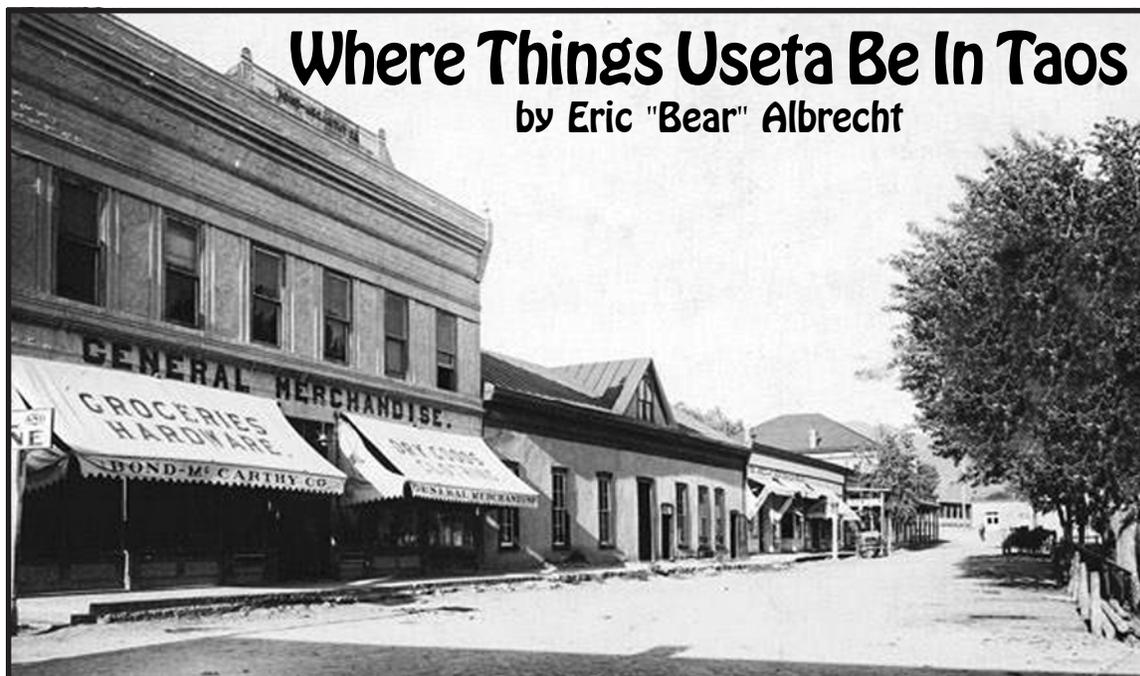


AYER Y HOY en TAOS

Yesterday and Today in Taos County and Northern New Mexico

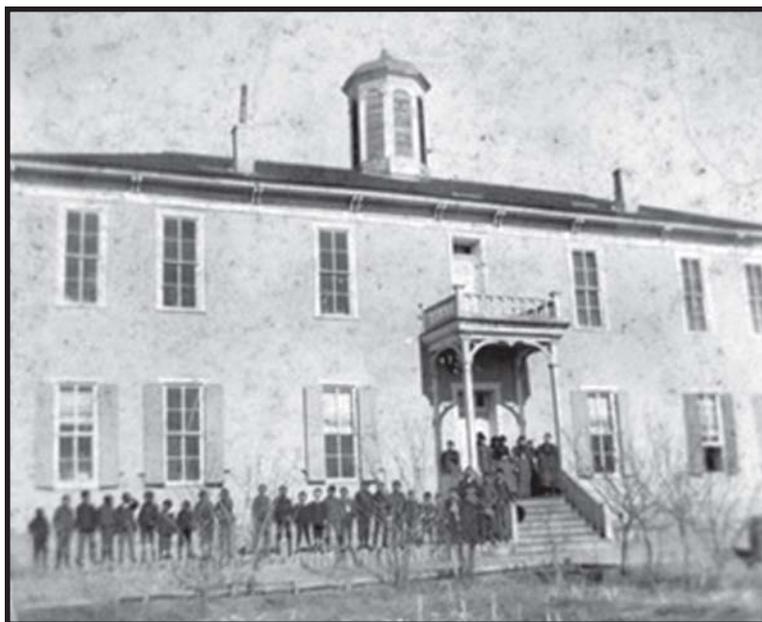
Spring 2018

Issue #44



Loretto In Taos

by Eleanor Craig, S.L.



Liz Cunningham: A Remarkable Friend & Citizen

by Janet Webb

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and Northern New Mexico

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Issue No. 44

ISSN 1088-5285

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Taos County Historical Society's publication, Ayer y Hoy en Taos - Taos County and Northern New Mexico, is published semi-annually by the Historical Society.

We invite articles of a scholarly nature, as well as book reviews of recent publications pertinent to the Taos and northern New Mexico area. We are open to publishing occasional reminiscences, folklore, oral history and poetry that are of historical interest.

The Taos County Historical Society endeavors to maintain high standards of quality in AYER Y HOY, and we seek to make improvements as we go along. Readers' comments and suggestions are welcome.

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AYER Y HOY is distributed to all members of the Taos County Historical Society as a benefit of membership.

Editor

Dave Cordova

The Taos County Historical Society is a New Mexico non-profit organization dedicated to the study and preservation of the historical resources of Taos County and Northern New Mexico. Membership is open to any interested person, regardless of residence.

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P.O. Box 2447 • Taos, New Mexico 87571

A Message from the TCHS President Ernestina Cordova

Dear Friends and Members,



Your Board of Directors and I are committed to the stewardship of the Taos County Historical Society and, in mid-January, we held our Board retreat at the Taos Inn where we reviewed and set our goals for the rest of the year and the fore-seeable future.

We are well into 2018 and have already had several interesting programs. February's was "Growing up in Taos" by Stephanie Valerio- Rael; in March we hosted "Comerciantes, Arrieros y

Modistas: New Mexicans, Trails & Commerce in the 19th Century," by Susan Boyle and in April we heard "In Search Of William Wolfskill", by Conchita Marusich.

We are already in May and honoring some fantastic people of our community. This year we will honor Charles "Corky" Hawk, a long-time member of the society, who has served as board member & preservation chair. He has been a dedicated and tireless promoter of our Taos history and spearheaded the restoration of the Duran Molino. Corky was one of the authors in "Taos: A Topical History." We are also honoring Philanthropists and Community Supporters, Ed and Trudy Healy of the Healy Foundation. The Healys have given the TCHS two grants to do the work on the Duran Molino and other preservation projects. We are very grateful for the contributions made to the preservation of Taos History.

It is a TCHS commitment to use all the experience, skill and dedication that we have within our membership. It is our goal to achieve the best possible result and to serve with the same integrity. We have so many talented members and the Board would like to utilize those talents as we move forward. You will be contacted by e-mail to let us know of your interests in assisting the TCHS on various committees or projects.

Our Board of Directors has a new treasurer, Robert Maynard and a new Hospitality Chair, Beatrice Maynard. We welcome them and look forward to working with them. Again I want to thank each and every one of our members for the fantastic support that you give us. We encourage you to invite your family and friends to become members of the Society.

Please join us for our future lectures and our summer field trip: June "19th Century Fur Trader and Merchant: Ceran St. Vrain" by Christine Fischahs and July - Field Trip to Las Vegas, NM for a guided tour of the Montezuma Castle and Lunch at The Plaza Hotel.



Thank you and enjoy the rest of this year!
Ernestina Cordova, President
Taos County Historical Society

“WHERE THINGS USETA BE IN TAOS”

by Eric “Bear” Albrecht - Some Updates & Additions by Dave Cordova

Time is fleeting. Measured in seconds, minutes, hours or even millennia, time brings about many changes, changes that Eric Bear Albrecht tried to document for Taos.

Bear, as he was known, was a transplanted Taoseño who lived and worked in Taos in the 70s and 80s before moving south to the Socorro area. During his time here, he became interested in documenting the comings and goings of businesses and public places in and around the Town of Taos because directions were being given with references to defunct businesses. That is why he created the list of “Where Things Useta Be In Taos.” Although not a complete list, it offers an opportunity to jog our memories to remind us those by-gone days. The list itself is now a bit dated with the passage of a little more than 30 years, but it is relevant enough to, at least, provide a basis for this article and any future additions to it.

There is a lot of history in Bear’s list and, being fluid, it is ever changing.

ABC Lock is now immediately north of Wendy’s and was located in the “Black Hole of Cantu” (the lower part of the Cantu building) at the foot of Camino de la Placita.

Amigos Coop was in El Prado in the 80’s, where Camino Real Imports is now, and then moved to the south side, just north of Fred’s. It disintegrated in 1999.

Anthony’s (C. R. Anthony Co.) was a clothing store in the Cruz Alta Shopping Center where Beall’s is now.

Armory Street is now called Civic Plaza Drive. Other names have been suggested, including Ila McAfee Drive, after the lady who lived on the street for untold decades; the house is called White Horse Studio. The National Guard Armory was located in the area, once the Taos Convention Center, and now occupied by UNM.

Bent Lodge 42 (AF&AM) has had several locations in and around Taos, one of the most notable was on the corner of Camino de la Placita and South Santa Fe Rd, below Cantu’s in what became the “Black Hole of Cantu.” Bent Lodge is now on Camino de Santiago behind the Quality Inn and across the street from St. James Episcopal Church.



Black Hole of Cantu has had many occupants since its construction in the mid to late-sixties. Most formidable were Taos’ first 7-to-11 owned by Juan Martinez, the Department of Motor Vehicles, Chuck’s Gun Shop, ABC Lock, Casa de Musica, a frozen yogurt shop and several boutiques and hair salons. The shops’ roof was Cantu Furniture’s roof-top parking.

Blinking Light, The was a long-time landmark at the junction of Ski Valley Road and NM150. It is now shrouded in mystery — when the intersection was realigned and full signals put up, the blinking light was taken down, laid to rest by the side of the road, and captured by UFOs or local nostalgists or whatever.

Bowling Alley was located in what is now El Taoseño Restaurant. Once a popular entertainment venue known as the Coronado Ballroom, which was where Taoseños saw such notable celebrities as Fats Domino and Glen Campbell. The venue closed in the mid-60s and was bought by professional bowler Floyd Garcia and turned the ballroom into a multi-lane bowling alley. When the lanes became warped, the bowling alley was torn out and the building became Floyd’s Lounge.

Bravo! was located in the building built to house outlet stores, Revere Ware and London Fog. It is now the Veteran’s Care Facility and most recently Video Casa South.

Brett House Restaurant was one of a number of various establishments that have been in the building nearest the north Blinking Light on the southeast corner.

Burrito Wagon/Mante’s Chow Cart used to be at the edge of the old Piggly Wiggly/Furr’s parking lot (more recently Ramona’s) and now Super-Save. Before that it was on the northwest corner of N. Pueblo Road and the Plaza. Before that it was in the old Safeway parking lot, what is now Pueblo Alegre Mall, across from Smith’s.

Bus Station: From the earliest recollections, the bus station was located in the building that is now a Thai restaurant across from McDonald’s. It moved around a bit and is now just a memory because there is no longer bus service to Taos.

Caffe Tazza first opened on Valentine’s Day, 1983, where the Sunbringer secondhand shop was until recently, and La Folie’s soup shop was last time I looked, on Guadalupe Plaza. It had a couple of other homes before settling on Kit Carson Road.

Cantu Furniture was in the upper part of the building on Cantu Hill where Alhambra is now. It featured the roof-top parking.

Carl’s Deli followed Le Bunnerie in Pueblo Alegre Mall; owner Carl Fritz later opened Carl’s French Quarter at the Tennis Ranch and then eventually closed the Deli. (Well, for that matter, he eventually closed the French Quarter too.)

Casa de Musica had several locations, most prominent was in the “Black Hole of Cantu.”

Centinel Bank of Taos started on Armory Street, across the Post Office, before moving to permanent offices on Paseo del Pueblo Sur across from the county offices.

Chamber of Commerce was located in the alley to the El Patio Restaurant, then across from Smith's for many years before moving to its current location at the corner of Paseo del Pueblo Sur and the Canon by-pass.

China Trade Shop's most recent move was from one place in Cruz Alta Mall to another; before that, though, Artie Sharfin and his faithful canine companion were across from McDonald's, where the Taos Mox store was.

Chuck's Gun Shop was in the old Randall Mill building, the wood-sided building across from Randall Lumber.

La Cigale (the Cricket) was another of the many restaurants in Pueblo Alegre Mall.

Copy Queen was on Bent Street for eons, in the first building next to the parking lot at the jog in the street and now located in Yucca Plaza.

Corning-Revere Outlet Store was next to Bravo! having long outlasted the London Fog store which was in the Bravo! building. But it's gone now too.

Coyote Cafe was in the building now occupied by Pioneer Investment Co., or maybe it was in the other building in the front. They used paper plates.

Cruz Alta, The was a landmark that no longer exists, even though it is the starting point for a very large number of surveys.

Da Nahazli School became Taos Valley School, which closed in 1998.

Department of Motor Vehicles was in the "Black Hole of Cantu" (Cantu Plaza) at the foot of Camino de la Placita, and down the hall between A Little Fishy and ABC Lock. It then moved to Gusdorf Road, just south of Paseo del Canon.

Drive-In Movie Theater, both Kit Carson Drive-In and Dollison Theater; Drive In Road is now called Camino de Merced, which was also the location of the town dump. Wal-Mart is on that corner now where the Drive In used to be.

Don Pablo Gomez Restaurant became Lambert's and is now vacant. In between times it was a barbecue place that was pretty good but they used paper plates and didn't exude whatever it might be to justify the prices.

Don Pedro's Restaurant was the first business in the building and after a few years, became Jacqueline's. That also ended its run after a few good years and is now La Cocina.

El Prado Post Office was in the south end of El Prado Plaza in beautiful downtown El Prado before moving into a new building further north.

El Prado Shell was immediately north of El Prado Plaza.

El Taoseno Restaurant was across the street from its present location where Toby's was more recently located and is now vacant.

End of the Universe Cafe was in Cantu's upstairs addition, overlooking NM68.

Enos Garcia Middle School was once the high school, and now is named Enos Garcia Elementary School although the grades in it have changed very little. The Junior High is now called the Middle School.

First New Mexico Title, originally Sterling Title, used to be at 224 Cruz Alta, where La Plaza Telecommunity Foundation had its offices.

First State Bank - Main Branch was located at the north-west corner of Taos Plaza, moving to the old Safeway on the south-west corner of the Plaza. It remained there until First State Bank became US Bank.

First State Bank - Armory Street Branch was located in the Post Office building and after closing became the Taos Police Department.

Floyd's Lounge: Floyd sold out to Arturo Archuleta's El Taoseno which had been across the street in much smaller quarters. He used to have a bowling alley in the back, a bar & dance hall.

Fred's Place was just south of Amigos Coop in the older Cohn's Diner. It was a very popular dinner restaurant, with amazing ceiling art by Tim Linhart.

Furr's bought out Piggly Wiggly before moving to a new building occupied by the Safeway Store at the northern most end of Cruz Alta Plaza. The original location sat vacant for several years before becoming Ramona's Night Club.

Gallery West was on Kit Carson Road; it was run by Jim Parsons. There are and have been a number of galleries with confusingly similar names.

Gilberto's Restaurant was where the Chinese place is across from McDonald's. Had some really delicious green chile burritos. They were so good I have to wonder if he used MSG.

Gulf Station There were two Gulf Stations in Taos. One was on the north-east corner at the traffic light by the Plaza, owned by Luis Martinez. The other was located across the South Santa Fe Road from the Old Holy Cross Hospital and was owned by Luis's brother Pat Martinez.

Happy Guitars was in the west end of the building behind the north branch of Peoples Bank.

Harwood Library was run by UNM along with the Harwood Museum for decades after the Harwood family gave the building and stuff to UNM; the library was transferred to the auspices of the Town of Taos several years ago, and moved out of the building into a new facility in 1996.

Highlander, The Restaurant was where Song's Oriental Restaurant is now, across from the Cruz Alta Shopping Center.

Holiday Inn, The, in Taos was first at what is now the Quality Inn. For a while it was the Taos Lodge or something like that. Holiday Inn again tried to make a go of Taos and built a new hotel across the highway from what used to be Taos Tire on the south-west corner of Camino de la Merced.

Hot Tracks bike shop used to be on the south side of the Sleeping Boy building at Cruz Alta & Santa Fe Road, and later across the street from McDonald's.

House of Taos was started on Guadalupe Plaza by Ron and Carol Kalom. Some years ago it was sold to a French couple who since moved it to the outer reaches of El Prado.



Jack Denver's Motel was across from the last home of Amigos Natural Foods ("the Coop"). Funky place, run by a real character — for instance he would always pay his electric bill at the last possible moment before getting cut off.

Joe Mama's Restaurant was yet another in Pueblo Alegre Mall.

Joe's Boardwalk Cafe was on the actual boardwalk, when there was one, near the Dunn House on Bent Street. Actually it was closer to the road that runs behind the north side of the Plaza.

The **Junior High School** is now called the Middle School, for what reason I don't know.

Kentucky Fried Chicken was across from McDonald's; it now houses La Bell Cleaners. Robert Arnold Gallery was one of a number of businesses there in between. There's a new KFC adjacent to the new Taco Bell on Paseo del Canon.

La Bell Cleaners was in the middle of "Gallery Row" on Kit Carson Road and it occupies the old KFC.

La Cocina Restaurant and bar was on the north side of the Plaza for a long, long time under several owners. Notably Cal Loving and Jean Sutherland.

La Plaza Telecommunity Foundation's first offices were in the back of the UNM-Taos facility on Civic Plaza Drive, a.k.a. Armory Street.

Le Bunnerie, '80s, was one of many restaurants in Pueblo Alegre Mall. Others included Joe Mama's, Carl's, La Cigale, and the Punjab Palace.

London Fog outlet store space was where the Veteran's Clinic is now located, after Bravo!

Mainstreet Bakery was originally Workingman's Bread; it started in Albuquerque, then moved to Santa Fe and eventually to Taos to the building that later housed Southwest Spiral Designs. Two ladies named Barbara bought it, changed the name, and moved it off the main street to Guadalupe Plaza.

Maxae's Books was in the Dunn House. Became Moby Dickens Bookshop when Art and Susan Bachrach bought the bookstore.

McCrory's was a discount store in Cruz Alta Plaza; previously T G & Y, later Bargain Time. All three brands were owned by the same corporation. None prospered. Their problem was probably the fact that they always bought bargains for the store and not for the customer.

Michael's Pizza was across North Pueblo Road from the Baptist Church and adjacent from Peoples Bank. It closed its doors after a short run.

Mick's Powerhouse, predecessor to the Taos Spa & Court Club, was a weight room run by Mick Sopyn in the Ranchos Trading Post in the early 80's.

Ming's Chinese Restaurant was where Sahd's Ranchos Trading Post was, on the crest of the hill going down to Ranchos from the Talpa turnoff. It later became Joseph's Table and the Trading Post Café.

Mixtech Productions was a video production outfit in the Return Gallery building, on the back of the plaza, with a little-used front door on the lane that exits from the town parking lot to the plaza. Actually you can't drive into the plaza from there because it would appear to be going the wrong way on a one-way thing, for a whole eight feet or so.

Mormon Church (LDS) was on the north side of town in the building now occupied by, among others, Woodall Brothers, Emanuelli Advt. & Design, and Bear Albrecht's Presto Computers. It is now located on Camino de Santiago.

Mount Wheeler University was a private pre- and elementary school run by Tanneguy and Lila de Joubecourt. Most of its history was in the building now occupied by Southwest Moccasin and Drum, near the north-side Lota Burger.

Murray's Deli: "Murray" was really Steve and he eventually sold it to Zippy. It was in McCarthy Plaza.

North Pueblo Road is now Paseo del Pueblo Norte.

Oriental Blue Streak a gas station, was where the La Fonda sign is on the northeast corner of Route 3 (now 518) and Route 68 (Santa Fe Road); there was also a band named after it.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church was next to the present church, the site (Guadalupe Plaza) is now the parking lot between First State Bank and Mainstreet Bakery. The church burnt down in the early 60s. Actually that was the second church at that location which was officiated by Padre Martinez.

Piggly-Wiggly Supermarket became Furr's, which later took over the Safeway store at Cruz Alta Plaza when Safeway bailed out of this part of the country. The space then became Ramona's, a short-lived night club.

Plaza Cafe, setting of one of the scenes in Easy Rider, was in McCarthy Plaza, about where Murray's was.

Plaza Food was, I've been told, on the Plaza and moved to a new building on South Santa Fe Road, immediately south of the current Smith's in what is now the south parking area.

Post Office (87571) had several locations. Once at the north-east corner of South Santa Fe Road and Quesnel Street, moving to Armory and to its present location on Paseo del Pueblo Norte.

Presbyterian Church used to meet in a small building behind Enos Garcia Middle School before erecting its present church north of Kit Carson Park.

Pueblo Motors was the Chrysler/Dodge/Plymouth dealer on the corner of Los Pandos and Paseo del Pueblo Sur. It later changed owners and became Scheid Motors.

Punjab Palace was another in the interminable series of restaurants in Pueblo Alegre Mall. The food was good but widespread rumors of the help being abused, seriously abused, caused Taosenos to stay away in droves.

Ramona's might have flown in another town, but aqui en Taos? Nope, didn't make it. It was a night club, across the road from Centinel Bank. Now occupied by SuperSave Supermarket.



Ranchos Post Office was across the highway from San Francisco de Asis Church, in the north end of the building next to Dennis Hopper's El Cortez Theater.

Ranger Station on Armory Street was used by the Town of Taos for offices while another building was rebuilt after a fire, and then later became the UNM-Taos building.

Rendezvous (the Flea Market) was in the old Winn's store, the south half of the building housing the original Furr's, which later was expensively remodeled as Ramona's. The location became Big O Tires, Taos Tire and now Point S.

Return Gallery was in the adobe building across from Guadalupe Church, the one with the little pyramid on top. Another entrance was just off the Plaza on Teresina Lane.

Rexall drug store was on the north side of the Plaza; it had a lunch counter that served good burgers, sundries, curios and a watch repair.

Roadrunner Cafe was one of several attempts to run a restaurant where Fred's finally made it big.

Ron Cooper Studio was in the Ranchos Trading Post building, where the Trading Post Cafe is now.

Safeway ended up as Albertsons's but had been other places before settling in Cruz Alta Mall. They include the US Bank (formerly First State Bank) building at the southwest corner of the Plaza, then on to Camino de la Placita where Tuesday Morning is now, adjacent to Cantu Plaza, then in what is now called Pueblo Alegre Mall across from Smith's and finally at Cruz Alta Mall, becoming Furr's and Alberstons.

Schlotzky's was between Pizza Hut and True Value Hardware, now occupied by 5-Star Burgers.

Sierra Sports was in the building just north of McDonald's, where Cottam's Ski Shop now resides.

Sleeping Boy was a bar on the corner of Cruz Alta and Paseo del Pueblo Sur; the building is still there and the statue was recently restored to the nicho high on the front of the building.

Smith's was in the "Old Smith's Building" (its customary but unofficial name) adjacent to the present store.

South Santa Fe Road is now Paseo del Pueblo Sur.

Speed Bumps used to be a prominent feature of Valverde Road and other secondary roads.

Spotted Bear started out in the little adobe building north of Johnny's Barber Shop.

Sunbringer second-hand store was in El Prado originally, and later on Guadalupe where Caffe Tazza started and La Folie once was located.

T G & Y was originally located next to Piggly Wiggly. The space became Winn's when TG&Y moved to Cruz Alta Plaza.

Taco Bell was where Wendy's is now. After Taco Bell it was Mac's Steak in the Rough.

Taos Herb Co. was on Siler Road for a number of years before moving to Cruz Alta Plaza.

Taos High School now houses Enos Garcia Middle School.

Taos News was for decades at the corner of Placita and Ranchitos before moving to its present location on Albright Road.

Taos Plaza Theatre was downstairs on the south side of the Plaza, near First State Bank. After it burned down in the late 60s, it was rebuilt in the same location.

Taos Savings and Loan Association — one of those S&L's that crashed and burned; the building now houses First New Mexico Title.

Taos Sports Co., formerly Taos Bike Shop, was across from McDonald's. The building next housed another bike shop, Hot Tracks, then Dave's Motorcycle Shop and now an animal supply store.

Taos Tire Co. was located at the south-west corner of Paseo del Pueblo Sur and Camino de la Merced.

Taos Typesetting used to be in the Old Smith's Building.

Taos Valley School, Canon Campus. The upper grades at TVS were housed in the old Canon elementary school building, down the lane opposite Anglada's Building.

Templeton's Laundry was where Gus Foster's & Larry Bell's building is, on the corner of San Antonio Lane and Ranchitos Road.

Tea & Coffee Co. was upstairs from the Apple Tree in the early 80s, now Lambert's on Bent Street.

The Architects — one of many "the" outfits — has moved often, but always within the same building at 211 Cruz Alta.

The Plumbers — Bob Draper's outfit, now Phoenix Mechanical.

Toby's Restaurant was back for a while in the late 90s where Lavadie's was in 1982 at the corner of Paseo del Pueblo Sur and Herdner Road; for much of the time in between El Taoseno was in there.

Western Bank was one of the pieces that Peoples Bank was made from; the building is now occupied by Re/Max Real Estate, next to Baskin-Robbins.

Wackers moved from what is nowadays called the Old Smith's Building to the south end of the Ramona's building.

Wildcards Computers used to be in the building that replaced Taos Tire after it burned down, next to Mailboxes Etc. Later it moved to the building behind Susan's Grill. Sold and renamed Computers de Taos, now closed.

Winn-Dixie was in the Old Smith's Building; became Winn's.

Wordcrafter was in quite a few places under the original management (Wayne Carter). I don't have the details. Couldn't keep track of him. Eventually sold and finished out its days two spaces south of Radio Shack in the same building, next to the Post Office.

Yellow Front and Checker Auto was a discount/auto supply store in the old Safeway building on Camino de la Placita.

Yucca Builders was a hardware store on North Pueblo Road which dwindled and closed, and was turned into a multi-store building called Yucca Plaza.



LIZ CUNNINGHAM 1951-2018

A Remarkable Friend and Citizen by Janet Webb

Liz Cunningham left this world far too soon. She was enthusiastically working to explore, understand and document through writing the lives of influential artists and citizens of the West, especially Taos, right up to her last days.

The last project I worked on with Liz was reviving the Remarkable Women of Taos website we created together (with many others!) in 2012. The website had been inadvertently removed when Taos tourism department launched a new website.

The 150-plus-page website included the names of over 700 women, with biographies of 167 women who contributed to the ethos of Taos. Legends—pioneers who are gone now. Artists. Outdoor women. Businesswomen. Doctors and care-givers. Writers. Community leaders.

Back in 2011 and 2012, Liz hatched the idea of honoring all the remarkable women of Taos simultaneously with the centennial exhibitions at the Harwood Museum of work by Taos artists Agnes Martin and Bea Mandelman. She was joined by Cathy Ann Connelly, Joan Griffin, and Jeanne Kitzman, all working with the Town of Taos marketing department. Susan Longhenry of the Harwood, gallerist Stephen Parks, Mabel Dodge House director Karen Young and myself. (I am saddened that three of our team of eight have now passed on – Steve, Karen and Liz, legends all.) It was quite an extraordinary experience, learning about the women who have made Taos *Taos*.

When we finished the logistical and financial task of moving the digital files of the Remarkable Women of Taos website to a new domain, womenoftaos.org, Liz told me she needed to take some time off to focus on her health and her beloved partner, Skip. That was a year ago and since then I have only spoken with Liz through email.

As I worked this past fall on co-curating, with Judith Kendall, an exhibition for the Harwood Museum, *Work by Women*, I've often had the impulse to "Call Liz, she'll know!" As we looked at paintings, photographs and prints from the museum's collection, so many questions about the women artists arose. "Did Mary Blumenschein and the other wives of the Taos Founders make art together?" "Was Gloria Corbett Ed Corbett's wife?" "How did the Three Weavers meet?" But by the fall, Liz was no longer taking calls.

I am forever grateful for the chance to work with Liz and observe her joyful curiosity for all things Taos. RIP.

Janet Webb, April 2018

(Janet owned and operated Webb Design Inc, a design and marketing company in Taos, from 1982 through 2014.)



The 23rd Annual International Conference of the Anza Society **May 17-20, 2018 • Taos, New Mexico** **www.anzasociety.org**

Friday

Dr. Rick Hendricks, New Mexico State Historian

*"Los Ranchos St. Francisco
Historic Church and the Mystery Painting"*

Saturday

Colonel David C'de Baca

"History of New Mexico and More"

Dr. Ron Quinn / Laura Bolyard - Alden Naranjo

Dr. Robert Torrez - Professor Bob Romero

Dr. Joseph Sanchez - John Anderson/Dr. Jefferson

Dr. John Kessell - Charles Hawk



“LORETTO IN TAOS”

by Eleanor Craig, S.L., Director of the Loretto Heritage Center, Nerinx, KY

The late August numbers of the Taos newspapers in 1913 carried the following, in Spanish and in English:

GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Sisters of Loretto Spend Half a Century in Taos, New Mexico

Early in 1863, Rev. Father Gabriel Ussel, the then parish priest of Taos, New Mexico, recognizing the need of a convent and Sisters to instruct the young of Northern New Mexico, petitioned the church authorities to establish a colony of the Sisters of Loretto at that place.

Three Sisters of that Order were started overland from Santa Fe. The superior was Euphrosyne Thompson, and Sister Ignacia Mora and Sister Angelica Ortiz accompanied her.

These three sisters opened a convent in the house now occupied by Don. Santiago Romero, this house having been purchased for them by Father Gabriel with funds derived from the sale of his horse and buggy.

On November 3rd, 1863, a school for girls was opened with an encouraging attendance.”



Sisters Angelica McGinnis, William Ann Gartin, Margarita Pacheco in Taos Convent, August 1912
Credit Loretto Heritage Center—Taos Collection

Fifty years of Loretto in Taos! And there would be almost one hundred more years! Who were these Loretto women? What part did they play in Taos history and what was their daily life like? Fifty years had seen a lot of change in the hometown of Kit Carson and Josefa Jaramillo; the culture of the old Spanish Catholics had been slowly giving way to the Anglo culture brought by railroads and the Protestant ranchers. Much of the change can be read between the lines of the sisters’ record book called *The Annals*.

“October 15, 1863. The Sisters left Santa Fe for Taos, the whole journey of seventy miles being made in carriages over very rough roads, through mountains, and along the Rio Grande. ...The sisters were obliged to walk nearly half the way. In those days such journeys were considered pleasure trips! Railroads were not thought of.”

The sisters’ record book contains day-by-day entries—amusing, interesting, surprising, impressive, quaint, and occasionally disturbing. Taken together, the annals for the first 50 years of Loretto in Taos give a uniquely detailed picture of the work and lives of women of substance, dispelling many of the usual caricatures. These annals are available in the archives of the Loretto Heritage Center on the grounds of the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Loretto in Nerinx, Kentucky.



Fall 1908-Patio of St. Joseph Convent. Sisters Marguerite Pacheco, Wm Ann Gartin, Angeline McGinnis, Casilda White, Father Giraud, Euphrosyne Thompson, Mother Barbara Everin.
Credit Loretto Heritage Center—Taos Collection

The sisters had been invited to Taos by the local priest, Gabriel Ussel, the appointee of the new French Bishop Jean Baptiste in place of Padre Antonio Jose Martinez who had lived among and served the people of Taos for decades. Martinez refused to relinquish his large cache of cultural and religious power; he separated himself and many in the Taos community from the bishop’s church rather than comply with Lamy’s project of reforming the Hispanic clergy. The Sisters’ school was to be a bridge between Ussel’s and Martinez’s factions of the Church in Taos. According to the sisters’ annals, “November 2, 1863. The school opened with a very good number of girls. ...At that time there was a schism in the parish, but all parties patronized the Sisters’ school the same.”

The three sisters who arrived in October 1863 were a representative mix of Anglo and Hispanic, just like the Loretto community they had left in Santa Fe, and just like the Taos community they came to teach. These are the three who opened school in the same building that was their convent just two weeks after arriving: Euphrosyne Thompson (Elizabeth Catherine Thompson, 1839-1908), was 24 when she was sent from Santa Fe with two others in 1863 to establish the school in Taos. Euphrosyne had frontier courage in her blood, being one of a pioneering family that had settled in Maryland in the 1630s and emigrated to Kentucky after the Revolutionary War.

Ignatia Mora (Pilar Mora, 1842-1901), was schooled in her family’s home in Albuquerque as a child; she attended Our Lady of Light Academy in Santa Fe for four years of high school, then worked a year with Euphrosyne in the Loretto day school. She entered the Loretto novitiate in Santa Fe in 1859 at the age of 17. She was 21 when she accompanied Euphrosyne and Angelica to Taos in 1863. There she taught Art and the Sciences until going to Las Cruces to take charge. She returned to Taos in 1898 for three years when in her mid-50s. She died in Santa Fe in 1901.

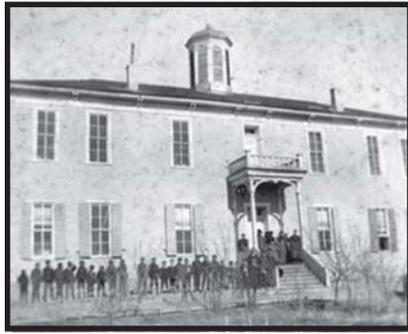
Angelica Ortiz (Petra Ortiz, 1839-1913) was 24 when she was sent to Taos in 1863. She had been one of the earliest students at Our Lady of Light Academy in Santa Fe, and was one of the first to be received into the Loretto novitiate in Santa Fe. She was 16 years old, among the first Hispanic women to join Loretto. She may have worked with Euphrosyne at the day school in Santa Fe from 1858 to 1863.

She was with Euphrosyne and Ignatia Mora in Taos for only one year. She circulated from year to year among the Santa Fe academy, and the schools of Las Vegas NM and Mora, serving with Euphrosyne in both Las Vegas and Mora. Angelica died in Santa Fe in the 50th anniversary year of the school she helped establish in Taos.

Loretto Schools in the 1860s were privately owned and operated by the Sisters of Loretto. The Taos school was to be such a private school; it would not be purchased by the parish until the 1920s. A few of the more than thirty academies established by Loretto between her founding in

Kentucky in 1812 and the arrival of sisters in Taos in 1863 include: Our Lady of Light in Santa Fe, 1852; Loretto Academy in Florissant, Missouri, and Osage Mission, Kansas, both in 1847; St Benedict's in Louisville Kentucky, 1842; Loretto Academy in Marion County Kentucky, 1834; Bethlehem Academy, Perry County, Missouri, 1823; Gethsemani school in Nelson County, 1818; Calvary Academy at Holy Mary, Kentucky, 1816.

In Taos, the founding sisters' first housing was provided by the local pastor as an incentive for them to come in 1863. Over the years the sisters purchased additional acreage, built a two story adobe building (1882), large enough to house three or four sisters and as many as 22 boarding students. Two large classrooms held 80 to 100 students each, one for primary grades, the other for intermediate grades. In addition, there was a gathering hall and space for one of the sisters to teach private music lessons.



January 1893-St. Joseph Convent and School.
Credit Loretto Heritage Center-Taos Collection

Each of the Academies was set up to be self-sufficient; tuition and donations received from students' families and local supporters were the sole sources of income—plus of course all the fundraisers, programs, socials and so forth that brought in funds one nickel and dime at a time. When income fell short in a given year in Taos, the sisters cut back on comforts, delayed needed repairs, took in sewing and washing, took on more private music students, dismissed paid help and took care of even more of the outdoor and indoor chores themselves. Finally, they sought paid positions with the public school system.

Thirty years after the sisters arrived, they individually signed contracts with the Taos School Board to teach public school classes for the short 4 or 5 months of the public school year. In the first year, 1894, one sister and her classroom was hired for the public school; simultaneously the other sister and classroom ran "our private school." In succeeding years two and sometimes even three sisters would have public contracts, depending on the number of students recruited by the School Board. Each sister taught between 80 and 100 children in ungraded classes. When numbers warranted, the School Board rented more space in the sisters convent and contracted lay teachers. Whenever one or more sisters were not under contract, they opened the private school to enhance their income with private tuition according to ability to pay.

Shortly after their 50th anniversary in Taos, the sisters opened high school classes under contract to the School Board. Some years the salaries and/or rent were not forthcoming for months. The sisters' annals—the account of daily life kept in the convent—record:

"1905-06. The School Board refused to employ Sisters in the public school, so the Sisters had to rely on their little private school, so the year was extremely hard for them."

"August 16, 1910. Difficulty about the contracts for the public school, as is usual. They do not want to pay us rent. We shall be glad when that old Lee Witt is out. Ed Espinosa is against us too—a boy who was educated here too; so Mr. Montaner can do very little. Mr. Dwire is still the same kind friend."

"February 26, 1915. We may have to wait some time for our salary as we have been informed that there is no money in the treasury to pay for the month just closed."

From the beginning of teaching for the public school, the sisters in Taos were targets of disapproval, which gradually hardened into fierce opposition. The sisters saw great irony in this, since in many parts of the Rocky Mountain west, Loretto's were the first or among the first to qualify for public school teaching certificates. In Taos the courses for teacher training which were organized by the School Board were held at the sisters' convent, using the sisters' classrooms as demonstration sites. School Superintendent Mr. Montaner said more than once, "The Sisters' school is the only one worthy of the name and the best teachers in the county are those who had been taught by the Sisters." Nevertheless, in a School Board election in 1912 a majority of citizens voted for the candidate who opposed the sisters.

"April 1, 1912 "Such exciting times today. It was the election of a member to the School Board. ...There were two candidates: one for the sisters and the other against us. It was a hot contest; carriages were running all day back and forth, carrying voters, the women voting for the first time in Taos. Many wanted the sisters to go and vote, even Father was thinking of it. ...We did not go and we were delighted, too, that we did not. For the opposing party won. So it is well we were not seen. Many are against us and want us out of the school."

Religion and culture scholar, Kathleen Holschner, in her 2012 book *Religious Lessons*, writes that these conflicts culminated in the 1948-51 "Dixon Case," and resulted in the barring of sisters in religious garb from public school teaching in New Mexico. Holschner attributes some of the animas against the sisters to the belief of Protestant Americans that nuns would of necessity force their students into the anti-democratic mindset of the Roman Church. A closer look at the cultural background of Loretto women teaching public school in Taos suggests they were not likely to behave like their European counterparts.



1958 At the time the old school was renovated.
Credit Loretto Heritage Center—Taos Collection



1959 Renovated through generosity of Conrad N. Hilton.
Credit Loretto Heritage Center—Taos Collection

Euphrosyne Thompson was 19 when she traveled by steam boat and mule train from her Kentucky roots to Santa Fe in 1858. Rosanna Dant (Ellen Dant, 1834-1916), followed Euphrosyne as superior in Taos in 1875, but she came earlier to New Mexico, being one of the original four who traveled from Kentucky to Santa Fe to establish Our Lady of Light Academy in 1852. (continued on page 11)

“REMEDIOS: Traditional Herbal Remedies Evolve & Survive in Taos”

by Mary Ann Wells

Remedios, the traditional herbal home remedies Taoseña grandmothers have used for generations, have become commercially viable commodities. At least two local businesses, the Taos Herb Company and Cid's, prepare and market remedios. Most of their local customers are members of Taos' modern tri-cultural community who prefer remedios and herbs to treat their minor ills.

Remedios resulted from an ancient marriage of Hispanic and American Indian herbal knowledge. Both European and native American plants are used as remedios to treat a variety of ailments. Several centuries ago, on this far frontier of the Hispanic world, women took responsibility for their families' health care. They sought the advice of their new Indian neighbors on the healing properties of local plants and in the process exchanged their knowledge of the European herbs they had brought with them. The body of knowledge grew over the years and was passed down to new generations of Taoseños.

The remedies tradition survived more strongly in some families than others. Taoseña Guadalupe Valerio Dominguez came to her vocation of “sobadora” and knowledge of herbs from family tradition. A sobadora is a traditional healer, registered by the state, who uses massage and herbal remedios to treat the ill.

Dominguez says her mentor/grandmother taught her, “The plant you need for your own health grows within five feet of your home.” Growing up in Ranchos de Taos, Dominguez learned the use of plants as medicine. “Everything was there-growing by the ditch, by the river-we were aware of it and used it.”

A licensed massage therapist as well as a sobadora, Dominguez uses herbal remedies in treating her patients. But since she does not have time to gather and prepare the herbs her patients need, she purchases them prepackaged. She also refers patients to local herbalists. Local American Indian herbalists are reluctant to speak of their traditions according to Gov. Red Eagle Rael of Picuris Pueblo. He says, “That [herbs and remedios] is a touchy subject. “Then patiently explains that Pueblo Indians believe herbal remedies are too closely associated with the spiritual world to be discussed casually.

Both Indians and Hispanics have welcomed allopathic and other medical practitioners into the community and have pragmatically embraced such modern medicines as antibiotics while still using many of the herbal remedies their ancestors formulated as remedios.

Today in Taos, remedios, marketed by herbal companies from throughout the state, can be purchased prepackaged at pharmacies, supermarkets and specialty stores. As Taoseña grandmothers have surrendered their traditional health care territory to modern medicine, fewer and fewer remember the vast array of plants that may be used for remedies or how to prepare them. And those who remember don't always have the time to collect and prepare remedios.

In the unique atmosphere of Taos' tri-cultural community, late arriving Anglo herbalists are doing much to preserve the traditional remedies' body of knowledge and are largely responsible for local herbs being available commercially.

Robert Hawley, co-owner of the Taos Herb Company with his brother-in-law and sister Fritz and Tina Hahn, has been in business for 20 years. He says, “We cater to Spanish clients and have learned a lot from our elderly customers. He prides himself on collecting herbs from the wild for the remedies he packages.

For Taoseños interested in learning remedios lore first hand, Hawley leads herbal expeditions into the forest each summer. Contact him at 758-1991 for details.

Plants that become Remedios

The following is a random sampling of native and wild New Mexican plants and some of the ailments they traditionally treat when processed into remedios.

Agave (Century Plant)-indigestion, gas pain and constipation.

Alamo (Valley Cottonwood)—bark tea for fever and diarrhea.

Alegria (Amaranth)—mild heart disorders.

Alfalfón (Fillery, Storksbill)—bladder and urethra infections.

Amolillo (Licorice)—teething infants.

Afiil del Muerto (Goldweed)—intestinal gas.

Barba de Chivo (Virgin's Bower)—skin eruptions. Barbasco (Texas Croton)—laxative; purgative.

Bellota de Sabina (Juniper)—bladder infections.

Cachana (Blazing Star)—sore throat.

Cadillos (Cockleburs)—diarrhea.

Cafiaigre (Red Dock)—pyorrhea and gum inflammations.

Coronilla (Blanket Flower)—sinus headaches.
 Dormilón (Coneflower)—delayed menstruation.
 Epazote (Mexican Tea)-round worms.
 Flor de San Juan (Evening Primrose)—kidney ailments.
 Flor de Santa Rita (Indian Paintbrush)—water retention.
 Fresno (Ash Tree)—arthritic pain.
 Hediondilla (Chapparal Bush)—rheumatism.
 Hollyhock (Althea rosea)-poultice for skin infections.
 Immortal (Creeping Milkweed)—childbirth, bronchitis, head colds.
 Malva (Cheeseplant)—sore throat, skin rash.
 Maravilla (Four-o-Clock)—inflamed joints.
 Mesquite (Screw Bean)-cleansing, disinfectant wash.
 Ocotillo (Candlewood)-hemorrhoids, prostate enlargement.
 Osha (Porter’s Lovage)—all-purpose medicine.
 Pegapega (Evening Star)—rheumatism.
 Poleo (Brook Mint)—dizziness.
 Pifion (Pine)-expectorant.
 Prickly Pear (Nopal)-contusions, bruises and burns.
 Punchón (Mullein)—asthma.
 Sabina Macho (True Juniper)—urinary tract infections.
 Ufia de Gato (Catsclaw)—muscle pain.
 Vervain (Moradilla)-sedative.
 Wild Oats (Avena fatua)-tonic, laxative and nerve stimulant.
 Yerba del Lobo (Golden Sneezeweed)—internal bruises.
 Yucca (Spanish Bayonet, Spanish Dagger}-as a shampoo with the bark left on. For medicinal uses remove bark and make tea for arthritis.

Compiled from *Los Remedios, Traditional Herbal Remedies of the Southwest* and *Los Remedios de la Gente*. Both books, by Michael Moore, are available at the Taos Public Library. A third book by Moore *Medicinal Plants of the Desert and Canyon West* (Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press, 1989) offers detailed information on when, how and where to gather herbs, and important elements in processing them into remedies. He also offers advice and formulas on preparing tinctures, teas, poultices and other applications. His explanations of the therapeutic uses of remedies make fascinating reading.

(continued from page 9)

Both women were granddaughters of Kentucky’s first settlers, themselves pioneers from Maryland whose ancestors had arrived in the New World six generations earlier, with the waves of Protestant pilgrims. Both sisters had grown up in the “Catholic Holy Land” of central Kentucky, a community of independent-minded Maryland Catholics imbued with the spirit of the American Revolution, practiced in the resilience and self-reliance of the frontier—even self-reliance in spiritual matters, for they practiced their Catholicism without benefit of clergy for months and years on end.

Sister Euphrosyne and Rosanna and all the other Loretto women were members of an entirely American religious order which had sprouted in Kentucky soil in 1812, unencumbered by European ties or models of religious life. The earliest school of the Sisters of Loretto had as its first rule: “No Denomination is refused, if willing to observe the Rules of the School – the other Denomination will not be forced on Sunday & Holyday to go to the Chapel & perform our Christian duties, but they must suffer to be friendly; invited in the School they are to be present at every exercise & to behave, if not in a Religious, at least in a civil manner.”

Despite Loretto’s openness to democratic diversity, the public school connection continued to be uneasy, finally coming to an end in the spring of 1928. Our Lady of Guadalupe parish purchased the property and St. Joseph’s went on as a parochial school with the Sisters of Loretto as teachers until the school closed permanently in 1973. Sisters worked in other capacities in Taos until 1976. In August 1987, Loretto Sisters returned to Taos, contributing another twenty five years to the community.



1902 - Sisters of Loretto and Pedro from Taos Pueblo
 Credit Loretto Heritage Center—Taos Collection

Lectures, Field Trips & Special Events

June 2, 2018 - Lecture
"Ceran St. Vrain: 19th Century Trader/Merchant"
Christine Fischahs
-*-

July 7, 2018 - Field Trip to Las Vegas, NM
Montezuma Castle Guided Tour
& Lunch at the Plaza Hotel
-*-

August 4, 2018 - Lecture
"El Rio Grande: River History in Northern, NM"
Paul Bauer
-*-

September 8, 2018 - Lecture
"From Spain to New Mexico"
Nora Libman (HSNM/NMJHS)
-*-

Please visit our website for a complete schedule
-*-
First Saturday of the month at 2:00 PM
Kit Carson Coop Meeting Room
118 Cruz Alta Road - Taos

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or e-mail: cordova@taosnet.com



Taos County Historical Society
PO Box 2447 i Taos, NM 87571

The Taos County Historical Society was formed in 1952 for the purpose of "...preserving the history of the Taos area." This part of New Mexico has a fascinating history, full of people, events, stories and places.

If you are interested, we invite your participation in our field trips or lecture programs, or by supporting the Society by becoming a member.