



THE  
HISTORIC SANTA FE  
FOUNDATION

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NEWSLETTER

Our mission is to preserve, protect and promote the historic properties and diverse cultural heritage of the Santa Fe area and to educate the public about Santa Fe's history and the importance of preservation.

Dearest HSFF Members,

Summer 2015 has been an extraordinary collection of weeks of good work, good rain, and many good friends who have joined in our activities. We have attempted to increase the number of Member activities over the past three months with Salon El Zaguán lectures, field trips, and an in-depth look at the two main property projects the Foundation has been hands-on with over this summer 2015. All these activities have been open to Members Only as we attempt to bring benefit and value to your commitment to HSFF. That is our commitment.

As part of that focus we have begun to work with a new Data Base that will streamline communications with Members and potential members, volunteers and partners. Tracking your status and keeping reservations for you at events will be much easier for us all. Gifts or gift memberships you may give are readily visible and we appreciate your outreach to others who might be interested in the work we do at HSFF.

This summer's work has been a true capital and time commitment as in addition to the programs and lectures for members we have been elbow deep in adobes, walls and lime, in great quantities. For those of you who had the chance to visit the Garcia House adobe repair you have seen the extent to which water has degraded the wall behind the hard stucco. The work done by our crew and New Mexico Earthworks is extensive and elegant. Then there is the progress of the beautiful lime plaster now completed on the street façade of El Zaguán. It is time that the icon of HSFF – 545 Canyon Road – had the look that befits such a great organization.

This summer has seen the Foundation at its best, doing hard, property work that maintains the integrity of these two structures, and reaches out to the Membership for education and interaction, as well as to the community as a statement of commitment to this truly incredible city and culture. We will not slow down in the autumn of 2015. We are committed to making this organization relevant to all who will listen and participate.

Sincerely,



Pete Warzel  
Executive Director



Photo by: Sonia Vinajeras-Gallegos





# 2015 Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Membership Meeting in the Garden at El Zaguán was very special given the condition of the garden and our speaker, Thomas E. Chávez.

The garden was spectacular due to all the rain this year, as well as the fine attention being given it by Linda Churchill and the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association. It was tall and full and blooming – a perfect setting for an overview of the past year at the Foundation and for a presentation by Tom of stories from his book *Chasing History: Quixotic Quests for Artifacts, Art, and Heritage*. Tom was free-wheeling, telling tales about Spain, book-writing, and not the least, stories about incidents during his tenure as Director of the Palace of the Governors, including how the land was purchased for the state history museum at 113 Lincoln Avenue.

Sincere thanks to all who attended, helped organize the event, and sincerely to Tom Chávez for a lively presentation.



Annual meeting photos by: Hank Hughes







# Interview with Rupert Lopez (continued)



photo of Rupert Lopez from Merrill, "Corrales Elders"

## **Where did you go when you left the camp in San Ysidro?**

When I was working as a clerk at the camp, they started giving grants for college. They wanted me, so I went to college in Las Cruces. It didn't last long. I thought it would get me all the way through college, but it only lasted for six months. There were only two men from the whole group who had enough money to finish school. One of the guys who finished – his parents were weavers in Chimayo – became a county agent. I wanted to be a county agent, but it didn't turn out that way. I was always trying to get schooling, you know.

## **What did you take classes in?**

Agronomy, the study of grasses.

## **What got you to the CCC camp in Santa Fe?**

Camp 8, with all the people, was transferred to Santa Fe. When I went back in, I was making adobes.

## **Did you know how to make adobes before that?**

Yes, I used to make them over here. They asked me if I knew how to make

adobes. I said, "Yes, I do." So they took me on as a leader of the men making adobes.

## **Does this mean you were a LEM (Local Experienced Man )?**

Yes. At Camp 8, I was an enrollee. Then I went to school in Las Cruces. When I went back into the CCC, I was a Local Experienced Man. For Local Experienced Men, they chose men who could do something special, like making adobe. That was the only way that I could go in the CCC again.

## **So you had to be a Local Experienced Man to go back in. You were in the CCC for four years, but normally it was just one year, right?**

Just six months. As a Local Experienced Man, I was a leader. I was in charge. They assigned me to teach the men how to make adobes.

## **What building were they using the adobes for?**

That big building in Santa Fe.

## **The NPS building.**

Yes.

## **How many adobes would the men make a day?**

Probably 500 adobes. We didn't try to count. It was hard work. There was another crew, too, making adobes.

## **Did you make the adobes on site?**

Yes, right on the site, on the side of the building. I have a photo of me beside the building. I also have a photo of one of helpers standing outside the building with a wheelbarrow. Another crew laid the adobes out. Every day, every day.

## **How long did your crew work each day making adobes?**

Probably six hours because it took an hour to get over there from camp and then another hour to get back.

## **The camp was way on the other side of town?**

Yes. Do you know where the cemetery

is? The camp was on the top of that. There were two camps there, but the other camp was doing something else. I was in the SCS camp.

## **Was your adobe crew made up of local boys?**

They came from everywhere.

## **Were they mostly Hispanics?**

No, there were Anglos too.

## **Were there Indians?**

No Indians.

## **Tejanos?**

The Tejanos were already gone.

## **Did you do any work on the Old Santa Fe Trail Building besides make adobes?**

Just adobes.

## **When you were making adobes, other people were making the timbers. Did you know those people?**

It was a big project. They had WPA [Works Progress Administration] people there too, you know.

## **Did you interact with the WPA workers?**

No, I never did. They took us over there, we did our job, and then we went back to camp.

## **Where did the WPA workers live?**

They lived at home.

## **After you were done with work and you and your crew would return to camp, what were the evenings like?**

Well, we went to the dances and theatres downtown.

## **Did you go out for dinner?**

No, they gave us dinner at the camp.

## **Was the food that they served in the camps pretty good?**

Very good.

## **What kind of music did they play at the dances in Santa Fe?**

Spanish. The guitar, accordion, and violin. You go to a Spanish dance, what you'll see are polkas and waltzes. The dances were pretty good. There

were no fights. The Tejanos were all gone.

**Where did they hold the dances?**

In Santa Fe there was a dance hall right there on the Plaza.

**How many years did you work on the NPS building?**

It wasn't years. It was months, I don't know how many. I was called to run the side camp at Cerrillos. The superintendent offered me a job running the camp, so I went with my motorcycle over there. My job was to take care of the 200 men. We had reveille, and I had to wake them up. First, we would exercise. I took roll call to see that the men were all there. After breakfast, I had to assign the men for each foreman who was there. We were building fences, putting in posts and wires for the manager of a coal mine in Madrid.

**What did you do for fun in Cerrillos?**

I used to go to the town. Most of the girls wanted to ride motorcycles. I used to dance too. Cerrillos had a hall.



*Wedding photo of Rupert and Reymunda Lopez from Davis, Corrales, page 38*

**When did you get married?**

October 1939. I was married during my tenure in the CCC.

**We didn't realize that you could be married while you were in the CCC.**

**Didn't you have to live in camp, so you couldn't live with your wife?**

No, we rented a house in Santa Fe. Five dollars a month.

**Whoa! Was your wife working?**

No, she wasn't working. When I married her I had a motorcycle. I used to travel on the motorcycle in the morning to be there at the CCC. I was a sergeant. We lived in Agua Fria, on the south side of that spring. Agua Fria was a spring that came in from the mountains. That's where I lived with my wife when I was first married.

**What did you do when you left the CCC?**

I lived in Santa Fe, and then I passed my examination for civil service and I got out. The CCC was being ended and they were closing a lot of camps. I got my discharge from the CCC in 1941. I went to work for Kirtland Air Force Base in 1941.

**And then what did you do after that?**

Then I transferred as an inspector to the National Guard. When I was in the National Guard, I was one of the guys who were appointed as an inspector to work in Korea. My wife stayed here. I was there for 18 months. I was on active duty. Then I retired from the military.

**Did you know any of the National Guard boys who were put on the Death March in the Philippines?**

Oh, yes. I knew some who didn't come back and some of them who came back too. A lot of the boys were from my area, San Jose, in Albuquerque's south valley where I was born. I was lucky that I didn't go.

**Tell us a little about your life in Corrales.**

When I came to Corrales they right away made me *mayordomo* of the church. I was in charge of cleaning the church. Then I was named as chairman of the church. At a meeting, we decided that our church was too old and it was cracking. Too much money was needed to make repairs. Since I was the chairman, Father Baca told me to make a drawing of a new church. So I drew a schematic of the church that I wanted. We held a fiesta and we collected enough money to make the new church. We built the new church out of blocks. They even made it bigger later. Later I was involved with the Planning and Zoning commission for 7 years, and I was on the Corrales Bosque Advisory Commission, and I was on the Sandoval County Senior Affairs Board for 19 years and with the local Soil Conservation Service. There was a time after I got married when I would go to school at night and take classes in English. Then I used to farm. I drove a tractor up until I was 98. I just stopped driving it two years ago. Now my son does the farming.

**What did you farm?**

Chiles, tomatoes, you name it. I used to sell it. I would drive my produce as far as Grants and Manzano.

**Did your wife help on the farm?**

Oh, yes. She was hard working. She was strong. Now, all my family lives here. I have had a good life. ■



# Board of Directors and Staff Update:



Three new Board Members have joined the Historic Santa Fe Foundation and bring superb expertise to our endeavors.

Barbara Felix, AIA has practiced architecture for more than twenty-five years in Michigan, Virginia, Chicago, and New Mexico. She has owned her firm, Barbara Felix Architecture + Design, for more than 17 years in Santa Fe and is known for her work around the state including with some of the Pueblos (Sky City Cultural Center & Haak'u Museum), commercial and hospitality work (including the recent renovation of La Fonda on the Plaza), and her expertise with historic structures. She is past-president of AIA Santa Fe. Barbara is passionate about history, and specifically about how different cultures, as well as the impact of the desert climate, have impacted and informed the architecture that surrounds us. She brings much wisdom to our Board.

Tim Maxwell has most recently received the City of Santa Fe Historic Preservation Award, 2013, for establishing the city's archeological protection ordinance. Tim received a PhD in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico and served as Director of the

Office of Archeological Studies at the Museum of New Mexico until 2005. He is a former president of the Old Santa Fe Association as well as a former president of the New Mexico Archeological Council. Tim helped establish an educational outreach program with the Museum of New Mexico Foundation that was the recipient of a national award. He has also authored over sixty professional publications and articles and brings to the Foundation not only professional expertise but a firm commitment to the community.

Scott Tobey began working with the Foundation as a volunteer on the Property Committee after an introduction to our mission while researching the historic property he and his wife Cornelia purchased in 2014. He has a deep history in volunteerism and renovation of old, historic properties. Scott started his own company producing custom architectural millwork for restoration contractors in the Ithaca, New York area after working with a restoration company that did rehabilitation projects with Historic Ithaca. For many years he has been involved with a design and development project for a new monastery at Namgyal Monastery, Ithaca, New York – the Dalai Lama's personal monastery outside of India – and currently acts as an advisor on the project. Scott brings the Foundation a wealth of hands on experience and knowledge.

In welcoming our new Board Members we regretfully say goodbye to Dedie Snow and Virginia Vigil, both dedicated to moving the Foundation forward during a time of change. They each committed time and energy to work on various committees – Research, Education – setting standards of excellence and integrity for adding new properties to the HSFF Register and presenting the facts in programs, Dedie particularly diligent in deflating myth which maybe be romantic but not history. Thanks to you both from all the staff, Board, and Members.

And regretfully we also say good-bye to our Office Manager Bonney Hughes. Bonney has been a key associate in bringing the Foundation to a state of sound administration and visibility in the community with her creation and management of the Newsletter and other communication materials. We all will miss her sincere commitment to this Foundation, and her gluten-free admonishments.

Finally, our summer Intern, Sonia Vinajeras-Gallegos has ended her term. Sonia had a very unusual opportunity to work with three kinds of wall finish; mud plaster at the Vigil House, lime plaster at El Zaguán, and actual adobe brick work at the Garcia House. We should note that Sonia is the designer/creator of this Summer/Fall Newsletter. We thank her for all her work this year.

For complete Board of Directors and biographies visit: <http://www.historicsantafe.org/about.html>

# Celebrate the HSFF Register and Recent Additions

By Conci Bokum, HSFF Board Director

In 1961 when the Historic Santa Foundation was founded, the Board of Directors decided that the “first and best project for the HSFF to undertake would be the design and erection of plaques on buildings and sites important to Santa Fe.” This decision is the origin of the HSFF Register of structures and sites “worthy of preservation.”

All properties on the HSFF Register must retain their historic character. They must also meet at least one of three further criteria:

- Embody the distinguishing characteristics of a type of architecture identified with the history of Santa Fe, or
- Be the site of significant events in that history, or
- Be associated with the lives of persons prominent in that history

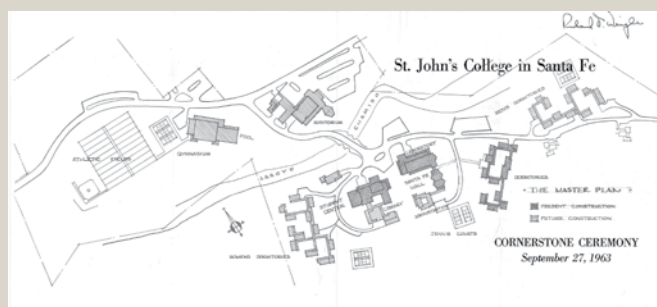
La Fonda on the Plaza, San Jose Hall in Galisteo, and St. Johns College – Santa Fe have been added to the Register this year. These additions speak to the diversity and richness of historic structures and sites in this area.

The oldest of the additions San Jose Hall, also known as La Sala de Galisteo, is a nearly unaltered example of a territorial era fraternal hall that helped sustain religious and Nuevo Mexicano traditions, bonding the local parish and the greater Galisteo community as well as serving as a dance hall and community center. Moreover, San José Hall represents a tradition of vernacular architecture that is rapidly disappearing from New Mexico. The addition is a testament to La Sociedad de San José de Galisteo which has raised over \$100,000 to restore and protect this valuable community asset.

La Fonda on the Plaza is one of Santa Fe’s most important buildings. It exemplifies the distinguishing characteristics of the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style; indeed it is one of the buildings that became an important example of the style that embodies the distinguishing characteristics of a type of architecture identified with the history of Santa Fe and is one of the noteworthy examples of the regional architecture termed “Santa Fe Style” adopted as part of their Historic Preservation Code Ordinance by the City of Santa Fe in 1957. Recent renovations to the hotel have retained and honored the historic character of the building. It remains a focal point for the Santa Fe community and its history as a tourist magnet.

The Santa Fe campus of St. John’s College opened over 50 years ago in October 1964, not that many years after the founding of the HSFF. Rather than mimic the St. John’s campus in Maryland, the Santa Fe campus was built in a modified “Territorial” style adapted for contemporary use. Thus the HSFF celebrates the endurance of an architectural style that remains relevant in the 21st Century. In addition, St. John’s College has become a respected educational institution in Santa Fe.

The buildings and sites on the HSFF Register are a testament to the remaining historic fabric of the Santa Fe area. Fortunately, there are many structures and places that we expect also qualify for the Register, and we are excited to honor other buildings and people that have created this wonderful place.





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## Progress Report

- ★ Successful Mother's Day Tour 2015 held with Business/Corporate Sponsors
- ★ John Gaw Meem Architects Office at Santa Fe Prep recognized with 2015 Stewardship Award for annual Heritage Preservation Awards.
- ★ Added St. John's College, – Santa Fe, and La Fonda on the Plaza and San José Hall to the HSFF Register of Resources Worthy of Preservation.
- ★ Hosted Annual Meeting in the Garden at El Zaguán with speaker Thomas E. Chávez.
- ★ Held an on-site visit to the extensive adobe repair work being done at our Garcia House for Members.
- ★ Concluded another annual Summer Intern program with Sonia Vinajeras-Gallegos.
- ★ Lime plaster refinishing of El Zaguán street façade completed.
- ★ Instituted a Fall Intern program in Oral History in partnership with the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division. Welcome to Hana Crawford.

Sponsors of this Newsletter - HSFF gratefully thanks the following sponsors for their help with the plaster at El Zaguán and our events, respectively:

- ★ ***Michael Roybal and Southwest Plastering Company, Inc.***

