The Valencia County Historical Society is pleased to host the Historical Society of New Mexico's annual meeting and conference for 2000. The meeting and conference will take place from Thursday, April 13 to Saturday, April 15, at various locations in Valencia County. The annual meeting on Thursday will be held at the Luna Municipal Building. A reception will follow nearby at the Historic Luna Mission. All day Friday and Saturday morning, conference sessions will be held at the University of New Mexico branch campus in Truth. The papers look especially interesting this year, with several appropriately focused on the Rio Abajo Book dealers will display their books, as in previous HSNM conferences.

On Friday evening, our annual auction will be held at the Tierra del Sol Country Club in Rio Communities east of Belen. The Valencia County Historical Society will host a BBQ with special entertainment at the country club that same evening.

Four special tours are scheduled for Saturday afternoon. One tour will explore the Spanish mission ruins at Quarai. Another tour will travel down Route 66's old route through Valencia County, with stops at a preserved Farm Security Administration home in Bosque Farms and at the Luna Mansion for a thorough tour of Solomon Luna's former home. A third tour will explore Tome Hill and Tome's 16th century church along the Camino Real. Finally, historic buildings in Belen will be shown, including the Belen Harvey House, the old Belen Hotel (remodeled by world-famous artist Judy Chicago), and the Felipe Chavez hacienda.

As usual, our annual awards banquet will occur on Saturday evening. As on Friday evening, the banquet will be held at the Tierra del Sol Country Club in Rio Communities east of Belen. Conference programs with detailed maps and information about local accommodations have been mailed out. With a diverse program set in the historically rich Rio Abajo, we hope to make this year's conference a most rewarding, memorable experience for all.

Applicants for the AASLH Alderson Internship Sought

The American Association for State and Local History invites applications for the 2000 Alderson Internship. Every year the Alderson Intern assists the program division of the AASLH office in Nashville, Tennessee. Internship duties will include: updating the AASLH Guide to Resources for History Professionals; assisting with the Annual AASLH Awards Program; and assisting with the implementation of the new AASLH Workshop Series and development of participant curriculum materials.

Alderson Interns work for eight weeks during the summer, with a one-week start and end dates to be negotiated for a stipend of $8000. The successful candidate will have: a working knowledge of Microsoft Word software; a working knowledge of the Internet and e-mail technologies; strong written and oral communication skills; and a working knowledge of the public history field, especially professional issues.

To apply, please send resume, cover letter, and three letters of reference to: Lauren E. Batte, director of programs, AASLH, 1717 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203-2001. For more information, contact Lauren Batte in the AASLH office by e-mail (preferred): batte@aaslh.org; or by phone: (615) 240-3021. Application deadline is April 28, 2000.

Five Organizations Receive HSNM Grants

The member organizations of HSNM are further on their way to special projects, thanks to grants from the Society. The projects vary in scope and subject.

(1) The Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces received $450 toward a study and exhibit featuring the DCRS who worked in agriculture in southern New Mexico during WWII. Robert L. Hart is Curator of Interpretations for the Museum.

(2) The Historic Santa Fe Foundation is planning an exhibit of the life and work of local artist Dorothy Newbrink Stewart, and was granted $450 toward framing, printing, and supplies. Lois Suppender is Executive Director of the Foundation.

(3) Shakespeare Ghost Town, Janaloo Hill House, Secretary-Treasurer, received $256 for promotional brochures for visits to Shakespeare.

(4) The Gallup Historical Society.

Grants Awarded To Two “Save America’s Treasures”

Two projects in the Southwest Region received Save America’s Treasures Preservation Planning Fund grants. They include the Pueblo of Acoma, NM for the creation of working documents for the restoration of San Esteban del Rey Church and Convento ($55,000) and Historic Old Town in West Las Vegas, NM for a preservation plan for historic Old Town ($35,000).

Through a network of statewide and local organizations and agencies, the Southwest Office works to save historic places and reinvigorate communities by providing leadership, education, and advocacy services. For more information contact the Southwest Office at (505) 398-4795.

You may receive this issue of La Crónica just days or even hours before the annual conference of the Historical Society of New Mexico in Belen an Los Lunas-April 13-15. Join us there, it will be great!!
Throughout New Mexico's long history, its population has experienced recurrent shortages of water. Located in a semi-arid environment, the state has always been vulnerable to occasional drought. In recent years, conflicts over water from agricultural, industrial, and domestic uses have increased, necessitating more careful regard for future needs. Recent publicity aside, however, disputes to determine and control the community acquisitio

One of the longest and most acrimonious of these conflicts concerned water occurring at Tularosa, a small placita in south-central New Mexico on the Rio Grande. Fearing to escape the seasonal floods that sometimes devastated parts of the valley, the threat from Meso-

Initially, when Tularosa originated, the first settlers migrated from villages on the Rio Grande to settle at the mouth of Tularosa Canyon in 1862. Joining them were ten families of the Mescalero Apache, led by Lusol Del Sur near El Paso. Almost immediately, the newcomers constructed a community acequia to accommodate crops and household needs. At first, the settlers lived in a collection of huts, called chozas, built within a long trench dug for defense. After a few years, however, they laid out a townsite on a gentle slope and built houses. The townsite received a building site (orado) and a garden plot (huerta). Lumberhounds also obtained a right to twelve hours of water from the ditch, considerably more than necessary to irrigate the small parcels cultivated at that time. As years passed, the settlers increased the water supply by extending the ditch south and north of its initial line to offset the future (asuny cropplace), which gave the town its name. Founded by Mayor John W. Murray, who managed a ranch in Arizona and a large sheep ranch, and was a volunteer of the New Mexico National Guard, the town immediately became a center for local services.用电, the cattle company initiated a friendly lawsuit to resolve the dispute. The company also purchased land from the town, which had been conveyed to the plaintiffs.

During the late 1870s and 1880s, the advent of rail transportation stirred tremendous growth in New Mexico's livestock industry. As the demand for beef cattle increased, investors organized financial combines in the territory to consolidate control of water from the Rio Tularosa unresolved. The case was remanded for the town's circuit court to consider the connection of the suits concerning the problem of water.

In December of the same year, the town, with the consent of the state, consolidated its water rights and declared itself a corporate entity that, together with the cattle company, would forever chance control of water from the Rio Tularosa. Tularosa was reorganized as the Tularosa Reservoir and Irrigation Company, which was duly recorded with the state, and the corporate entity's name was changed to Tularosa's Townsite. In 1910, the new group contested the legal status of the Tularosa Community ditch. Tularosa's Townsite, the first settlers, were severely limited in the use of the acequia systems, which had originated. Clearly, Mann's ruling was a victory for the ditch company, but the outcome did not go unchallenged. To retain control of water administration within the territory, the cattle company and its Anglo collaborators formed a rival organization known as the Community ditch. Mann's decision was appealed, and the neighboring landowners petitioned to remove the water from Tularosa. Although the ruling was in favor of the company, the decision was appealed, and the neighboring landowners petitioned to remove the water from Tularosa. Ultimately, the town of Tularosa suffered a severe setback from Judge Fall's decision, which, for the first time, divided the river under a time schedule without regard for priority of use. Further reversals were still to come, as population increased and competition for water intensified. Twenty years before the judge's ruling, gangs of laborers had begun construction of a railroad from El Paso to Tularosa, and the Tularosa Reservoir was completed in 1890. The town's first Irrigation ditch was opened in 1890.

Two factions quickly rallied behind the competing ditch organizations. Landowners of the Anglo and Spanish background from the newcomers who had arrived around 1900. The Anglo settlers formed a rival organization known as the Tularosa Community ditch, and the Anglo settlers won the case. The decision was appealed, and the neighboring landowners petitioned to remove the water from Tularosa. The judge's ruling, which was in favor of the company, was overturned by the Nebraska Court of Appeals. The case was remanded for the lower court to reconsider the decision. The new group contested the legal status of the Tularosa Community ditch. Tularosa's Townsite, the first settlers, were severely limited in the use of the acequia systems, which had originated. Clearly, Mann's ruling was a victory for the ditch company, but the outcome did not go unchallenged. To retain control of water administration within the territory, the cattle company and its Anglo collaborators formed a rival organization known as the Community ditch. Mann's decision was appealed, and the neighboring landowners petitioned to remove the water from Tularosa. Ultimately, the town of Tularosa suffered a severe setback from Judge Fall's decision, which, for the first time, divided the river under a time schedule without regard for priority of use. Further reversals were still to come, as population increased and competition for water intensified. Twenty years before the judge's ruling, gangs of laborers had begun construction of a railroad from El Paso to Tularosa, and the Tularosa Reservoir was completed in 1890. The town's first Irrigation ditch was opened in 1890.
between the contesting parties continue.
Chief Justice L. Porter made threats on Ralph Connell's life on several
occasions, but he had not been sentenced to
prison. After the trial, Judge Neblett
ruled that Porter was in contempt of court
and sentenced him to sixty days in jail.

Despite the armed conflict and other serious
problems, which included some vicious
assaults, the trial proceeded without incident.

In early June 1914, while the suit was being
brought against Connell, the water crisis
began to mill about, while Connell's
efforts to defend himself were frustrated
by the defense. The prosecution brought
the case to a close by presenting testimony in
which Connell was clearly depicted as a
victim of a gross miscarriage of justice.

On June 16, 1914, the courtroom drama
resumed. With Judge Colin Neblett presiding,
the prosecution team of Clancy and
Hamilton. After a final presentation by
the defendant, the court found him not
guilty of the charge of murder. The
sentence was reduced to sixty days in prison.

In the end, the case was resolved in favor of
Connell, who had been accused of murder.
Although the outcome was not
without controversy, the case was
brought to a close in a manner that
satisfied the majority of those involved.

The case of Ralph Connell and the
waters of Tularosa was a tragic example of
the conflict that arises when competing
interests clash over limited resources.

The lesson from this tale is that
resolutions to such crises must be
found through compromise and
reasoning, rather than through violence.

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While the two opposing factions vied for water, Tularosa farmers made another attempt to locate new water supplies. A survey in 1912 indicated that small test wells in the same area yielded water to 1,000 acres to 2,500 acres. More than $10,000 had been spent. Through legislation, the need for water in an arid area was recognized, and an investment was made to tap aquifers beneath the earth's surface. In 1915, when work began on an experimental well west of town, a railroad was built. An experimental well was drilled to irrigate a small cotton field, and then shipped their crop to Santa Fe. Once more, a new feature was created. The contest is for mid- and senior-high students. First place went to Paul Smith of La Veta High School for his essay on the "Home of the Good Shopper." The runner was culled from the Thursday, February 17, 2000 issue of the Las Cruces Sun-News, by way of John P. Wilson of Las Cruces. The Germos Restauration award was given to Alexandria Nasoro Hall for her restoration of "Casa Rosa," a 100 plus year old residence.

The Doña Ana County Historical Society recognized noteworthy accomplishments by local citizens. The Hall of Fame award was presented to Gordon R. Owen for his contributions to the written history of the area. His most recent work, "The Las Cruces, New Mexico, 1849-1999: Multicultural and Professional in the Tularosa Basin," written for the Las Cruces Sesquicentennial celebrations. The Presero Del Continuo Rold award went to Historical Society of New Mexico Board of Directors member, Richard W. Melzer, for his work on the "Vargas Project" with John Kessell. In addition, he is the author of five books on colonial New Mexico.

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