



# *El Cronicón*

Official Publication of the  
SANDOVAL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: Lorraine Dominguez-Stubblefield

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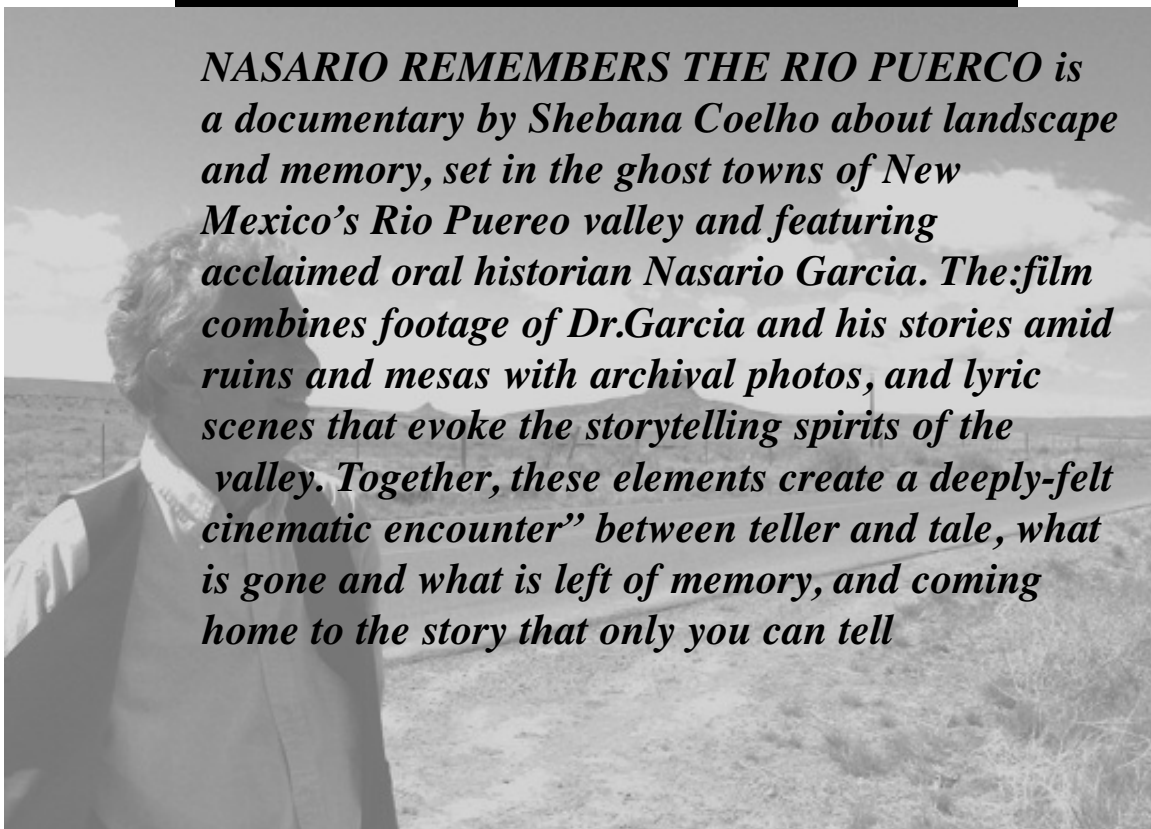
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## **JUNE MEETING**

**Sunday June 6 th 2pm**

*NASARIO REMEMBERS THE RIO PUERCO is a documentary by Shebana Coelho about landscape and memory, set in the ghost towns of New Mexico's Rio Puereo valley and featuring acclaimed oral historian Nasario Garcia. The film combines footage of Dr. Garcia and his stories amid ruins and mesas with archival photos, and lyric scenes that evoke the storytelling spirits of the valley. Together, these elements create a deeply-felt cinematic encounter" between teller and tale, what is gone and what is left of memory, and coming home to the story that only you can tell*



**President's Letter****DEDICATED TO AUDRINA ANN SHAFFER GOMEZ****FROM NANA – 2/14/18 – LORRAINE DOMINGUEZ STUBBLEFIELD**

In the month of January, I agreed to take on being President for the Sandoval County Historical Society another year. This volunteer position for the last three years has brought new friendships and the opportunity to plan new programs and continued learning on informative lectures about the past. Throughout my 45 year working career that came with various titles, I can honestly say that the most esteemed titles in my lifetime have been wife, mother and now wham - a bolt from the blue - Abuela or Nana. Unlike almost every other title in life, you do not have to work for it, or even feel worthy of such a miracle. My first granddaughter Audrina Ann was born on January 16, 2018, and weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces and was 20 ½ inches long.

I was jolted with so much happiness and love at first sight. Being a Nana is an honor which, if you are blessed, time bestows the worthiness. At my age, I had pretty much concluded that I would die before becoming a Nana. I now feel like a need to project a rejuvenating glow, regardless of the gray/white hair that definitely display the years setting in. I've stepped up the learning game and now carry my apple phone sharing as many snapshots and researching all the things about the modern conveniences pertaining to newborns, such as swaddling and using a baby breeza or boppy; that were unheard of when I had my son 31 years ago. As an added bonus, I feel closer to my own offspring since he became a parent. It will be rewarding to be united by a common love. While the parents will be busy working with their careers, Audrina will have my undivided attention, I will not be in a hurry when she comes around. There will be a little bit of mischief – that is part of the fun of being a Nana.

As far as Audrina is concerned, I am almost as old as time itself, and my age still brings with it the traditional attributes of respect and wisdom, reinforced by her rich culture, traditions, untold stories left out in history books and reading some fairy-tales and other storybooks. I imagine I will share with her when very few had televisions and land line phones and when we walked to school and church...imagine that. I will tell her that we are old Americans not only by virtue of age but by ancestry. I plan to teach her to dance and sing and tell her stories of the dim and distant past about her ancestors (antepasados) who arrived in New Mexico in

1598 with Juan de Onate and from there forward were considered great soldiers, trail blazers and frontiersmen of New Mexico. She will learn about the generations of men and women now New Mexicans named Dominguez de Mendoza, Lobato, Aragon, Jaramillo, Maestas, Gomez, Martinez, Lucero, Romero, Torres, Montoya, Sanchez, Garcia, Martin and many more on her paternal side. Some of her ethnic makeup is Iberian European from the Basque Region of Northern Spain, and also Mexican ancestors with the Aztec Indians also of who were fearless warriors and pragmatic builders mixed descent. On the Spanish side another group of mixed-race New Mexicans – Hispanic and Native American Indian originates and are known as genizaros. These descendants lived among the Hispanic population, as one of their own, in Spanish fashion as early as the 18th century in New Mexico. She will know that New Mexico was an organized incorporated territory of the United States from 1850 until 1912 when the territory was admitted to the Union as the State of New Mexico; purchased from Mexico. She will be taught about the hard working, resilient women and men that never wavered with their bravery, loyalty and love they had for the Spanish Crown or Mexico and for 10 generations or more including military service to the U.S. government.

Along her maternal lineage are the Shaffer, Blatt, Saunier, Zwick and Lowe families, I am certain that their stories will also be shared. I want Audrina to know how rich her mixed heritage is, on her paternal and maternal side, not as a label or to be divisive, but for the sole purpose of her enrichment and bestowal of blessings she has been given. She also will learn how intertwined and importance is the love shared by the Stubblefield, Quiggens, as well, as the Smith, Nixon, Morgan, Schiff, Mauldin, Roybal and Sisneros families are to her.

Audrina Ann's name is befitting to her as it means: nobility, strength, full of grace (courteous, polite manner of behaving) and mercy (compassion and forgiveness) all the necessary components to fulfill all her dreams like a trail blazer, as her ancestors did. I want her to know she is smart, unique, strong, amazing, beautiful, and worth more than she can ever imagine because of her genetic make-up. I also want her to be trustworthy, kind and to know how to respect all people, regardless of their appearance, and lastly to love the United States of America as I do.

When I was first handed Audrina to hold – it was a feeling of continuity, a realization that I was now “ancestry” :) The family tree and ancestral charts will be of grave importance so that they be completed and passed on to my new love.

*Lorraine Dominguez Stubblefield*

## MARCH MEETING

David C'de Baca, SCHS Historian, gave a very interesting presentation, detailing how 14 Spanish explorers traversed over 38 future US states and territories spanning the pre-Jamestown period from 1508 to 1598. Beginning with Governor Juan Ponce de Leon of Puerto Rico, America's future 1<sup>st</sup> civil official. Followed by Esteban Gomez, who charted the eastern seaboard from Maine to Florida in 1524-25, mapping and naming all the eastern bays and rivers, and establishing first contact with America's eastern Native American tribes.

To De Soto's exploration of the interior of mid-America as far North as Chicago. Together with 11 others, attendees were treated to many names and untold stories.

This was followed by the induction of the Tafoya family of New Mexico into the forthcoming National Spanish Colonial and Native American Veterans Memorial that the SCHS is undertaking. The Tafoya family's many colonial and post-colonial contributions were highlighted, as well as their extraordinary Old-World History back to the age of Hercules; a truly moving experience for all present.

Upcoming families to be so recognized are the Varela, Rivera and Rael's of New Mexico. To be followed by as many as 30 more, based on the criteria that their ancestors served as soldiers during the

Colonial Era. We look forward to many more of these truly wonderful presentations.

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[www.sandovalhistory.org](http://www.sandovalhistory.org)

Check out our **web site** that Ben Blackwell puts together for all current information on the Society:

## APRIL MEETING

At Our meeting on Sunday her family paid tribute to **Ophelia Rinaldi** a remarkable woman of many accomplishments



**Ophelia S. Rinaldi - March 26, 1933—October 18.2017**



*daughter Michelle(Micha)*



*Grandson Justin*

## The Unlikely US Independence Trio

by *José Antonio López*

On December 16, 2014, the United States Congress finally recognized Spanish General Bernardo de Gálvez for his heroic service to our nation during the U.S. War of Independence (1775-1783).

With appropriate pomp and circumstance General Gálvez belatedly received honorary U.S. citizenship on that special day. Truthfully, it's a most worthy homage because only eight other foreign individuals have been so privileged.

The rationale for the honor may surprise many in the U.S. general public. It rests on the fact that his singularly distinctive bravery helped herald the sound of liberty throughout the young U.S.

Clearly, with July 4th Independence Day ceremonies fast approaching, I invite readers to reflect on this iconic date's lesser known aspects. Most fittingly, they help to remind us that our Spanish Mexican ancestors gave substantial blood and treasure during the U.S. independence war.

To be sure, it's not that we've learned the wrong U.S. history. No, it's just that we've been taught an incomplete perspective, where historians typically reject Spain's (and New Spain's) essential support.

Truly, in spite of the recent tribute, General Gálvez' crucial role in gaining U.S. independence

from England is not yet fully understood, recognized, or taught in mainstream U.S. history books. In short, without Spain's alliance, there's no doubt freedom for the U.S. colonies would have at best been hindered for years.

Most certainly, the early days of the struggle were unclear, with factions embracing one of two main camps; those supporting the status quo under England or those wanting change. Still, among the various military principals leading the independence cause, the coordinated efforts of an unlikely threesome were extraordinary: Spanish General Bernardo de Gálvez, George Rogers Clark, and most importantly, the revolution's commander-in-chief, General George Washington.

Essentially, their energy covered the colonies with a triangular-shaped blanket, with Gen. Gálvez operating in the south, George Rogers Clark in the west, and Gen. Washington to the east. Please note that two of those war fronts (south and west) were under Spain's jurisdiction.

Consequently, the superb three-prong attack discouraged, delayed, and eventually defeated the English forces in America. (For brevity's sake, the following summary is limited to military operations only.)

By the time the U.S. fight against England began, Spanish King Charles III had ordered General Gálvez to remove the British presence in the Gulf of Mexico. As proven shortly after by the king's rewards and bestowing the motto "Yo Solo" (I

Alone) to be included in Gen. Gálvez' coat of arms, the general didn't disappoint his king.

As Spain's Governor of Louisiana, he oversaw the Gulf of Mexico land mass from the Texas-Louisiana border to Florida. Plus, through capable Spanish officers, he controlled access to the entire Mississippi River. Thus, General Gálvez had ample resources at his disposal, consisting of an impressive force of Spanish officers and men ready, willing, and able to defeat England. In carrying out his orders, he operated his war strategy in two phases.

Phase 1. His brilliant military strategy expelled the British from the Gulf of Mexico. In his book, "The Hispanic Presence in North America", Author Carlos M. Fernández-Shaw cites Historian Buchanan Parker Thomson to describe Gen. Gálvez' impact: "... this young Spaniard had given the most vital aid contributed by any one man to the struggling American colonies. In winning this triumphant victory ..., he had not only served his king to the limit of his strength but had made to the United States the most important gift an ally could offer: the security of their southeastern and western frontiers."

Phase 2. Personally, leading battles in the Gulf of Mexico area, he entrusted Don Fernando de Leyba, Upper Louisiana Governor, and his staff to work with and assist the U.S. colonists in Missouri. It's in this theater of operations where we meet the second member of the trio. George Rogers Clark was from all indications

highly admired among his contemporaries, such as Daniel Boone. Aided by substantial Spanish financing, Rogers Clark led his army in Missouri and helped end the British threat in the region. Had the British been allowed access to the river, they would have outflanked General Washington's army from the west. For his courageous efforts during these military engagements, he was nicknamed "Conqueror of the Old Northwest".

Yet, even though he was promoted by President Jefferson to general, Rogers Clark's early military feats were forgotten after the revolution. He was heavily criticized by political enemies, and his life spiraled downward from one controversy to another. That may be why today he is not warmly embraced by mainstream U.S. historians.

As for the third member of the heroic triangle, General George Washington has truly earned the distinction of "Father of the country". He deserves the credit for successfully binding all the elements of war against England. His is an impressive military résumé beginning in 1776 with leading several battles, among them, Boston, New York City, and Trenton.

Valley Forge, just outside of Philadelphia, deserves special mention. It was here where the Continental Army camped for the 1777-78 winter. The men suffered greatly due to winter's bitter cold, disease; resulting in the death

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of thousands of patriots. Yet, they endured and finally achieved victory over the British at the Battle of Yorktown, Virginia, ending in October 1781.

Indeed, there is much that mainstream historians choose to ignore in rendering U.S. history, such as the specific aid to the U.S. by civilian Spanish subjects who lived faraway in New Spain (Mexico). Their help was crucial in the financing and equipping of the Continental Army.

President George Washington never forgot it. He often mentioned his deepest gratitude to Spain through his ample correspondence and personal contact with Diego de Gardoqui, Spain's chief minister, General Gálvez, and other high-ranking Spanish government officials.

It was no accident that General Washington placed General Gálvez on his right as they stood in review of the troops during the first July 4th parade in Washington, DC. He meant to (1) show his personal gratitude to his brother in arms, and (2) officially recognize Spain for its vital financial and war materiel support.

Finally, Spanish-surnamed U.S. citizens must learn to value the fact that the U.S. independence equation has a distinctive Spanish component. In particular, they must find comfort knowing that General Gálvez' army included recruits from New Spain (Mexico).

That's why, regardless of negative U.S. media coverage, Spanish Mexican-descent citizens must view July 4th Independence Day celebrations in this new light. Clearly, their ancestors helped create the young U.S. nation, years before many of today's U.S. citizens' European immigrant families reached America's Ellis Island. That's the bottom line.

*About the Author: José "Joe" Antonio López was born and raised in Laredo, Texas, and is a USAF Veteran. He now lives in Universal City, Texas. He is the author of four books. His latest book is "Preserving Early Texas History (Essays of an Eighth-Generation South Texan)". It is available through Amazon.com. Lopez is also the founder of the Tejano Learning Center, LLC, and [www.tejanosunidos.org](http://www.tejanosunidos.org), a Web site dedicated to Spanish Mexican people and events in U.S. history that are mostly overlooked in mainstream history books.*

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## Compelling Narratives

By Matthew J. Barbour, Regional  
Manager, Coronado and Jemez Historic  
Sites

While Coronado and Jemez Historic Sites are focused primarily on the preservation and interpretation of ancestral Pueblo villages, the staff is also tasked with providing information on all aspects of Spanish history. Specifically, the Historic Sites focus on the impacts of Spanish conquest and colonialism on the Native American peoples.

Written texts, especially primary sources, can inform upon the Spanish discovery, conquest, and colonization of the New World. A primary source is a letter, diary, manuscript, autobiography, or a recording that was created at the time under study. Often these primary sources are a subjective look at the events that took place through the author's eyes. They reveal a great deal not just about a particular event, but about the background, motivations, and mindset of the individual writing the account.

Here are five primary sources readily available to the public which provide a great deal of insight into the history of Spanish America and the impact conquistadors and colonists had on the indigenous populations.

### *The Four Voyages*

*The Four Voyages*, written by Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), are a collection of journal entries and dispatches produced during Spain's first contact and exploration of the Americas. In it, Columbus details much of the Caribbean and Atlantic Coast of Central America. He is convinced that he has reached the far eastern shores of Asia and is unable to come to terms with his discovery. Yet, Columbus's devout piety, aptitude for violence (against both Native and Spaniard), and lust for gold set the stage for all future Spanish interactions in the Americas.

### *Letters from Mexico*

*Letters from Mexico*, written by Hernan Cortes (1485-1547), is a compilation of five letters written between 1519 and 1525. In the letters, Cortes documents the establishment of Veracruz, the conquest of the Aztecs, and his expeditions further south into Central America. It describes who did what, the obstacles encountered, and the gains made by the conquistadors as perceived at the time of conquest. Cortes's success in Mexico was unprecedented and inspired all Spanish discoveries, conquests, and colonial ventures that came afterwards. Reading *Letters from Mexico* is an excellent opportunity not

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only to explore Cortes, but many of his generals who also went on to be notable conquistadors in their own right, such as notorious Pedro de Alvarado.

### ***La Relacion***

*La Relacion*, or *The Account*, was written by Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca (1488-1560) in 1537. It details the disastrous Navarez Expedition in northern Florida and the eight year journey back to civilization (1528-36), including time spent among natives in what is today the Southeast and Southwest United States. Vaca is often viewed by scholars today as a proto-anthropologist for his detailed accounts of these peoples and their cultures. Most ventures conducted by the Spanish ended in failure and *La Relacion* is a first-hand account of how things can and do go wrong. However, the narrative sparked great interest among future conquistadors leading to the Coronado (1540-2) and De Soto (1539-43) Expeditions –both of which also failed.

### ***A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies***

*A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* was written for Prince Philip of Spain in 1542 by the Dominican Friar Bartolome de las Casas (1484-1566). It surveys the European conquest of the New World up to 1540

vividly detailing the atrocities committed by- and under- the Spanish, including accounts of torture, genocide and cannibalism. Las Casas actively championed indigenous rights and published the book for public consumption in 1552. It is clear that many Spaniards understood the immorality and consequences of the colonial endeavor. Dutch, English, and other Protestant peoples also widely read the account and used it as a justification for their own resistance to Catholic Spain.

### ***The Memorial of Fray Alonso de Benavides***

*The Memorial of Fray Alonso de Benavides* (1578-1635) was translated by Baker Morrow and published as *The Harvest of Reluctant Souls*. The narrative is the first attempt at a comprehensive ethnographic study of Native Americans in New Mexico detailing not only who they were, but how they lived. While Benavides focuses on missionary success, the text cannot avoid discussing native unrest and rebellion. It in many ways foreshadows the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 and directly mentions both the Pueblos of Kuaua (Tiguex-Coronado Historic Site) and Giusewa (San Jose-Jemez Historic Site).

These five selections are a representative sample of a much larger pool of resources available to historians, ethnologists, and archaeologists. Collectively, they provide a broad base of knowledge and insight into Spain's discovery, conquest, and colonization of the New World with the last focusing on the colony of New Mexico. They are relatively easy reads with modern versions being well annotated with detailed foot and end notes.

From here, the possibilities are endless. Those focusing on Coronado may find it useful to read Castaneda's account of the journey or if the subsequent conquest of New Mexico following the Pueblo Revolt is of interest, one can peruse Diego de Vargas's letters and journals. There are also numerous accounts of conquests elsewhere which can provide valuable insights towards understanding impacts of Spanish conquest and colonialism on the Native American peoples. Get out there and read about this valuable period in New Mexico's history!

# S.O.S.

## **SAVE OUR SOCIETY NEWSLETTER EL CRONICÓN**

After 25 years as editor I think it is time to step down and let someone else take the reins.

As editor you will need a working knowledge of a word processor such as Word for formatting. I will help with content and printing. Martha and Karen take care of mailing. So it will be easy. Just what you need to keep those neurons firing and brain cells active!

*Roy Skeens 867-6310*

### **SUMMER VACATION**

**There are no programs scheduled for July and August, but we will be back in September with a program honoring the Lovato and Perea families.**

## **Mary Colter, Designing Woman**

By  
Shannon Wagers

If you had been a tourist visiting the Southwest by rail in the 1920s or '30s, you likely would have stayed at, eaten in, or passed through a building designed or decorated by Mary Colter. Although she left a distinctive mark on our regional architecture, her name is still not well known.

Only a few occupations were open to women in those days, least of all professional fields like architecture. For a woman to break into this all-male world she had to be resourceful, persistent and a bit lucky. Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter was all of these.

She was born in Pittsburgh, Penn., in 1869, and moved with her family to St. Paul, Minn., when she was 11. It was there that her lifelong interest in Native American arts and culture began. She started collecting the artwork of nearby tribes while still in high school. In 1886, her father died, leaving Colter, her mother and older sister in financial distress. Although just 17, Colter convinced her mother that the best way out of their difficulties would be to send her to the California School of Design (now the San Francisco Art Institute), where she could earn a degree that would enable her to support the family by teaching. Reluctantly, her mother agreed.

While attending school she also worked as an apprentice at an architectural firm, where she learned the fundamentals of building design. After four years she

returned to St. Paul, degree in hand, and found a job at a local vocational high school. There she taught drawing for 15 years, supporting her mother and sister as promised, on her \$90-a-month salary. And there she might have remained but for a chance encounter with a Fred Harvey Company gift shop manager while visiting a friend in San Francisco in 1902.

Fred Harvey, as readers of this column probably know, was a transplanted Englishman who, beginning in 1876, operated a chain of hotels and restaurants under contract with the Santa Fe Railroad along its passenger routes from the Midwest to California. More than a dozen Harvey Houses were located in New Mexico. Harvey held his establishments to

high standards of quality, cleanliness and efficient service. He was also among the first entrepreneurs to envision the possibilities of “cultural tourism”—marketing the Native American and Hispanic heritage of the Southwest.

Colter shared that vision, so she mentioned to the gift shop manager that she was interested in doing design work for the company. To her surprise, a few weeks later she received a telegram offering her a job decorating the interior of the “Indian building” at New Mexico’s newest Harvey House, the Alvarado Hotel in Albuquerque.

The Indian building, located adjacent to the hotel, housed a museum displaying a collection of artifacts and a curio shop where

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handmade jewelry, rugs, pottery, baskets and artwork were for sale. In another room tourists could watch Navajo weavers and silver-smiths at work.

Colter poured her best efforts into the project but it was only a temporary job, and when it was completed she returned to her teaching position in St. Paul.

In 1904, the Harvey Company called again. Pleased with the work she had done at the Alvarado, they asked her to come to the Grand Canyon in Arizona and create something similar at the El Tovar Hotel complex, then under construction on the canyon's south rim. This time, Colter was entrusted not only with the interior décor but also with the design of the building itself. The result was Hopi House, constructed of local

stone and timbers by Hopi craftsmen employing traditional building techniques. It still stands, although it has undergone some major renovations.

Finally, in 1910, when she was 41 years old, Colter joined the Fred Harvey Company as a full-time interior designer and architect. Over the course of her career she was directly involved in the design or decoration of at least 20 buildings in addition to those already mentioned. A few of the others in New Mexico are El Ortiz in Lamy, La Fonda in Santa Fe, and El Navajo in Gallup. She also played a role in La Posada in Winslow, Ariz., and another half-dozen structures at the Grand Canyon.

Her philosophy was that her buildings should harmonize with

their natural and cultural environment, and her works at the Grand Canyon especially reflect that. Built of rough stone, and with only natural vegetation for landscaping, they seem almost to have grown out of the rock on which they stand. Her interiors featured brick or tile floors, exposed vigas, large fireplaces, heavy wrought iron lighting fixtures, Spanish-style furniture and lots of Navajo rugs.

By the time she retired in 1948, the railroad era was coming to an end. No new trackside Harvey Houses had been built in more than a decade, and the existing ones were closing, their beautiful furnishings going on the auction block.

“There’s such a thing as living too long,” Colter told a friend after learning that one of her cher-

ished hotels, El Navajo, was to be demolished to make way for a highway construction project.

Colter lived out her days in her little house in Santa Fe, where she died in 1958. Perhaps it was fortunate that she did not live to see her first project, the Alvarado Hotel, fall to the wrecking ball in 1970.

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#### **MEMBERSHIP**

**You can check your membership status from the date on your Cronicon's address label. If you are not current, you may not receive the newsletter. Also make sure we have your mailing address if the PO does not deliver to your street address.**

*Rusty Van Hart, Membership*

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### UNDER AGE DRIVING ADVENTURES

by Sam McIlhaney

*Sam's articles have appeared in New Mexico Magazine, The Albuquerque Journal, The Dallas Times Herald "Canada's Natl Coaching Magazine," "Coachin". This article appeared in THE DAWG ABQ hHigh sShool alumni newsletter. Sam is a member of a pioneer NM family who formany years owned and operated McIlhaney Dairies.*

Mr. Nix was our neighbor who lived down Edith Blvd. about a mile or so. One day he stopped by our place at Edith and Osuna Rd. to talk to my Dad. "Mr. Mac, the other day I saw that old truck I sold you go by my place. It was going pretty fast; I couldn't see into the cab that good but I thought I saw just the tops of two towheads bouncing up and down on that washboard road. That truck was kicking up a pretty good bunch of dust as it went by," My Dad did not tell my brother and me that story until years later. Daddy said he knew right off the bat who those .towheads were - me and my older brother, Billy, and Billy was driving. (Bill McIlhaney, Senior Class President, Class of '54). At that time, Edith Blvd. was a dirt road until you hit Lomas Blvd., which, by the way, was New York Avenue in those days, would you believe? In those days we lived

way out in the sticks; our place was at Osuna and Highland Road. You would not see the street signs declaring it to be Edith until you reached about Mountain Rd, and then it was just plain Edith Street. Osuna was also a dirt road and only ran from 4lh Street to Highland Road. East from Highland road was fenced private property all the way to the mountain owned by Albert Simms.

When my Dad bought that old truck from our neighbor, it was virtually an antique. I think it was a 1929 model International 2-ton flatbed. It was worn out but my Dad didn't care about gasoline — gas was cheap. Besides, it would be driven — banged-up-and abused -by hired men and would be used to haul hay and grain around our dairy. Man, I would love to have that old truck now. For air conditioning, you could crank a handle on the windshield and it would open from the bottom. When Mr. Nix saw Billy and I go by his place, Billy was probably about 10 years old and I was about 7. I would soon be doing what Billy had done — teach myself how to drive. Of course, that old International had the gearshift on the floor. The generations these days would be out of luck if they had to drive a "stick shift." Just a few weeks after we got that old truck, a hired man and some bum or hobo he picked up were driving to a store and got



clobbered by another truck at the intersection of Osuna Rd. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Nobody was really hurt but the truck was "totaled." That was the end of that. . .

We always had a truck around our place for hauling, as I mentioned. When it was not being used, I would get behind the wheel and sneak off headed north on Highland Road (Edith). I remember one truck we had was a half ton Ford with the stick shift on the steering wheel column. Sometimes I would go all the way to Bernalillo - all by myself at 8-10 years old. . . The dirt road went right through Sandia Pueblo plaza in the heart of the village. Today, you can't drive straight through to Bernalillo because Sandia Pueblo blocked off their boundaries in the 1960's.

A driver's license, . . . I didn't concern myself with such trivial matters . . .

Who ever heard of a public school having a full hour and a half for lunch. Garfield Jr. High had such a lunch time. The school is located just off Candelaria Rd. and 4th street.

We had a neighbor kid, George, who came to school in a WWII vintage U.S. Army Jeep. Of course, he had a driver's license and, of course he was much older than I was even though, through the years, he was always in my grade in school. I never asked him but he certainly flunked several

grades. We were both in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade; I was 13 years old.

There's another vehicle I would love to own now. It had no such thing as a "rollbar." It had two seats and just a rough floor in the back with a spare tire mounted on the rear bumper. We always kept the windshield folded flat on the front hood. I thought I could drive that Jeep as good as any soldier. . . It was 4-wheel-drive and the shift was on the floor.

Every day, weather permitting, a gang of kids would board the Jeep, hanging on everywhere and where they could grab on - and away we would go - TO THE RIVER, and the ditches by the river. We would have a full hour of fun in our underwear or in just our birthday suits. We had no towels; it was warm. By the time we were seated in class, we were dry and thinking about tomorrow for another day in the sun. Of course, I never told my parents about our adventures.

Another thought about stick shift in vehicles... My big sister, (Barbara McIlhany), would drive our family car, a Plymouth with a shift on the steering column. She never seemed to master a clutch. When we would start off, the car would jerk - jerk - jerk. I swore to myself I would never do that when I started driving . . .

I was counting the years; then I was count-

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ing the months - I could get a driver's license when I hit 14 years old. Two weeks before my 14th birthday, the NM State Legislature changed the law and made the age 16 ... woe is me ... Now, I had to wait TWO more years. Well, that didn't stop me from driving.

Uncle Jess loved Harley Davidson motorcycles.

Even as a middle-age man living and working on our dairy, and even after, years earlier, as a student at Baylor University, he was on his bike when a drunk hit him and he almost died. He still rode a Harley. I was told his bike was the largest model Harley made and was the same model the NM State Police used at the time. It was big - and heavy. It sported a windshield, saddlebags, and a saddle large enough for two people.

Would you believe? It was a "stick shift." The gearshift was on the right side of the gas tank and one foot operated the brake (with brakes also on the handlebars) and the other foot took care of the clutch. I believe this particular model was called the "roadhog," and was also called a 175 or 174; I can't remember for sure about that.

When nobody was around, I taught myself how to drive that motorcycle. It was a "kick start," but at 15 years old, and being a farm kid, I was strong and stout.

When I first started riding it around the dairy, sometimes I would stop and by accident, the bike would lay on its side. As I mentioned, when I first started teaching myself how to ride it, I was stout and strong but I could barely get it back upright; it was that heavy.

Over the next few years, I rode it all over the far north valley of Albuquerque. Sometimes, on Sunday afternoon, my friend, Jack Thomason, Class of 58, Valley High, Albuquerque, would come over, help me get my chores done and then we would head out. We would push that heavy thing up Edith before I cranked it up so my folks wouldn't hear us. My Dad must have known all along because one day he said quietly, "Don't ride Jess's motorcycle anymore because your mother worries too much." So that was the end of that.

At 15, my Dad let me deliver milk to several small grocery stores in the far north valley. I did a lot of things - license or no license ...

Finally at 16 years old, I drove myself to Bernalillo and got that license. For many years after that, my brother, Bill, and I always got our license at Bernalillo ... However, finally at 16, — I was finally legal!

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## *The Lighter Side*

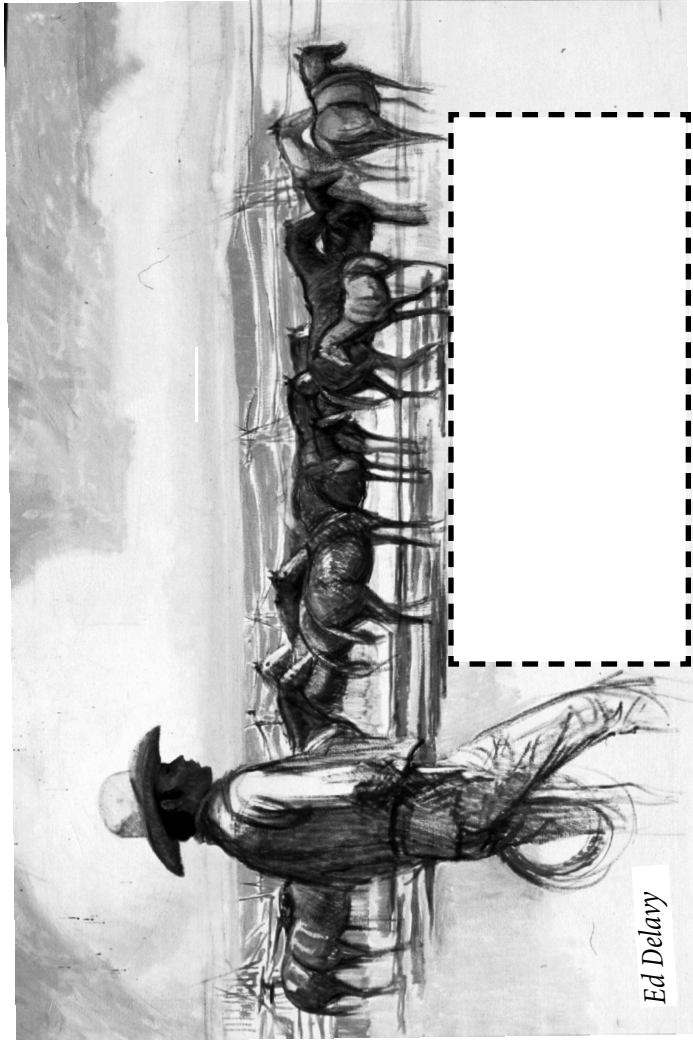
### FABULOUS TID-BITS OF HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are "limbs," therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the \_\_\_ expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg."



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*Ed Delavy*