

T• Museum Times



NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM | PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS | HISTORY LIBRARY | PHOTO ARCHIVES | PALACE PRESS | PORTAL PROGRAM



Good Guard, Good Man: A Farewell

The History Museum's staff and supporters gathered on Jan. 7 with the friends and family of Peter Richards to bid him the fondest of farewells. "Pete" was a key part of the museum's security staff for 11 years after a career that included stints in the Navy during Vietnam and at the Santa Fe Penitentiary during the 1980 riot.

For all that drama, he was a humble man—if a tad grouchy. "He always kept to himself," said his daughter, Belinda Rue. "But he loved it here—everything and everybody."

Pete had endured breathing troubles in recent years and collapsed during his shift on Dec. 29, a few months before reaching the retirement he was so looking forward to.

During the Gathering Space event, coworkers offered their thoughts while sipping Pete's favorite beverage (coffee) and nibbling his favorite snack (M&Ms).

"He was a very dedicated person and he loved this museum," Department of Cultural Affairs Secretary Veronica Gonzales said.

"He was such a part of our family, we sometimes referred to him as 'Grumpy,'" said museum Director Frances Levine. "But if you saw the picture of him with his granddaughter, Jazmen, you knew he was 'Grampy' to her."

His fellow guards remembered Pete's crazy car modifications and fondness for bratwursts. Amid the laughter came tears.

"He was my sergeant, and then I was his sergeant," Tina Salazar said. "He was very significant to me."

Archaeologist Steve Post remembered overseeing the excavation preceding the museum's construction. "Pete would always greet you with some offhand comment. He was a great person to work with."

Museum Staff Rustles up a Cowboy Exhibit

Opening April 14, *Cowboys Real and Imagined* has turned into a humdinger of an exhibition, one that requires nearly every hired hand to help out. Designed in nine parts that will consume the upstairs Herzstein Gallery's 5,700 square feet, *Cowboys* is the largest original exhibit we've mounted since *Fashioning New Mexico* in 2009.

Take a look at some of what's happening and just how many folks it takes:

- ▶ Guest curator B. Byron Price, director of the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West at the University of Oklahoma and director of the University of Oklahoma Press, has been riding herd on what stories to tell with which objects.
- ▶ Exhibition designer Caroline Lajoie is project-managing the exhibit, which entails overseeing a detail-rich exhibition book containing all the artifacts, their label and owner info, status of the loans and more.

▶ Museum Director

Frances Levine has traveled

the state in search of support as well as artifacts that can help tell the story. Because of the economic forces squeezing out New Mexico ranchers, she often finds herself chasing those artifacts just before they're sold for scrap.

- ▶ Levine and Marketing Manager Kate Nelson have toiled over rewrites and fact-checks of Price's script, getting familiar enough with the Chicago Manual of Style to resent its sometimes convoluted rules (and ignoring the constraints when they simply can't "take the bit").

▶ Graphics designer Natalie Baca is interpreting Lajoie's design with her trademark, elegant style. A cowgirl herself, Baca's become intertwined with the exhibition text's development and even loaned some photos and artifacts. Baca and Nelson will next turn their eyes toward the look and sound of ads to promote the exhibit. *continued* ▶



Assistant Collections Manager Pennie McBride checks out a saddle for the cowboys exhibit.

Calendar

NOW OPEN

Clint Mortenson's Saddle Shop, La Ventana Gallery

Samples of exquisite saddles and silverwork by a master Santa Fe saddler adorn our front window in this newest installation, a teaser for *Cowboys Real and Imagined*.

SATURDAY, FEB. 9

Los Compadres retreat/meeting 9:30 AM – noon, Classroom

All Compadres are welcome to attend this brainstorming and planning event, which also kicks off the new leadership of Chairwoman Judy Wilson and Vice Chairman Phil Laughlin.

SUNDAY, FEB. 10

Last day to see *Altared Spaces: Shrines of New Mexico*.



SUNDAY, FEB. 10

Karl May movie matinee 2 PM, Auditorium

Enjoy a special showing of the 1962 German movie (dubbed into English), *The Treasure of Silver Lake*, based on a Karl May novel. Free.

MONDAY, FEB. 11

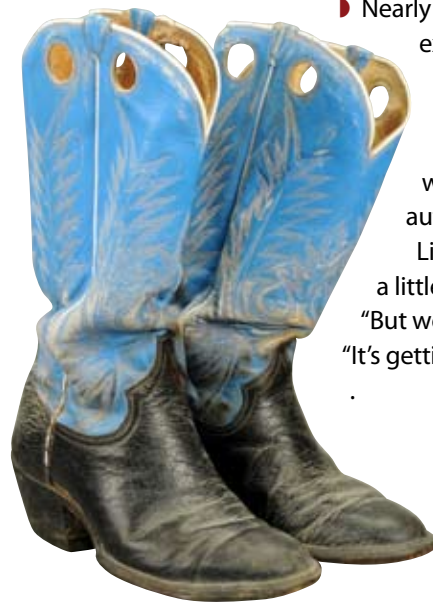
Culture Day at the Capitol 9 AM – 4 PM, Roundhouse Rotunda

Department of Cultural Affairs agencies share information about what's new and cool. Join a final salute to the Centennial. Entertainment at noon. Free.

Museum Staff Rustles up a Cowboy Exhibit *continued*

- ▶ Lending free-lance support to Price, Levine, and Lajoie is former History Museum curator Louise Stiver, who's also working on the front-window exhibit, a recreation of saddle maker Clint Mortenson's shop near Santa Fe.
- ▶ Tom Leech and James Bourland at the Palace Press are midway through a long-awaited fine-press reprint of Jack Thorp's *Songs of the Cowboys* with new illustrations by cowboy artist Ron Kil.
- ▶ Librarian Patricia Hewitt stepped up to fill departed Registrar Wanda Edwards' shoes by wrangling our artifacts and the exhibit's many loans, everything from fine art to a rusty horse trailer. Pennie McBride and Patrick Cruz, along with their volunteers in the collections vault, have pulled objects from storage, accepted loans, and ensured everything's accounted for and in good condition.
- ▶ Photo Archivist Daniel Kosharek has tamed a multitude of rare photographic images into the still-considerable total that will carry visitors through the exhibit. He and Mark Scharen are now prepping the images for display.
- ▶ Rene Harris has developed educational curricula, hands-on interactives, family activities in the Gathering Space, and a secondary exhibition text aimed at children and told by a cartoon cowpony named Popcorn.
- ▶ Preparator Doug Jewell has repaired a problematic light track in the exhibition space and, along with staff across the street at Exhibits Central, is building mounts and other pieces of the exhibition set.
- ▶ Museum Resources Division Conservator Mina Thompson is buffing up silver spurs, windmill arms, and other artifacts.

▶ Nearly everyone on staff helped plan the exhibition's programming, including a Wild West Weekend in August, lectures, a performance by cowboy musician Don Edwards, and a series of classic western-movie nights with critics and authors organized by librarian Tomas Jaehn. Like a cattle roundup, the process can look a little messy and, sometimes, a little scary. "But we're a great team," Levine said. "It's getting exciting."



Quentin Hulse's boots, chuckwagon fare and classic images from the Photo Archives are getting ready for their *Cowboys* spotlight.

MONDAY, FEB. 11

Museum Guides meeting

9 AM, coffee in the Meem Room; 9:30 AM
Bill Dunmire, author of six books, including *Gardens of New Spain*, will talk about his new book, *New Mexico's Spanish Livestock Heritage: Four Centuries of Animals, Land, and People*.

FRIDAY, FEB. 15

"Karl May and Beyond: Indian Hobbyists in 20th-Century Germany"

6 PM, Auditorium
Birgit Hans, professor of Indian Studies at the University of North Dakota, discusses the popularity of re-enacting the lives of Native Americans on German soil. Free.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20

"Westward Ho! The Lives and Diaries of the Women Going West"

Noon, Meem Community Room
Singer, actress, and Chautauqua performer VanAnn Moore delivers a Brainpower & Brownbags lecture. Free.



SUNDAY MARCH 10

"Don Edwards: America's Cowboy Balladeer," 2 PM, Auditorium

Grammy-nominated singer, guitarist, balladeer, songwriter, and historian, Edwards sings and plays old-time ballads and cowboy songs, a program for the upcoming *Cowboys Real and Imagined*. \$25 at the History Museum Shop, or call (505) 982-9543.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

Museum Guides meeting

9 AM, coffee in the Meem Room; 9:30 AM
Program to be announced.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

"Women's Visual Narratives of New Mexico between the World Wars"

Noon, Meem Community Room
Joy Sperling, professor of art history at Denison University in Granville, Ohio, delivers a Brainpower & Brownbags lecture. Free.



Alan Pearlman (left) and Robert Katz, amateur photographers and ace Photo Archives volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS PROFILE

Is There a Doctor in the House?

Actually, there are two doctors in the house—at the Photo Archives, to be precise. But Alan Pearlman and Robert Katz aren't here to take anyone's temperature. Both retired (Alan from neurology, Robert from pediatric critical care), the two donate time once a week to buffing up the Archives' catalogues and online archives. Both are also avid photographers, making the Archives a perfect fit.

Alan helped organize the Carrie Herz collection, separating her crypto-Jew images from the documentary work she did for clients like *The New York Times*. Lately, he's been organizing and digitally scanning material by Henry Walter, a New Mexico photographer who was active in the 1930s–1950s. Besides landscapes, Walters shot the former Governor's Mansion and Capitol and caught early images of the orphaned cub that grew up to be Smoky Bear.

"It's extremely interesting," Alan said. "You never know what's going to come out of an opportunity like this. You see a lot of interesting photographs, and I've met a lot of interesting people. I have a series of portraits of people in Santa Fe that I'm working on as a photographer and have met people as they come in and asked them to be a part of it."

Robert has been working side-by-side with noted Santa Fe photographer Sam Adams, organizing his collection of thousands of images for inclusion in the Archives.

"It's a lot of fun," Robert said. "It's really educational listening to him critique his own photographs."

Both chose to work in the Archives after having their own work selected a few years ago by then-curator Mary Anne Redding for a juried show in Albuquerque—though the two didn't meet until they began volunteering. Since then, one unexpected treat has been the sneak peek they get of the 2014 pinhole-photography show. But the most delicious treats rest in all those boxes and file folders.

"I've been in New Mexico a long time," Robert said, "but you learn a lot about our history by working here. And I learn a lot about photography. One of the best ways to learn is to look at thousands of photographs, right?"



Museum Director Frances Levine (right) interviews State Historian Rick Hendricks.

StoryCorps

That little Airstream trailer parked in front of the Palace until Feb. 9 stands as a symbol of history in the making. StoryCorps, a Peabody Award-winning nonprofit, has been diligently recording the oral histories of various New Mexicans since coming to town in early January.

The History Museum partnered with the program, given our shared goal of preserving the narratives of New Mexicans' lives. To kick off its Santa Fe stay, StoryCorps invited Museum Director Frances Levine and State Historian Rick Hendricks to tape a conversation.

If you've listened to StoryCorps segments on NPR's "Morning Edition," you've been treated to little slices of American life all over the country. Should the Levine-Hendricks confab be chosen for broadcast, listeners will be treated to a slice of Spanish life some 300 years past. That's what happens when you ask two historians to talk about what moves them.

In this case, the mover was Don Diego de Vargas, leader of the 1692 reconquest and subject of Hendricks' extensive scholarly work at the University of New Mexico.

Other participants have talked about decades-old living quarters in the City Different and shared their families' stories.

The museum will receive an archive of all the interviews conducted here, something future historians will surely treasure.



The StoryCorps van parked on the Plaza.

We'll Never Walk Alone

The New Mexico History Museum travels on the strength of our volunteers. We're too large and have too many duties to do it all with paid staff. Volunteers greet the public at the front desk, guide visitors through exhibits, catalog images in the Photo Archives, sew padding onto hangers for storing historical clothing, scan WPA oral histories, demonstrate calligraphy, develop education curricula, fold printer's hats and serve hot cider during Christmas at the Palace, and more.

"Beginning with rehousing the collections into the History Museum in 2009 to the ongoing cataloguing, the windows project, and more, volunteers are essential," museum Director Frances Levine said. "We wouldn't have exhibition tours without them. They are our public interface and part of our museum's infrastructure."

- A 2012 tally by division:
- ▶ Photo Archives: 6 volunteers, 1,040 hours
 - ▶ Collections: 10 volunteers and 1 unpaid intern, 1,340½ hours
 - ▶ Education: 2 volunteers, 17½ hours
 - ▶ Museum guides: 31 volunteers, 1,532 hours
 - ▶ Downtown walking tours: 18 volunteers, 468 hours
 - ▶ History Library: 6 volunteers, 1,094 hours
 - ▶ Palace Press: 25 volunteers, 75 hours

That gives a grand total of 117 volunteers and 5,567 hours. The Independent Sector, a national coalition of volunteer groups, estimates an annual value, by state, for volunteer time. Using the 2011 value of \$17.44 for New Mexico, that amounts to \$97,088.

As a comparison, it cost nearly that much to purchase the portrait of Nuestra Señora de la Macana in *Telling New Mexico*, plus the retablo by Bernardo Miera y Pacheco in *Tesoros de Devoción*, and replace the roof over the Palace Portal—all improvements that we likely couldn't afford if we'd had to pay for what volunteers did.

Besides underscoring our educational mission with their hours, the Downtown Walking Tours guides brought in \$11,008 in 2012, 90 percent of which supports museum programs, with the rest going to Los Compadres, the support group that oversees the tours.

Pat Kuhlhoff, chief engineer of the tours, said the guides saw 1,075 adults and 34 children last year. "Most folks want to know what is so special about Santa Fe and to get an idea of its history and relevance to what they already know," she said.

Probably the best thing about our volunteers is this: They're smart, kind, and collegial. We love working with each of you and thank you for all you do.



Jane Kadlubek (top) creates a form to support clothing in the collections vault. Alisane Toomey (below) conducts a tour of Santa Fe Found.

with the
the. us in
time being a full
sleeping a subject
but subject
more of a
others

Centennial Memories

"Sell everything, I've found a place where I can breathe and sleep at night"

So began Kelly Murphy Lamb's submission to the Centennial Letters Project, one of the late-inning offerings that convinced us of the wisdom of the project.

Hundreds of letters arrived throughout the year, including packages from teachers containing letters from students clearly unaccustomed to the literary form. Even a few adults mentioned how foreign the letter-writing experience was; one complained that her hand hurt. Almost all of them shared some detail about their life—where they live, where they shop, what worries them, what makes them happy.

The letters now are headed to the Fray Angélico Chávez History Library to help a future-year historian get a good look at life in the year 2012. One of the dearest came from Napoleon Garcia of Abiquiu. We offer but a bit of it:

*Dear Future Grandchildren,
Today we celebrated our Indian heritage here in Abiquiu by honoring our patron saint St. Tomás de Apostle. The event started with eight newly trained children dancing our traditional dances dressed brightly in shades of red festooned by multi-colored ribbons. I proudly watched as two of my great-grandchildren danced with this group. . . . Are you still honoring our traditions in this way in 2112? Is the church, dedicated to St. Tomás, built in 1938, still standing? Are you still feasting in the Joe Ferran Gym next door? Are you still dancing?*



Some of the last submissions to the Centennial Letters Project included these.



Museum visitors enjoy making take-home calendars.

The Days of Our Lives

In an era where every important bit of information can be contained in a battery-powered hand-held device, something like a hang-on-the-wall calendar made of paper and decorated with crayons can seem as quaint as a horse-drawn buggy. For more than 100 visitors to the History Museum and the New Mexico Museum of Art, it was quaint enough and charming enough to dedicate some sit-down time as 2012 turned into 2013.

Melanie LaBorwit, the new educator for both museums (plus the state monuments) came up with the calendar-making idea as a way to salute two exhibits. *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible* was drawing to a close after delighting visitors with its ground-breaking achievements in the book arts. *It's About Time: 14,000 Years of Art in New Mexico* was still going strong at the art museum, inspiring visitors to add their own art to its timeline.

LaBorwit and Van of Enchantment coordinator Jamie Brytowski set up tables in the Gathering Space on Dec. 27 at the History Museum and in the front lobby on Jan. 3 at the Museum of Art. They offered glitter glue, markers, colored pencils, magazines for tearing out images and clever headlines, scissors, glue sticks, and reference materials that listed special events and holidays throughout the year.

Fifty-two people sat down at the History Museum tables, many of them drop-ins who thought they were just going to see some exhibits. Up to 70 more came to the Museum of Art event after word got around.

"The ages were all over the map," LaBorwit said, citing everyone from preschoolers to high schoolers, college kids, parents, and families visiting Santa Fe on their holiday break. "The goal was to get them creatively thinking about both history and the future."

Participants tricked-out their take-home calendars, noting family birthdays along with events like Bat Appreciation Week (April 14-20), National Hot Dog Month (July) and Talk Like a Pirate Day (Sept. 19). Delving into the book arts, they learned to assemble calendars and used a saddle stitch, satin cord and gold ribbon to bind them.

"We had great conversations about what people like to imagine and hope for in the new year," LaBorwit said.

Acquiring Minds

What's new in the collections vault? Here's a peek at some of what we received in December and January:

A 1960 **first-day-of-issue stamp** featuring the Palace of the Governors

Campaign materials from Gov. Gary Johnson's 2012 presidential run

A **Simplex Auto Knitter** sock maker and materials



Two **contemporary Majolica boxes** from Mexico and a book on early Spanish settlers

Postcards and postcard booklets of New Mexico and the Southwest, ca. 1940–1960

Six **photographic portraits** of Santa Fe Living Treasures' 2012 honorees

A mid-17th-century **Chinese porcelain blue-and-white soup plate** from the Manila Galleon trade between the Philippines, Mexico and Spain

A **hat with a silver concha headband** that was worn by Larry Frank, whose collection is now the *Tesoros de Devoción* exhibit

A collection of **vintage cigar and cigar-box labels and lithographs** with western and New Mexican themes

A **hand-carved Nativity set** by local santero Frank Brito, ca. 1985



Palace Guard's activities include a rail trip to the historic Lamy depot, and a private tour of the Bosque Redondo Memorial at Fort Sumner State Monument (below).

Keeping Our Guard Up

For decades the Palace Guard has served as the museum's frontline friendship force. As a support group, the Guard's contributions help pay for our robust programming and exhibitions like *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible* and *Cowboys Real and Imagined*. In return, members are invited to special events designed to deepen their knowledge of and appreciation for the history of New Mexico and the American Southwest. (A lucky 60 or so Guards got a backstage tour of the historic La Fonda on the Plaza hotel in January.)

Upcoming activities:

► **Saturday, April 27: Rail Ride through History to Lamy.** Participants will travel on a private 1920s-era rail car, leaving the Santa Fe Railyard in the morning, enjoying lunch at Lamy's Legal Tender housed in an 1881 building. A tour of the Lamy Railroad and History Museum follows, before returning to Santa Fe mid-afternoon. Cost to be determined.

► **Wednesday, Sept. 4: Santa Fe Fiesta lecture.** This Santa Fe tradition kicks off the fiestas. State Historian Rick Hendricks this year speaks on Don Diego de Vargas' complicated and bicoastal family arrangements. Free to Palace Guard; \$5 others.

► **Saturday, Sept. 28: Bosque Redondo Memorial at Fort Sumner State Monument.** Travel to the site of the 1863–68 internment of more than 10,000 Navajo and Mescalero Apache people and learn about the events that led to this dark chapter in American history. Cost to be determined.

► **Thursday, Nov. 7: New Mexico's Treasures.** One of our most popular and Palace Guard-only events. Step behind the scenes of the museum to see the staff's favorite items from the collections. Reception follows. Free. Membership in the Palace Guard costs \$100 (\$150 dual/family) above foundation membership. For more information, call (505) 982-6366.

