

El Cronicón

Official Quarterly Publication of the
SANDOVAL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

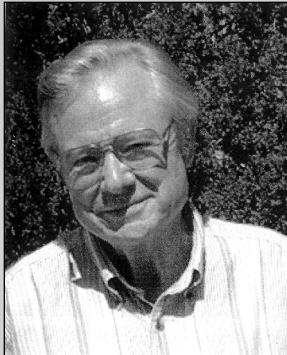
President: Ken Kloeppe

Editor: Roy C. Skeens

Volume 22, No2

June, 2011

June Meeting
Sunday, June 12th, 2 pm



Naturalist and Writer

WILLIAM W. DUNMIRE

Will present

“Gardens of New Spain”

**Plants of prehistoric pueblos
and New Spain**

*Bill will also have his book of the same
title for sale at the meeting.*

President's Message

Greetings Members and Friends,

2011 has begun and seems to be moving along quite well. Our programs this year have been very enjoyable. They have been informative, inspirational and educational.

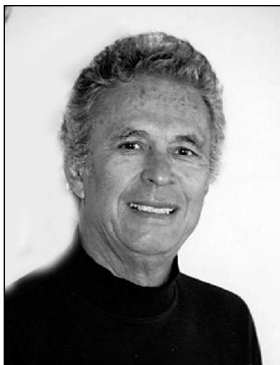
The presentations of our guest speakers have given us a true appreciation of past lives and experiences in our great state.

Thank you Dirk Van Hart for placing our many photo archives on a disc for current and future members to enjoy and view. Dirk has spent countless hours preserving these valuable memories of our past. We are very thankful for his wonderful efforts.

Our July 10 meeting will be an ice cream social, and band concert. Hope to see you there.

Gracias, Ken Kloeppe

MARCH MEETING



*On Sunday march 13th, the entertaining and always informative **Dr. Nasario Garcia** gave us a glimpse of what life was like in the Hispanic villages of New Mexico. He enlivened his talk with colorful recollections of his own experiences growing up in the Rio Puerco valley. He said that life revolved around three seasons: spring planting, summer harvesting and winter hibernation! - always dominated by the lack of water and how they always used to pray for rain.*

Although it was not that long ago, it was sad, he said to see the demise of vilage life as he knew it.

APRIL MEETING

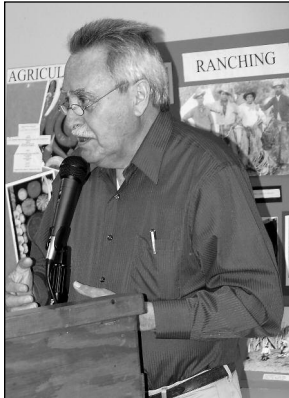


*Sunday April 10th, Bernalillo H.S. ex coach **Henry Sanchez** in a lively talk overed the history of education in Bernalillo starting in 1872 when the Christian Brothers came to Bernalillo at the request of Don José Leandro Perea. He stressed the need for education and the importance of an awareness of history. This led him into the history of basketball in Bernalillo for which he was well qualified to speak since he was coach for OLOS basketball from 1960-65 and coach for B.H.S. from 1965-83. He cited the fine record these teams achieved in State Championship games.*

From his energy and passion it was clear that his teams just had to win. His philosophy: "Do the best you can with what you have" and he liked Yogi Bera's saying "Winning takes care of everything."

He said he always tried to get parents and teachers involved and regretted the passing of "the good old days when you could really tell the kids what to do and inject a little discipline into their lives.

MAY MEETING



*On Sunday May 1st, New Mexico poet, historian, farmer and journalist **Estevan Arellano** gave us a sobering talk on the history and present state of acequias in New Mexico. The construction and use of acequias dates back to the deserts of the Middle East. They were introduced to Spain by the Moors and brought to the New World by the Spanish. Acequias are communal irrigation canals that function as a tool to preserve and share scarce desert water.*

Estevan was Mayordomo in Embudo for many years and as Mayordomo had absolute authority over water use. Every spring it was his duty to call on every ablebodied male to clean and repair the ditches.

He stressed that water belongs to everyone and the acequia system was a bond that brought people together. He was dismayed at the amount of pollution that is occurring today, citing cases of acequias choked with syringes, pampers and all kinds of trash.

He said it's vital that we have to be better stewards of our land.

WINE HISTORY

The medicinal qualities of wine have been recognized since the time of Homer. But the French Paradox and 60 Minutes captured the imagination of the public and of researchers in a special way.

Since then, other large populations have been studied and old data have been reexamined, and virtually all have shown the same thing: Moderate alcohol consumption is heart healthy. The Copenhagen Heart Study followed 13,000 men and women for ten years and found that people who consumed one to two drinks a day had a 30 to 40 percent lower mortality rate. An American Cancer Society survey of 500,000 people found that those who consumed one to two drinks per day had a 20 percent lower overall mortality rate compared to non-drinkers. The famous Framingham Heart Study; the comprehensive Nurses' Health Study; a study of more than 100,000 Kaiser Permanente patients in California; and studies done in places as diverse as China, Scotland, Finland, Yugoslavia, and New Zealand all show similar results:

One to two drinks a day protect against heart disease and death. These studies also consistently showed that after you exceed two drinks a day you do not get the protection.

Part 2 of the history of Bernalillo
SPANISH COLONIAL PERIOD(1600-1700)

by Martha Liebert

There were three major European expeditions and several minor ones that came into the Rio Grande valley during the Spanish Colonial period beginning with Coronado, the explorer in 1540, then the colonizer, Oñate, in 1598 and finally de Vargas and the reconquest in 1695.



Coronado had 336 soldiers, 6 priests, a thousand Aztec Indian servants and 559 horses plus a thousand mules in the baggage train. Thousands of sheep and cattle as well as pigs and chickens all of which were

designed for trail meat. His entourage included 6 companies of cavalry and one each of artillery and infantry. The expedition was made up of many Europeans besides the Spanish, including Portuguese, French, Italian, German and Scots. Their weapons were lances, crossbows, spears, swords, daggers, harquebuses and bows and arrows.

The expedition was funded almost equally by Viceroy Mendoza and Coronado at about the equivalent of a million dollars each.

The mounted soldiers were mostly second sons (who did not inherit) of prominent families who were out to make their fortunes having been raised on the stories of Cortez and

the gold of Mexico and Pizarro and the silver of Peru. They were sure they would find similar treasure on this adventure. The priests, of course, were there to bring new converts to Christianity. All were destined for disappointment. Imagine moving such a massive group of people and animals over 1500 miles into the unknown. They were totally unprepared for the severe weather they met. (1400-1800 was known as the "little ice age"). The river froze over and there was 18 inches of snow from Zuni to Bernalillo that winter.

They camped in the Bernalillo area commandeering the Pueblo later called Santiago, driving the natives out to find shelter wherever they could. Further demands for corn and blankets from the Pueblos created a hardship for people who were already living on the edge of survival. Murders, rapes, thefts and other brutalities followed one another in a constant stream since they were looked down upon for not being as strong as Toledo steel. The invaders had no idea of the complexities of their religion and culture.

Coronado sent exploring parties in all directions seeking, wealth they felt sure was here. One group went as far west as the Grand Canyon and Coronado himself led a group out to the plains of Kansas with no results. Upon his return to Bernalillo, he was hurt in a fall from his horse which signaled the end of the adventure and their return to Mexico in 1542 in disgrace.

It had been a disaster from the start leav-

Continued

ing a legacy of bad relations with the Pueblos which would set the tone for generations to come. In fact the negatives were such that Coronado was brought up on charges of mistreatment of the Indians and mismanagement of the expedition.

As a result, it was 50 years before another attempt was made, this time by Don Juan de Oñate in 1598 who was given the contract by the Crown to colonize the area at his expense. His father owned silver mines in Zacatecas and some of the 129 soldier-colonists were political prisoners there. In exchange for two years service as soldiers on this expedition they were given freedom and forgiveness. Juan Archibeque and Jacque Grolet (Gurule) were two Frenchmen who had been with the LaSalle expedition who took advantage of this offer and made the most of it becoming prominent in the colony. Archibeque became a wealthy Santa Fe trader on the Chihuahua trail and Gurule married Elena Gallegos, one of the wealthiest women in the area and founded a dynasty of descendants.

Oñate brought 10 Franciscans plus the colonists and their families along with livestock, tools, seeds, and root stock to plant. They had come to stay. The Priests went into the Pueblos to build mission churches and convert the Indians. The colonists scattered up and down the river, establishing ranches with major settlements at San Juan and later at Santa Fe in 1610.

The Gonzales-Bernal family was one of those in the Oñate colony who settled in the Angostura area, ranching on the west side of the RioGrande. The earliest mention of the

name “Bernal” was apparently a military outpost called “Bernal’s camp”. Doubtless the name derives from this family.

From 1598 to 1606, when the colony was just getting started there was little rainfall and this continued off and on throughout the 1600’s. This, plus the raids of the Athabascan tribes (Navajos and Apaches), who were hunter-gatherers and had come into the area just prior to the Spanish, contributed to starvation and disease and a eriod of great hardship. Another complicating factor was the conflict between church and state over the labor of the Pueblo Indians.

Europeans looked on the Indians as a slave labor source and had them working in mines, herding sheep, weaving cloth and building churches all without remuneration, of course. They also demanded that they give up their own religion in favor of Catholicism which was perhaps the hardest blow of all. As an example of these demands, in 1643, the Crown in Santa Fe raised the tribute level from one fanega (11/2 bushels) of corn and one manta (woven goods) quarterly per household to one from each individual of age. At this point the pueblos were hard pressed to feed their own families, and the number of pueblo people declined steadily from 40 thousand in 1638 to 17 thousand in 1671.

In 1666 there was widespread drought, and for



three years no crops were harvested. Indian and Spanish alike were starving. They boiled hides with herbs for food, but the herds were dying. The suffering was terrible and the Apache threat grew constantly. Settlers were so spread out along the Rio that authorities could not protect them. There were only 170 soldiers in the whole colony anyway, and the distances rendered them useless. The civil authorities had no tolerance for pueblo tradition or needs. As an example in 1659 the governor took 840 Indian men away at harvest time to go slave hunting and so the harvest was lost.

Another instance was the destroying of kivas, and in 1675 a Spanish tribunal hung 4 Pueblo leaders and whipped 43 more. Thus threatened, the Pueblos sent 70 warriors to confront the Governor and forced him to release their men. The repercussions of these brutalities went a long way in fomenting the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. The Pueblos became fearful they would not survive the Spanish occupation and banded together against them killing 21 friars and 400 settlers. It had been 82 years of demands for produce, labor and services with no compensation, a similar situation of "taxation without representation" which the American colonies went to war over a hundred years later. The Pueblo Revolt of 1680 did not solve all their problems however, for the raids of the hungry Athabascans continued and escalated.

All the Spanish settlers that could, got out of the Bernalillo area and fled to Mexico with the other survivors where they remained until the Europeans returned with the third expedi-

tion in 1692-5 for resettlement and reconquest with Don Diego de Vargas who brought 70 families, 100 soldiers and 17 Franciscans.

De Vargas founded Bernalillo in 1693 on the flood plain at the mouth of the Jemez river west of the Rio Grande. A church and priory were built and washed away in 1695. He had returned settlers to the old site where the Bernal family had been before the revolt. Don Fernando Duran y Chavez was named Alcalde Mayor of Bernalillo. This area is at the narrows of the valley called "La Angostura de Bernalillo" and "La Salida de Angostura" which is an important river crossing due to a gravel spill across the Rio Grande from the Arroyo de las Huertas which comes off the north end of the Sandia mts. thereby providing a safe crossing in a river of quicksand for livestock, wagons and families.

In 1695) 44 more families came but it was a harsh winter and there was little food.. Again, the climate did not favor the colonists. In 1692 de Vargas writes "So very cold and abundant snow and rain and such heavy freezes and frost. Troops have suffered harsh weather with continued snow and high winds" Meager food supply, and scarce firewood due to deep snow resulted in 22 Spaniards dying from these conditions.

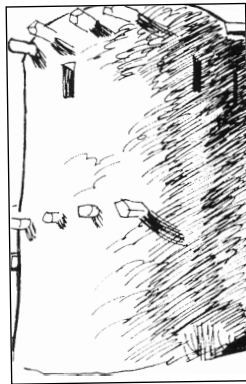
In 1695 -6 the failure of Pueblo and Spanish crops due to drought and crop worms left residents forced to eat dogs, cats, horses, mules, hides and old bones. More than 200 died. an Epidemic followed with more loss of life ,and the Pueblos revolted again.

In colonial New Mexico there were two

Continued

concentrated population areas; In the Rio Arriba or upper river it was Santa Fe and in the Rio Abajo or lower river it was Bernalillo. The Bernalillo site was on the border between the Tiwa and Keres Pueblos which was between the mouth of the Jemez River and San Felipe Pueblo. The mission at San Felipe was the church used by the people of Bernalillo. Besides the Bernal family the Duran y Chavez, Caravajal, Cuellar, Saenz, Bacas, Pereas and Anayas ,Romero ,Ramirez and several others had holdings in the Angostura area in colonial times. According to Spanish Archives, the Juan Ramirez de Salazar house stood at the site of the river crossing and was confiscated by Governor Alonso Pecheco de Heredia because they needed a fort there , and so a torreon called “San Antonio” was built . A Captain and 15 soldiers were stationed there to protect the river From the Faroan Apaches who came off the plains through the narrow defile in the Sandia mts. Called A pache Canyon to raid the settlements on the west side of the river.

In 1701 Felipe Gutierrez, a presidio soldier, petitioned the Crown for a grant of land which became many years later, in the 1770’s the scattered ranches of “lower Bernalillo.’ Gutierrez didn’t establish his position clearly and Luis Garcia petitioned for the lands on grounds of abandonment in 1742. The village, Las Cocinitas, did not come into being for many years, the settlers living elsewhere on scattered ranches



in the Rio Abajo. There were about 27 families with 81 persons in the 1770’s who used the mission church at Sandia Pueblo. In 1715 Luis Garcia was Alcalde Mayor of Bernalillo.

In 1701 Manuel Baca donated a piece of land to Don Fernandez Duran y Chavez at Las Angosturas de Bernalillo. Three years later Governor de Vargas died in Duran y Chavez’s home and we have to wonder whether he built on the piece in Angostura and that’s where the death occurred or, as local oral history says, it happened in a home Duran y Chavez had in the south part of Bernalillo called the “Cocinitas”. Wherever it was , it happened this way: Duran y Chavez asked for help from his old friend, Governor de Vargas , because his livestock was stolen by Apaches. The governor came down from Santa Fe with some soldiers and picked up some local pueblo men and chased the Apaches into the Sandias. While in the field, DeVargas fell ill and was taken to Duran y Chavez’ home where, after some days, he died in April 1704.

At this time Bernalillo was simply a scattering of small ranches on both sides of the river from San Felipe to Sandia including about 100 people. Diego Montoya’s hacienda was on the north side of what is now Coronado Monument and across the river from it was an area called “weavers’ bend”, which is now called EI LLanito. With a name like weaver’s bend it makes one wonder if there weren’t a lot of folks involved in working with the wool. In 1706 Capt. Martin Hurtado took 35 families from Bernalillo to found Old Town Albuquerque. They included families of Trujillo, Garcia, Carabajal, Varela and Diego

Montoya. Diego had land in the area north of the villa and later transferred his land to Elena Gallegos (Gurule) whose plazuela was called “Los Ranchos” in what is now Alameda’s north valley.

Movement of populations throughout the 1700’ s continued south along the east side of the river from Angostura to EI Llanito but was earlier called Los Gallegos because two Gallegos brothers built haciendas there. In 1730 Cristobal and Roque Gallegos came and built homes near the church which was called San Francisco and was washed away in the flood of 1735. A cross marks the spot now in the area of EI Llanito.

In 1738 Capt. Juan Gonzales Bas was Alcalde Mayor of Bernalillo. He had acquired the Montes-Vigil grant which included Corrales and Alameda so he was an important player in the area.



As floods changed the river’s course, the fate of “Upper Bernalillo” changed too, constantly moving south, but by 1776 there were still 27 families totaling 81 people who were using the San Felipe mission .

From 1709-39 the Rio Grande channel shifted 2 miles west from the foothills between Algodones and Bernalillo til it reached its’ present location, taking whatever was in its’ path.

As a result the population shifted gradually south on the east side of the river ‘til it reached present day Bernalillo.

In 1748 Franciscan brothers went to Hopi country to bring back the Indians that had fled there from Sandia Pueblo at the time of the Pueblo revolt in 1680. The pueblo had stood empty all this time but now there was a need for labor so some Sandia descendants and some Hopis were brought to resettle the vil-lage.

But this was still not an easy place to live. Between 1748-71 almost four thousand Spanish and Pueblos were killed by Apaches, Navajos and Comanches. In 1775 alone, a major Comanche raid on Sandia Pueblo destroyed all crops and livestock and killed 32 inhabitants.

Overgrazing was becoming a problem by 1757 because there were 112 thousand sheep and 16 thousand cattle plus 7 thousand horses in the colony. The effects of this problem have lasted to the present day.

The scourge of smallpox killed 5 thousand pueblos and many Spanish in the 1780s, It seemed there was no end to the major disasters the colony suffered.

In 1771-2,170 people were killed and 7 thousand horses and mules stolen. Ranchers traditionally raised sheep rather than cattle because nomadic raiders could more easily drive cattle away and when attacked herders could scatter sheep to reduce losses. In 1779 Gov. de Anza defeats the Comanche, Cuerno Verde, and makes a treaty to stop the raids. By 1790 the population of the colony including Indians was 30 thousand.

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El Cronicón

As the century ends, by 1800 Bernalillo was known for its abundant produce especially grapes. There were 164 acequias in use by that time.

The Colonial period was a closed world with little outside contact. Spain and Mexico were too far away and had lost a lot of interest because of lack of discovered wealth, In fact the colony was a distinct drain with little to show for an investment. Local law took precedent over the Law of the Indies , art was replaced by crafts, local custom prevailed. Church and state warred constantly over control of the colony with the Inquisition being used as a tool to break the power of the state.

All in all it was a most hazardous 200 year period for everyone. On the plus side; the Europeans introduced the use of metal tools and weapons. Their livestock made a big difference in the quality of life; horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens. etc. Perhaps more than anything, the introduction of new trees. and plants such as grapes, cherries, apples, apricots, peaches; nut trees, , legumes, peas, and guavas as well as the grains; wheat, oats, barley and rye increased food production in the new world. All were new to the area and all enriched the lives of the native population. Sheep became the medium of exchange and, due to a lack of coinage, the barter system prevailed.

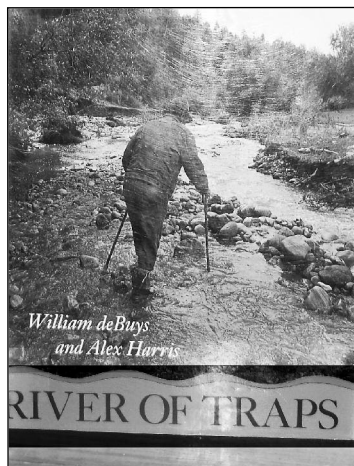
If you survived to 1800 things were bound to get better.



The Cardinal by Ed DeLavy

BOOK REVIEW

by Nancy madigan



One of the categories in the small collection is 'Villages'.

RIVER OF TRAPS is a most appealing read (non-fiction) found in

this section. In this true narrative, the authors, two young men from colleges back east come to New Mexico to live "simply and cheaply and deliberately". They are William de Buys and Alex Harris; it is the 1970's. They are befriended by their neighbor, Jacobo Romero, who has been, in his 80 years, a farmer and rancher, cook, bootlegger, and for over 50 years, a shepherd.

In the little village of El Valle in the Sangre de Cristos of northern New Mexico, Jacobo becomes their teacher. He teaches them..."using the tools of simple labor--shovel and axe, irony and humor--to show them how to survive in their isolated mountain village." They learned how to tend the acequia, and he showed them how he used hand tools, and horse-drawn equipment, expressing at one

point, "Engines no valen nada." Alex the photographer, William the author, and a friend Anne who joins them, (whose love is painting landscapes and still lifes). These three anglos learn how to do the many chores that keep you alive in a mountain community. And as one chapter begins, "Nothing so teaches respect for land and weather as the mountains in winter....It made our actions more significant, our mistakes more consequential."

And Jacobo was intrigued with what his new friends Alex and William knew how to do. Although some of the neighbors said Alex took "too many" pictures,

Jacobo liked to stare into the developer bath and watch his likeness form under the red light. "Oh what a handsome man,"

he'd say....And he would study his image with a kind of detachment, as though it surprised him the image was his own....

Jacobo was no egoist, but he could see that the photographs spoke strongly of him, of his work and place. He took satisfaction

in participating in that statement, and maybe, in his private thoughts, he saw it as a legacy."

**DAVY CROCKETT WAS A
GUNFIGHTER ?**

Davy Crockett a gunfighter ?

NO, Not that Davy Crockett. This is a follow up on the STONECUTTER story by Sam McIhaney which ran in the last issue . Wm. Coulloudon (the Stonecutter) was in the saloon when the shooting took place and came face to face with the shooter Davy Crockett .

.....The soldiers hanging around the village of Cimarron were from Ft. Union, a major Army post of the West, 38 miles down the Santa Fe Trail. Most of these soldiers were Black, known as the "buffalo soldiers." This was around the mid-1870's. As I mentioned in the article, Coulloudon left the wagon train, bought some camping stuff and started walking down the Trail. Remember, this is before the arrival of the railroad and, consequently, the Trail was a busy thoroughfare.

When he reached a major inn/hotel at Cimmaron, he met the Frenchman, Henri Lambert, the proprietor and fellow countryman. Henri had been President Lincoln's White House chef until Lincoln was killed. Now he is in the U.S. Territory of NM cooking for travel-

ers ... The hotel was/is the St. James, known today for several and assorted ghosts that make it their home.

The Davy Crockett in question was born in Tennessee as was the famous congressman. Historians agree he was some kind of relative: grandson, nephew, or whatever, but are not sure exactly what kind of relative. Anyhow, on the day in question, Crockett (who was a fugitive from a Texas prison) was in town with some of his buddies, making the rounds of their favorite watering holes. His companions were Gus Heffron and Henry Goodman. As the drunken Crockett started out of the saloon, he had trouble opening the door because someone was trying to open it from the outside. Once the door was open, Crockett, who had no use for former slaves, discovered the person on the other side of the door was a black soldier from the U.S. 9th Cavalry, the black unit known as buffalo soldiers. Crockett shot him dead, turned around and shot three more black troopers at a card table in the bar, killing two of them.

Around town, Crockett was known as a gunfighter, drifter and outlaw. Within a year, he was shot and killed by the county sheriff and his men when they tried to arrest him.

Ed's note: Writer/ Historian Sam McIhaney has been listed in WHO'S WHO IN U.S. WRITERS, EDITORS AND POETS since 1986.

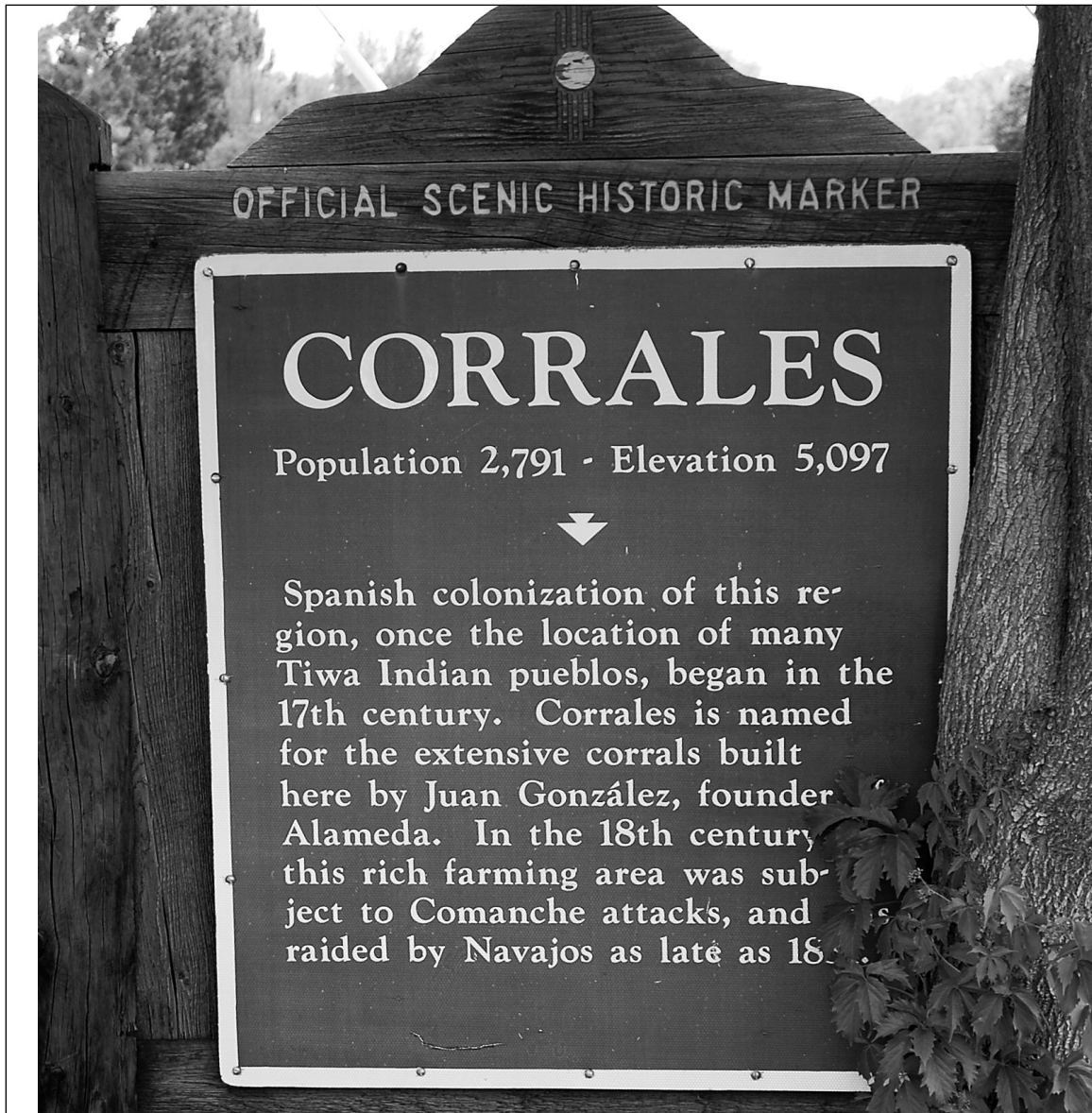
May 21st, DeLavy House gets a new coat of paint

On Saturday President Ken gathered his troops together and gave the South and East patios a much needed coat of gray paint

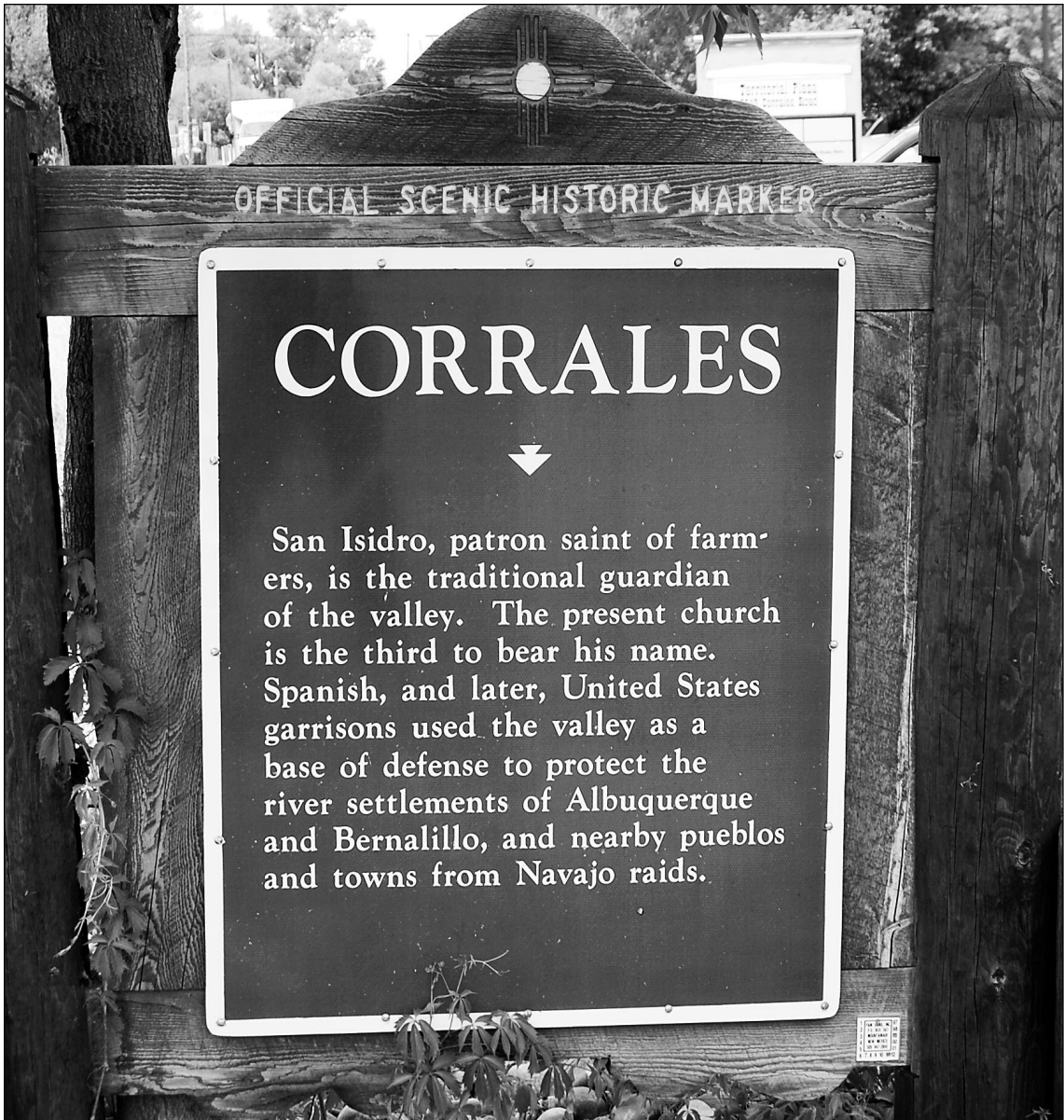


The troops:
Martha Liebert(Food)
Jean& Ernie Jaskolski
Ben Blackwell
Max C de Baca
Gabe Sahn
Ken Kloeppel





This Corrales historic marker is somewhat hidden from view by a large tree. It is located on the corner of Jones and Corrales road, just south of the Corrales Community field.



OFFICIAL SCENIC HISTORIC MARKER

CORRALES



San Isidro, patron saint of farmers, is the traditional guardian of the valley. The present church is the third to bear his name. Spanish, and later, United States garrisons used the valley as a base of defense to protect the river settlements of Albuquerque and Bernalillo, and nearby pueblos and towns from Navajo raids.

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SOCIETY

Gratulations are in order for two of our members:

Don Bullis was elected 1st Vice President of the New Mexico Historical Society at their convention which was held recently in Ruidoso.

and

Nancy Jones has received The Lansing Bloom award for producing the Historical Calendar and Newsletter for the Menaul Historical History Library

MEMBERSHIP

It is getting on in the season but here's a reminder to get your dues paid for 2011 if you haven't already done so, or to join if you are not a member.

Individual..... \$15.00

Family..... \$ 25.00

Individual Life \$150.00

Sponsor..... \$100.00

Please send them to Rusty Van Hart, Membership Chair (293-2073)

Sandoval County Historical Society

www.sandovalhistory.org/

Check out our **web site** that Ben Blackwell puts together for all current information on the Society: Historical notes, upcoming programs. back issues of El Cronicon, links to other interesting sites and more.

NEWS

Virginia Ortiz does a great job of maintaining our photo albums. make sure you look them over at the meeting



Upcoming Sunday Programs at 2pm
July 10 - Ice cream social and band concert
August - Summer Break

September 11 - Ester Cordova May, History of Cuba, NM.

The Lighter Side

A tip of the editor's hat to our contributors

Did I read that sign right?

Toilet out of order. please use floor below

In a laundromat:

automatic washing machines: please remove all your clothes when the light goes out .

In a london department store:

bargain basement upstairs.

In an office:

would the person who took the step ladder yesterday please bring it back or further steps will be taken.

In an office:

After tea break staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

Outside a secondhand shop:

we exchange anything - bicycles, washing machines, etc. why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

Notice in health food shop window:

closed due to illness.

Spotted in a safari park: Elephants. Please stay in your car .

Seen during a conference:

For anyone who has children and doesn't know it, there is a day care on the 1st floor

Notice in a farmer's field:

The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges.

Message on a leaflet:

if you cannot read, this leaflet will tell you how

Sayings of the Oracle:

To err is human, to blame it on someone else is even more human.

A horse is an animal that can take thousands of people for a ride.

Do today what you may not get done tomorrow

Your disposition, not your position, determines happiness.

He who laughs last - probably didn't get the joke.

Minds like parachutes, work only when they are open.

You know you are getting old when your kids start collecting Social Security.

Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!

Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague

Never buy a car you can't push.

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same-time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

The second mouse gets the cheese.

The Lighter Side Two

MOTHER'S DRIVER'S LICENSE

A mother is driving her little girl to her friend's house for a play date.

'Mommy,' the little girl asks, 'how old are you?' 'Honey, you are not supposed to ask a lady her age,' the mother replied. 'It's not polite.'

'OK,' the little girl says,
'How much do you weigh?'

'Now really,' the mother says,
'those are personal questions and are really none of your business.'

Undaunted, the little girl asks, 'Why did you and Daddy get a divorce?'

'That's enough questions, young lady
Honestly!'

The exasperated mother walks away as the two friends begin to play. 'My Mom won't tell me anything about her,' the little girl says to her friend.

'Well,' says the friend,

'all you need to do is look at her driver's license. It's like a report card, it has everything on it.'

Later that night the little girl says to her mother, 'I know how old you are. You are 32.'

The mother is surprised and asks,
'How did you find that out?'

'I also know that you weigh 130 pounds.'

The mother is surprised and shocked.

'How in Heaven's name did you find that out?'

And,' the little girl says triumphantly,

'I know why you and daddy got a divorce.'

'Oh really?' the mother asks. 'Why?'

'Because you got an F in sex.'

THE YELLOW LIGHT

The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

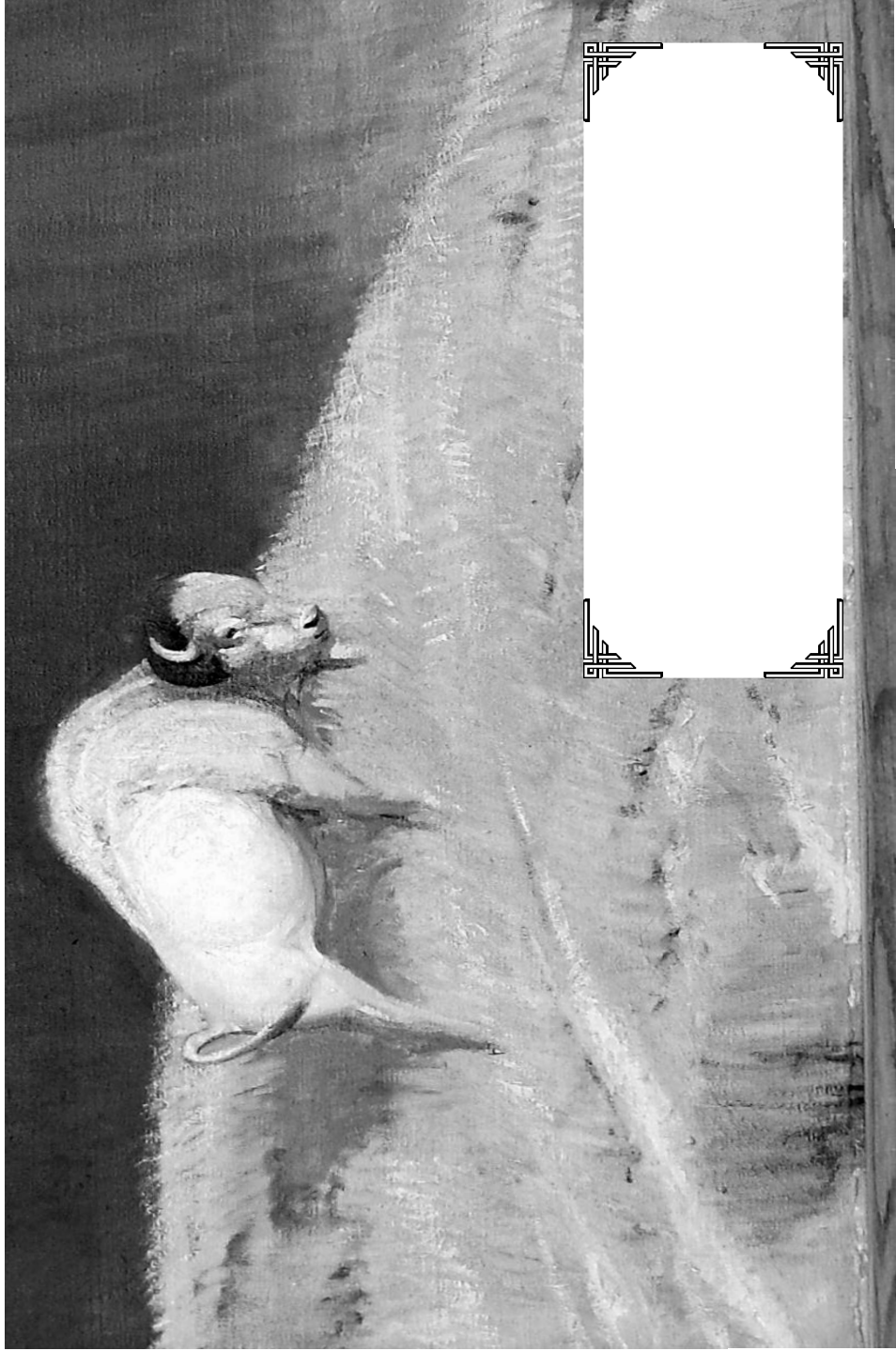
The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally I assumed you had stolen the car."

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