irrigation system and develop a supportive network of flood control levees and drainage canals.

#### Threat

Like most metropolitan areas in the western United States, Albuquerque has experienced tremendous growth and development over the past 60 years. The development has increasingly stressed and threatened the ditches and the adjacent semi-rural landscapes and activities they support. In the last two decades especially, many hundreds of farmland acres have been developed for roadways and suburban land uses. Portions of the waterway network have been abandoned and sold to adjacent landowners. Old and distinctive cottonwoods, and other trees along ditch banks, are increasingly viewed and treated by landowners as hazards or impediments, rather than assets. And, concerns over water use and water rights have put the future of the ditch system and irrigated agriculture into question. The North Valley Coalition recognizes that it is critically important to take action to preserve the historic look, feel, and function of the ditch and drain system before it is lost.

For this reason, project "Ditches-with-Trails" was initiated. Participants in this project are studying how a formalized trails system could be established along at least a portion of the ditch and drain network, with trail management and maintenance programs also put into place.

#### Historic Routes



#### 11. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail

Approximately 400 miles of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail (hereinafter referred to as 'the Trail') is located within the State of New Mexico. This trail corridor runs through the counties of Doña Ana, Sierra, Socorro, Valencia, Bernalillo, and Santa Fe in New Mexico and El Paso County in Texas. The Trail corridor within New Mexico traverses federal, state, tribal, county, municipal and private lands. The entire El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro corridor extends 1,600 miles from Mexico City to El Paso, Texas, then north into New Mexico through Las Cruces, Socorro, Belen, Albuquerque and Santa Fe to Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo). As the "Royal Road of the Interior" the Trail was the earliest Euro-American trade route in the United States, linking Spain's colonial capital in Mexico City to its northern frontier in what is now the State of New Mexico. From 1598, when the first Spanish colonizers made their way up the Rio Grande, until the early 1880s, this wagon road connected the ancient cultures of Mexico with the equally ancient cultures of the interior lands of the West. The distinguishing characteristics of the Trail within New Mexico are based on its historic use and the role it played in immigration, trade and commerce, settlement patterns, war and the transmission of cultures. The rut marks, bare swaths and vegetation changes that delineate the length of the Trail are documented through photographs and maps. The section of the Trail in the Jornada del Muerto, which is under potential threat by the proposed Spaceport America and is the focus of this nomination, is owned by the State of New Mexico. While standing on this section of the Trail, looking at the unchanged historic landscape, one is able to re-live a part of what it was like for a Spanish colonist surviving in this harsh yet beautiful setting, to feel its silence, to smell the clear air, to view the long, flat expanse with traces of the original wagon road made by the caravans still visible. Today's Trail visitors continue to be inspired by the pure beauty and unique ecosystems offered by this historic resource as yet untouched by modern-day encroachment. For New Mexico, what remains of this unique corridor provides a tangible link to more than 300 years of travel from 1598 during the Spanish colonial period until the 1880s when the coming of the railroad eclipsed commercial use of the wagon road. Its historic use fostered the spread of Catholicism, mining and an extensive network of commerce; it spread ethnic and cultural traditions, including music, folklore, architecture, language, irrigation systems and Spanish law. El Camino Real is considered by many to be the single largest and most important Spanish Colonial artifact in both New Mexico and the United States and to be one of the most valuable single markers of the Hispanic experience in the Southwest.

## Threat

The State of New Mexico is currently working with private interests to develop a commercial spaceport. It is proposed to be located on a 27 square mile site 45 miles northeast of Las Cruces on state lands in the Jornada del Muerto. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro runs through the proposed project area. Historic resources in the vicinity of the proposed spaceport facilities include some of the best-preserved sections of the Trail still extant in the United States. The proposed improvements to the local infrastructure and the spaceport traffic will damage the physical trail imprint and impose visual and auditory blights on the landscape. The immediate goal is to avoid adverse effects to the Trail in the Jornada del Muerto. While this is just a section of the Trail, it is right now a most important section of the Trail both because of its pristine state and its status as an endangered historic resource. The

outcome of the collaborative efforts is to accommodate both the spaceport and El Camino Real without negative impact to a most important historic and cultural resource.



## 12. Statewide Route 66 Motels

Historic mom-and-pop motels are one of the prime roadside attractions of the Route 66 (1926-1985) experience and contribute to the cultural, historic and economic fabric of the communities that host them. Several endangered motels, including the Horn Oil Lodge and El Vado Motor Court in

Albuquerque, are listed on the State and National Registers.

## Threat

In 1950, Albuquerque's Central Avenue boasted over 100 motels — today that number is closer to 25. Pressure from accelerating property values, soaring insurance rates and a push for higher density development, is encouraging mom-and-pop motel owners to sell. Add to that aggressive city nuisance programs that target "problem" motels with stiff fines and demolition, and the prospects of operating a vintage Route 66 motel dims quickly. This summer, despite a loud outcry from preservationists, Route 66 associations and neighborhood associations, the City of Albuquerque approved the demolition of the National Register-listed Horn Oil Lodge motel — a rare gas-food-and-lodging business — to make way for luxury condominiums. This problem is not unique to Albuquerque and is

impacting Route 66 motels across New Mexico. Gallup's National Register-listed Log Cabin Motel sat for years vacant, as its owner rejected offers to sell the property. After a suspicious fire burned a small portion of the motel in 2004, the City of Gallup — in spite of efforts from the Route 66 community to find a new use for the building — forced the owner to demolish the motel. In more rural areas that have had their businesses by-passed by the interstate decades ago, the number of solvent motels is dwindling through attrition and the lack of maintenance and building improvement funds.

A list of Endangered Sites in the state is compiled annually by the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance. [www.nmheritage.org](http://www.nmheritage.org)

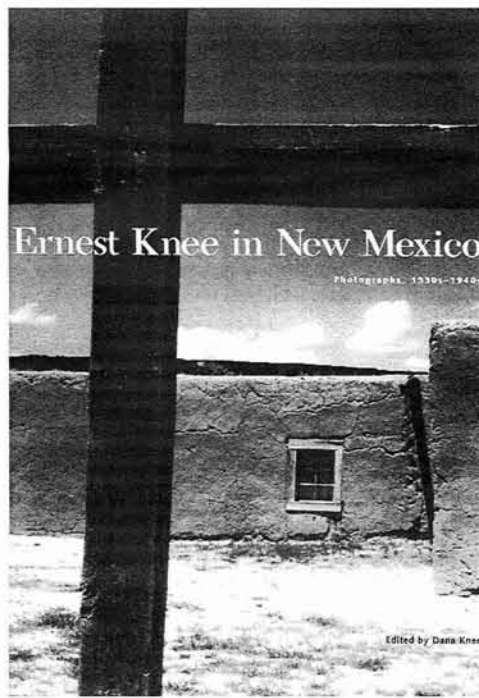
## Books

### Ernest Knee in New Mexico: Photographs, 1930s-1940s.

Compiled and edited by Dana Knee. Foreword by Robert A. Ewing, with an essay by Catherine Williamson. Museum of New Mexico Press, Santa Fe, New Mexico: 2005. 114 pages, hardback, \$39.95. Reviewed by Lynn Adkins

In the foreword we learn that Canadian born Ernest Knee, like many other talented people who found their way to the Southwest while seeking a cure for health problems, fell in love with the area and stayed on after their recovery to make a life here. Knee first came to Santa Fe in 1931 with Gina Shnauffer, whom he'd met while recuperating in Arizona from his most recent bout of ill health. Gina, who subsequently became his first wife, was a talented painter who wanted to continue her studies in Santa Fe to be closer to painters she admired, such as John Marin, who had been residing there. Knee, who had begun taking pictures as a teenager with an Eastman folding camera, was captivated by the northern New Mexico scenery, as well as the variety of cultures and artistic communities that inhabited the area. By the time he reached New Mexico he was using a large format camera. He made a living as a documentary photographer, and also became friends with many artists, such as painter Willard Nash, and leading artistic photographers of the day, Paul Strand, Ansel Adams, and Edward Weston. He and Weston became particularly close friends, with Weston staying at the Knee home and using its darkroom. One can sense some of the same romantic influences at work in many of Knee's photographs that so inspired Strand, Adams, and Weston.

When World War II erupted Knee wanted to find a way to put his photography skills to work in the service of the war effort. He headed for California where he ultimately developed and headed the photography department for Hughes Aircraft Company. During this time Ernest and Gina divorced. In 1944 he married Elizabeth (Bess) Rosser, a young woman who had been an employee in one of the Hughes aircraft factories. In 1947, they and their two young sons, Rosser and Eric, packed up and moved back to the place Knee considered home, Santa Fe. He continued with photography for a few



Front cover of Ernest Knee in New Mexico

more years, but the field was no longer lucrative enough to support his growing family. A third son, Dana, was born after the return to Santa Fe. At that time Knee had an opportunity to use another skill which he had learned while previously living in Santa Fe, woodworking, to develop a business making wooden doors. His thriving business, Spanish Pueblo Doors, continued for about twenty years.

After Ernest Knee died in 1982 at the age of 75, Dana began making prints from his father's large gelatin-nitrate negatives, many of which had not previously been printed. Despite the title of the book, not all of the images depicted in the eighty-one black and white plates were taken in New Mexico. The photographs, taken between 1934 and 1947, range from the Southwest and Rocky Mountain regions of New Mexico and Colorado to Utah, Arizona and California. Others were taken in Mexico. While each image bears a brief title and date, a list of the plates is also included in the back of the book. The 26 page essay by Catherine Williamson and the accompanying photographs show how Ernest Knee and his photography fit into the context of New Mexico's art communities from the mid-1930s to mid-1940s. The book is a worthwhile addition to the library of anyone interested in that period of New Mexico photography.

~LA

## ~ In Memoriam ~

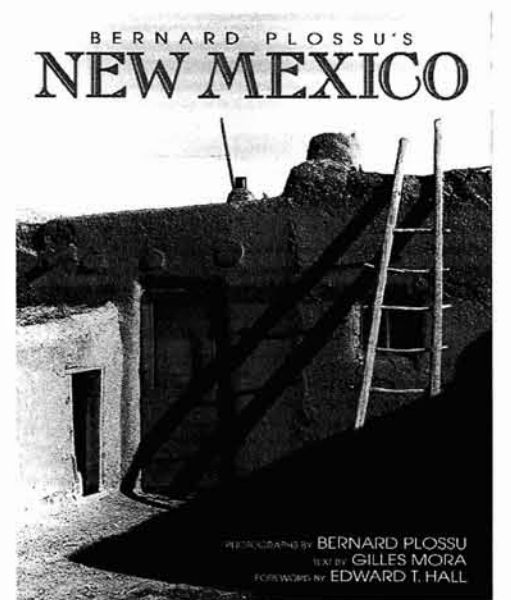
**Emilia "Millie" Urrea Santillanes**, age 74, passed away August 11, 2007 in Albuquerque. At the time of her death, Santillanes was serving her second term as City Clerk. Past public service included her position as Director of Cultural Affairs. A lifelong resident of Old Town Albuquerque, Millie, at one time, worked as a waitress at the Hacienda Restaurant on the Plaza. For more than 25 years she had two shops in Old Town; Candles Unlimited and Potpourri. As a community leader, Millie was instrumental in the formation of Tiguex Park, planning and implementation of the annual Founder's Day celebration and was a major force in the recent tricentennial festivities for Albuquerque. She was a model for one of the "La Jornada" figures sculpted by Betty Sabo depicting the Spanish colonization of New Mexico (see La Cronica de Nuevo Mexico, April 2006, No. 67).

### Bernard Plossu's New Mexico.

Text by Gilles Mora, with foreword by Edward T. Hall. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 2006. 144 pages, paper, \$29.95. Reviewed by Lynn Adkins

Bernard Plossu's New Mexico is an expanded version of an earlier book of Plossu's, entitled *New Mexico Revisited*, published by the University of New Mexico Press in 1983. The new version, in paper rather than hardback, includes twice as many photographs (151) as the original publication's 75. While the brief text and foreword remain the same, the comments by the photographer have been updated, and a one page commentary by Max Evans has been added. As in the earlier version, none of the individual photographs are captioned. One must flip back and forth between the photos and the "photo listings" in the back of the book for information on date and brief subject location.

French native Bernard Plossu has an affinity for deserts. The photographer, born in 1945, has had a long time fascination with the arid places of the world. Between 1967 and 1985 that interest drew him to northern New Mexico. Plossu had visited the southwestern United States in 1966, 1967 and 1970, before deciding to settle in Taos, in 1978, for several years with his American born wife. Despite his love of desert places, according to Gilles Mora, author of the text, Plossu felt somewhat isolated and depressed, suffering from local allergies and the long winter when he first came to Taos. Perhaps that explains the sense of distance and quiet isolation that imbues so many of the small moments captured by his 50 mm camera lens. One of his better known



Front cover of Bernard Plossu's New Mexico

and more engaging and accessible images is of a young woman with her foot on the running board, leaning into the cab window of an older pick up truck, obviously involved in conversation with an unseen person. Simply titled "Taos, 1978", looking at the image today the scene produces a sense of nostalgia for an earlier and seemingly more innocent era. On the other hand, the photograph on page 17, entitled in the photo listings as "Santa Fe, 1981", makes the viewer pause to wonder what is going on in the picture. There is a fire. Is it an explosion, the start of a forest fire, or perhaps merely the annual ritual of burning Zozobra, Old Man Gloom? The viewer is left to wonder and decide for him/herself.

This enlarged version of Plossu's photographic work in New Mexico is a pleasant, nostalgic and rewarding journey in black and white back into 1970s and 80s northern New Mexico.

~LA

## ~ In Memoriam continued ~

**John T. Watson**, age 99, a longtime resident of Santa Fe died on Friday, September 7, 2007. A second-generation state Supreme Court justice, Watson was the son of a charter member of the Historical Society of New Mexico, and, like his father, he was a member of the Society. During the period his father served on the state Supreme Court, the younger Watson earned a law degree from Colorado University of Law School in 1934. Republican governor David Cargo appointed him to New Mexico's top court in May 1969, a position he held for about two years. Watson and his friend, architect John Gaw Meem, were active members of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. A memorial service is planned for October 20 at the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art in Santa Fe.

**Pamela Burgy Minzer** died Friday, August 31, 2007, at the age of 63 after a courageous battle with cancer. Minzer will be remembered as the first female Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court. A former professor at the University of New Mexico Law School, she was known for her intellect and fidelity to the law and was greatly admired by her students and colleagues. A memorial service was held on September 8 at UNM Popejoy Hall.



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## 2007 Santa Fe Trail Endurance Horse Race



Darinda Crisp picked up the mail bag west of town and delivered it to the post office in Clayton



Map of the Great Santa Fe Trail Horse Race from "The Santa Fe New Mexican"

On Labor Day, September 3, 2007, sixty riders left Santa Fe to undertake a thirteen day horse race. The riders hoped to complete fifty miles per day with water troughs placed every 5 miles and lunch stops at such interesting sites as the Imus Ranch at Ribera and Gladstone. Overnight camps were located at Las Vegas, Springer and Clayton for the New Mexican portion of the race.

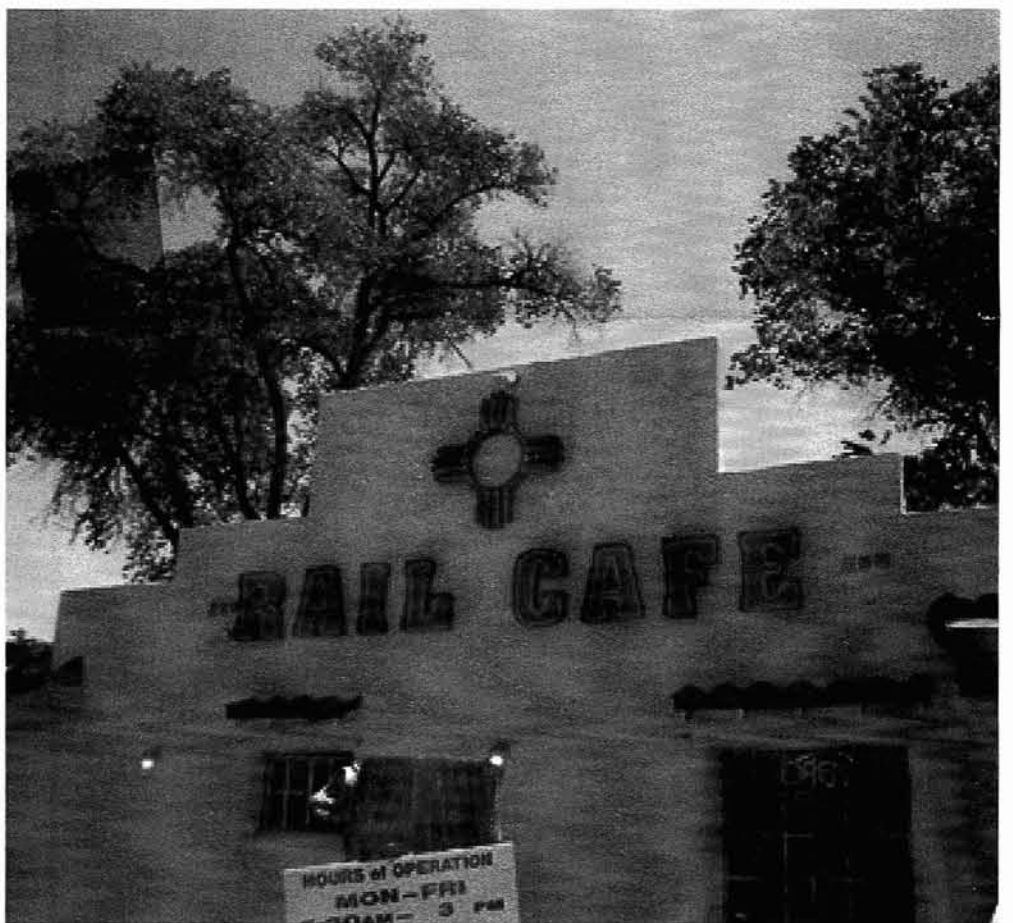
Team Liberty, the only team with all members from New Mexico, included Shawn Davis, Dawson Higgins and Anna Wolfe as the riders. Van Robertson took on the role of chuckwagon cook for the team. The team's name was selected to

honor the now abandoned town of Liberty, New Mexico in Quay County.

The sixty riders rode a total of about 160 horses of various breeds, which included Arabians, Spanish mustangs, quarter horses, walkers and some mules. Although there were daily winners during the race, Scott Griffin of Seattle was the overall winner of the event. Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius presented a belt buckle to him at the closing ceremony on Saturday, September 15, 2007, in Gardner, Kansas. (Photographs by Terry Martin and information from D. Ray Blakeley, courtesy of Union County Leader, Clayton, New Mexico.) ~CCL



Team Liberty, Santa Fe Trail Endurance Horse Race, Clayton, New Mexico, Wednesday, September 5, 2007. The riders are (l to r) Anna Wolfe, Dawson Higgins, Lieutenant Governor Diane D. Denish and Shawn Davis.



The Rail Cafe in Belen was the site of the Historical Society of New Mexico retreat held on June 30, 2007

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of New Mexico web site!

**www.hsnm.org**