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# EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2019

## East Mountains' Role in First U.S. Gold Rush Is Topic of Talk at Our Annual Meeting Nov. 10

The first significant gold rush in the West was not in California, but near the Ortiz Mountains of New Mexico. Author Paul R. Secord will tell us all about the East Mountains' role in U.S. mining history during a special presentation at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10, immediately after our annual membership meeting, which starts at 1:30 p.m.

The talk will be held in the historic little church west of the East Mountain Library and is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. We will be selling our newest calendar, *2020: TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS*, and taking pre-orders for our book of the same name.

"The West's First Gold Rush – the Old and New Placers – Along with Gold, Silver and Copper Lode Mining in the Ortiz and San Pedro Mountains" is the title of Secord's presentation. It will feature photos from family collections – some of which have rarely, if ever, been seen before.

Secord will cover the range of gold, silver and copper mining in the Ortiz and San Pedro Mountains. In addition to focusing on the first significant gold rush west of the Mississippi – the "Old Placer" gold deposits found about 1821 at Dolores – he will also talk about the towns of Golden and San Pedro. Secord draws on extensive research from the files of the late Homer E. Milford of the New Mexico Abandoned Mines Land Bureau. Much of this information has been compiled into two recent books: *Dolores: The West's First Gold Rush* (July 2019) and *Golden and San Pedro – Gold and Copper* (November 2019.)

### In this Issue . . .

Proposed Slate of 2020 EMHS Officers, Directors.....	2
2020 Historical Calendar on Sale at Local Outlets.....	3
Pre-Order TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS Today!.....	4
News and Notes .....	5
Mark Your Calendars .....	6

The talk will immediately follow our annual membership meeting, which will start at 1:30 and include election of officers and directors for 2020. The very brief annual meeting also is open to the public. (See story page 2 for our proposed slate.)

*Continued on pg. 2*

## *First U.S. Gold Rush, continued from pg. 1*

Secord is a retired environmental planning consultant who specialized in cultural resource management and historic evaluations. He is the author of several books for Arcadia Press, including titles on Albuquerque and Santa Fe Architecture, Pecos, Bandelier and the Galisteo Basin and the Cerrillos Hills (with Homer E. Milford). Recent books include *The Maisel's Murals, 1939: Native American Art of the American Southwest* (2018) and volumes on the Piro-Tompiro Pueblo cultures of Abo Pass and the Salinas Region of Central New Mexico. He has recently edited, compiled and supplemented a number of books on New Mexico mining history, including *The Cerrillos Hills and Mining* (May 2019) and *Silver-Plated Deceit, the Story of Mining in Lake Valley, New Mexico* (September 2019), some of which will be available for purchase at the lecture.

Our exhibit of historic East Mountain photographs will be on display during the annual meeting and talk, as will the 6'x6' version of our iconic map of vanishing landmarks, *Mapping Our Vanishing Past*. Thanks to **Dick Brown** for arranging for this speaker.

At this free public event, we will be selling our 2020 calendar of historic area photos, *Timelines of the East Mountains*, and will be taking pre-orders for our book of the same name, to be published in the spring of 2020. The book will cover all of the places featured on EMHS' popular map of disappeared and vanishing landmarks, covering a 400-square-mile area and about 400 years of history.

## **Slate for 2020 EMHS Officers, Board of Directors**

The EMHS board is submitting the following slate of officers and directors for consideration by the membership during our annual meeting elections, to begin at 1:30 Sunday, Nov. 10:

President – **Beverly Neville**

Vice President – **Rick Holben**

Secretary – **Dick Brown**

Treasurer – **Sandra Walton Lee**

Board of Directors: **Anabel Sanchez, Maria Herrera Dresser, Joyce Mendel, Denise Tessier, Kris Thacher, Kathy Rich, Constance Busheme, Gerry Jones, and Robyn Hoffman.**

A note about the Treasurer's position: Rick Holben has been serving as treasurer for several years, during which time the job has grown beyond that of the normal duties of a treasurer. Many non-profit groups have a Finance Committee, headed by the treasurer. While serving as vice president, Rick will continue to monitor our online sales store and mail out calendars, T-shirts and other items sold through the website as part of a Finance Committee, headed by our recommended Treasurer Sandra Lee. He will also monitor membership renewals made online through PayPal, and will compile reports. As treasurer, Sandra, who has been serving as vice president, would keep track of expenses, collect our mail, write checks and send out membership renewal cards. A hearty thanks to Rick and Sandra for taking on these tasks.

## 2020 Historical Calendar on Sale at Local Outlets

The East Mountain Historical Society's calendar for 2020, featuring historic photos of local landmarks, is now available at local outlets and online. *2020: Timelines of the East Mountains* is available at **Triangle Grocery** and **Hey Mavis** in Cedar Crest, **Roots Café** in Tijeras, the **Moriarty Historical Museum** and in the **offices of The Independent** in Edgewood. For our friends who live further south, it is also available at **Ten Points Grocery**, located about 14 miles south of Tijeras. Retail price for the calendar is \$15.

The calendar includes 12 historic photos from East Mountain locations, plus historical local facts printed on the dates they happened in history.



**Dick Brown**, left, and **Kris Thacher** happily selling our 2020 calendars during the East Mountain Celebration Sept. 22.

*Photo by Denise Tessier*

*2020: Timelines of the East Mountains* is the seventh calendar we have produced, and is a preview of our upcoming book of the same name. The book was inspired by our map, "Mapping Our Vanishing Past," which in turn was inspired by information shared by locals during our ongoing oral history project.

The book will include timelines and stories covering all locations on the map and more, encompassing about 400 square miles and 400 years of history. It also will include hundreds of photos and a Special Section of

Maps. Included in each 2020 calendar is a pre-order form for the book, which is scheduled to officially debut at the annual Historical Society of New Mexico conference in Silver City in April 2020.

Copies of "Mapping Our Vanishing Past" maps are available for \$7 at Triangle Grocery, Hey Mavis, and Roots Café, and are also sold at **Tinkertown**, which closed for the winter on Oct. 31, but will reopen in the spring.)

Thanks to **Rick Holben** for organizing and collecting the photos for the calendar, which was edited by **Kris Thacher** and **Denise Tessier** and printed by **Kathy Rich's East Mountain Graphics**. Thanks to Denise and **Sandra Lee** for helping us with sales of our maps, calendars and postcards.

## Pre-Order *TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS* TODAY!

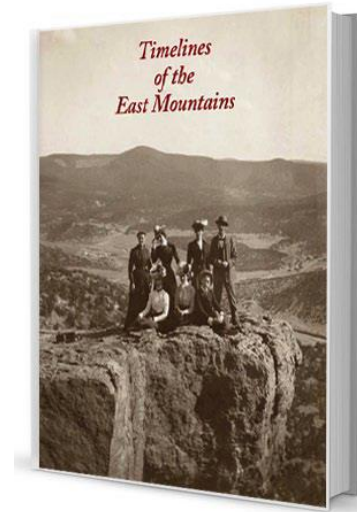
EMHS invites you to pre-order our book, *TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS*, a literary monument to vanishing places, long-held traditions and the people who settled this broad landscape. *TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS* covers about 400 square miles and 400 years of history. It includes hundreds of photos and a Special Section of Maps.

Inspiration for our book came from the EMHS map “Mapping Our Vanishing Past,” which in turn, was inspired by our ongoing Great People, Great Stories oral history project.

You can pre-order by using the paper form included in your calendar and mailing us a check, or order online at our website: [eastmountainhistory.org](http://eastmountainhistory.org) and use PayPal. Limited hard-cover editions are \$60; softcover is \$30.

The book will officially debut at the annual Historical Society of New Mexico (HSNM) conference in Silver City, N.M., in April 2020.

*TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS* provides a history of hundreds of place names. It is a record of unique traditions and stories from the area. It also remembers many of the remarkable, yet forgotten, men and women who made their mark in the East Mountains just a century ago. Be among the first to receive a copy of this historic book.



EMHS has received a Jane Sanchez Grant (\$1,700) from HSNM to help with publication, but we must pay for the rest of the printing ourselves. Your pre-orders help us tremendously. Hundreds of hours of work on “the map book” have been donated by our dedicated and talented volunteer committee members. The mission of the EMHS is to preserve “La Cultura de las Montañas.” This unique history book presents an indispensable perspective bridging our past and our future.



Visitors sang praises for this Route 66 display **Kris Thacher** created for this year’s East Mountain Celebration. Kris and several other EMHS volunteers, including **Anabel Sanchez, Joyce Mendel, Constance Busheme** and **Dick Brown**, hosted a table in the little kiosk building at Los Vecinos Community Center during the county event.

*Photo by Denise Tessier*



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East Mountain Historical Society  
**Newsletter**  
Published Quarterly

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Denise Tessier .....Writer/Editor

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The EMHS Newsletter aims to inform members and prospective members of EMHS events and endeavors, including committee work, and to serve as a record of society activities. It is also a forum for stories about the area. Please send ideas or stories for future newsletters to the Editor, P.O. Box 379, Cedar Crest, NM 87008, or by email: [newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org](mailto:newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org)

All stories and photos by **Denise Tessier** unless noted otherwise. Many thanks to **Dick Brown** for proofing.

#### **Mission Statement**

The Mission of the East Mountain Historical Society is to identify, preserve and present to the public the history and culture of the East Mountain area. EMHS will assist in protecting historical and landscapes, artifacts, records, or any item considered to be of historical significance. EMHS will also identify, collect and archive historical material of significance to the area.

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## **News and Notes . . .**

A hearty welcome to our new members: **Lisa Militell-Dugger** and **Jeannie Place**, both of Tijeras, and **Daron Cooper** of Santa Fe.



**Constance Busheme**, who has attended several board meetings and events and more than once has helped us fold and package our maps and calendars, among other tasks, has agreed to be our Program Director for 2020. Thank you! Constance, an East Mountain native, has been nominated to serve on our board of directors for 2020.

Also nominated to serve as a director is **Robyn Hoffman**, a long-time member and East Mountain resident who has attended many of our meetings and events, and who also is a regular attendee of state history conferences. Robyn is a retired attorney who specialized in civil rights and Native American law. Thank you for agreeing to join the board!



EMHS was two places at once on Sept. 22, when we hosted an Open House at the little church in Tijeras and at the same time had a space at the E. Mtn. Celebration across the street (photos on pgs. 3&4). Below are four of those who greeted

visitors at the church, where we displayed our historic photo panels and map of vanishing landmarks: From left, **Maria Herrera Dresser**, **Elvira Nieto**, **Beverly Neville** and **Sandra Lee**.

*Photo by  
Denise Tessier*



## *Mark Your Calendars*

**Nov. 9** (Saturday) – **EMHS board meeting.** All members are welcome to attend. Meeting starts at 10 a.m. in the little historic church in Tijeras, just west of the East Mountain Library. We will be setting up chairs and tables for the Annual Meeting immediately after the board meeting.

**Nov. 10** (Sunday) – **Annual Membership Meeting and Elections** at 1:30 p.m. in the historic church in Tijeras. Our historic photo panels and Mapping Our Vanishing Past will be on display. Annual Membership Meeting will be immediately followed at **2 p.m. by a presentation from Paul R. Secord on the first gold rush west of the Mississippi** (see story on page 1).

**December** – **Annual holiday potluck.** Members will be notified when we pin down the time, date and place.

**April 16-18** – **State history conference in Silver City, N.M.,** sponsored by the Historical Society of New Mexico. EMHS is planning to debut our monumental history book, *TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS*, during the conference.