

# BULLETIN *HSF*

OF THE HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION

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1847 Fort Marcy and the Parroquia — Santa Fe

*(The parroquia in this rather fanciful engraving stood on the site of the present St. Francis Cathedral.)*

*Courtesy of Museum of New Mexico*

## Civic Reform in Santa Fe, 1845

### *An early city council deals with familiar problems*

Toward the end of Mexican administration in New Mexico, government officials initiated a program of civic improvements in Santa Fe intended to make the city more livable. In 1844 Governor Mariano Martínez de Lejanza spruced up the town by planting cottonwoods around the Plaza and establishing a park near Rosario Chapel. <sup>1</sup>To encourage Patriotic sentiments among the citizenry, Martínez also began planning an elabo-

rate celebration to be held September 16, the anniversary of Mexican Independence. <sup>2</sup>In addition to extensive oratory and solemn masses, the program called for fireworks and bull fights, *bailes* and free refreshments, all intended to make New Mexicans proud of their country. Shortly before the great day arrived, however, Santa Fe's city fathers received a sharp censure for the condition of their town. On September 12, cer-

tain members of New Mexico's legislative assembly rebuked the municipal government for failing to clean up the streets and plazas. Appalled by a revolting combination of accumulated garbage, dead dogs and droppings from wandering livestock, the disgruntled legislators charged that Santa Fe's failure to cooperate threatened the whole celebration.<sup>3</sup>

Despite the lack of sanitation, the three-day fiesta proceeded on schedule, but city officials did not forget the *Asemblea's* scorching criticism. During the next few months the town council (*Muy Ilustre Ayuntamiento*) drafted a comprehensive code of municipal ordinances designed to further both cleanliness and morality among the population. Consisting of forty-five articles divided into five sections, the new regulations reflected some of the desire for reform promoted by Governor Martinez and demanded by the *Asemblea*. The first three sections concerned public security, health and convenience; the last two established means of administration and dealt with an addendum of miscellaneous issues.<sup>4</sup> More than a century has passed since the *ayuntamiento* struggled to bring order to city government but many of its problems have a familiar ring and can be found on the agenda of today's City Council, still urgent, still unresolved. Then, as now, councilors wondered what to do about garbage disposal, street repair, noise pollution, stray dogs, youth activities, and public drunkenness. Some of Santa Fe's problems may seem chronic, but looking back on the *ayuntamiento's* handiwork gives new understanding of life in a provincial, frontier capital circa 1845.

To administer the new ordinances

the *ayuntamiento* divided the town into four quarters or *barrios* known as San Francisco, San Miguel, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe and Torreón. The first three adjoined the parish church and the two satellite chapels which were located where they are today. The fourth neighborhood included the area west of the Plaza and north of the Santa Fe River along lower San Francisco Street. Each jurisdiction had its own *alcalde de barrio* and an alternate (*suplente*) who were responsible for reporting violations of the code to higher authorities. The council also considered appointment of two police officers "if it is possible" but took no definite action which suggests a shortage of funds for salaries.

Turning to matters of public safety, the *ayuntamiento* ordered the *alcaldes de barrio* to keep these neighborhoods under surveillance, watching carefully for the appearance of vagabonds, thieves, rustlers and other malefactors (*malhechores*). If they were without regular employment even the younger sons of good family were subjected to the *alcalde's* vigilant gaze. Travelers were regarded with particular suspicion since no one yet believed that tourists might boost the local economy. No free maps or reservations hot-line for the City Council of 1845! Instead of encouraging out-of-towners to come and stay, the councilors required neighborhood officials to report scrupulously the arrival of strangers so that their behavior could be observed by proper authorities. How times have changed!

In the field of health and sanitation the *ayuntamiento* established high standards to protect the public from

a wide variety of ills. To keep the streets clean and in a state of good repair, the councilors called on citizens for a cooperative effort. During the summer property owners or their tenants were responsible for sweeping and sprinkling nearby thoroughfares on Wednesdays and Saturdays. At the same time they were to fill all potholes and remove obstructive rocks. Similar regulations controlled trash burning and forbade accumulations of garbage or standing water which might impede traffic. To ensure sanitary food supplies the council required its agents to make regular inspection of all meat, flour and fruit purveyed by city vendors. The same officials had orders to examine the weights and measures used in the markets to protect citizens from sharp practices. Other aspects of public hygiene were also addressed. All cadavers were to be buried within twenty-four hours after death and be interred at least 2½ varas underground (about six feet). Looking to the other end of the life cycle, the ayuntamiento declared that midwives could not practice their profession without a license from city officials and certification from the parish priest showing the ability to administer the sacrament of Holy Baptism if necessary.

The new regulations also contained articles intended to make Santa Fe more livable and attractive. Following the lead of Governor Martínez the council encouraged additional tree planting whenever practicable. The building code was simplicity itself. Cutting through the bureaucratic red tape implicit in urban renewal, zoning and historical styles ordinances, the ayuntamiento ordered owners of dilapidated build-

ings to fix them up or tear them down. Animal control also received much attention. Allowing pack mules and saddle horses to run loose, trampling through people's property, was forbidden but so was the practice of tying them to the uprights supporting various *portales* around the Plaza which led inevitably to broken ropes and sagging roofs. Owners were also required to prevent their pigs, cows and burros from straying into farmers' fields. Dogs known to be loiterers or gadabouts (*callejeros*) were condemned to extermination but those restrained by chains received a reprieve, perhaps Santa Fe's first leash law.

The councilors also worried about the state of morality in Santa Fe and devoted several articles in the code to the improvement of personal behavior among the citizenry. During the religious processions which marked Holy Week, Corpus Christi and other sacred occasions, officials were ordered to maintain an atmosphere of reverence and decorum. On such holidays, all commercial activity was strictly forbidden even under the pretext of purchasing household necessities. Persons planning *bailes* or *fandangos* were required to purchase licenses which could be denied to impresarios of bad reputation. Tightrope walkers, acrobats and other public entertainers also had to buy permits. To preserve the town's tranquility after nightfall, loud shouting and the indiscriminate discharge of firearms was strictly forbidden. Attempting to correct a particularly scandalous situation, the council decreed that servants dispatched for water could no longer tarry around the public wells in the evening for horseplay and gossip.

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Curfew violators were to be clapped in jail for appropriate punishment. During the day, neither horse racing nor cockfighting was allowed on city streets which were also to be kept clear of drunkards and prostitutes. As for the town's young people, teenagers were not allowed at bailes and children were required to arrive punctually at school.

In closing, the councilors demonstrated their commitment to even-handed justice by declaring, in the code's final article, that the new laws would be enforced without any distinction or special privilege and without regard to the rank or class of the offender. On January 26, 1845 Prefect Antonio Sena, the leading regional official, made the ordinances effective by ordering that they be posted for the edification of the populace. Today, as all Santa Feans

know, many of the problems addressed by the ayuntamiento remain with us despite the passage of some 140 years. Our streets still deteriorate, dogs terrorize the town, high school kids without jobs sometimes get into trouble. The city council of 1845 failed to resolve these issues permanently but its members deserve high praise, nevertheless, for an early attempt to bring good government to our community.

— John O. Baxter

1 L. Bradford Prince, *A Concise History of New Mexico* (Cedar Rapids, 1912), P. 158.

2 See Ward Alan Minge, "Mexican Independence Day and a Ute Tragedy, 1844", in Albert H. Schroeder, ed. *The Changing Ways of Southwestern Indians* (Santa Fe, 1973), pp. 107—115.

3 *Ibid.*, p. 113.

4 *Mexican Archives of New Mexico*, Communications of Local Officials, 1845, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, N.M.

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## La Corte Building Update

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Many members will recall that the Foundation objected to the proposed La Corte Building complex on Grant Avenue. The contention was that it would be too massive and that it would infringe on the solar rights of the Foundation which owns the Tully House immediately to the north.

The project was given "conditional approval" by the Historic Styles Committee; the Foundation then appealed to the Planning Commission where the approval was overturned. The architect appealed to the City Council which upheld the Historic Styles ruling whereupon the Foundation and OSFA appealed the decision in District Court.

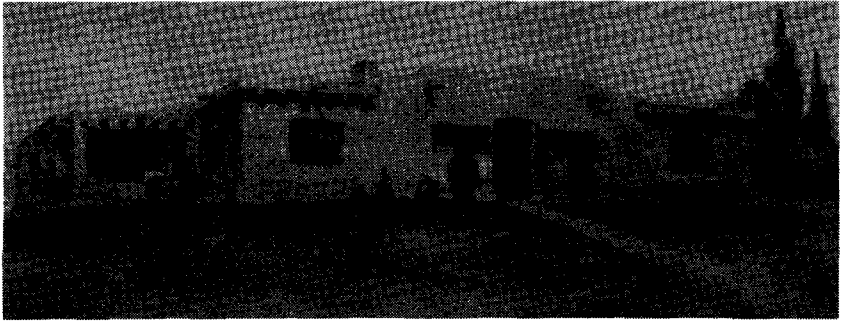
Because of the delay caused by

the suit, it now appears the property is being developed in a more satisfactory manner. The La Corte Building at the corner of Johnson and Grant Avenue is presently being remodeled for the Grant Avenue Bed and Breakfast Inn. The architecture will be much more in keeping with the area. The second building at 130 Grant Avenue will have a new addition to the rear but we do not feel it will impose on the Tully House. Importantly, there will be open space between the two buildings.

In conclusion, it appears the matter is now moot although the legal aspect has not been finalized.

— D. D. Van Soelen, Chairman

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*House awarded first prize in the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce Architectural Prize Contest.*

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## The “New-Old Santa Fe Style” of 1915

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### *Results of the “Chamber of Commerce Architectural Prize Contest*

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The architectural competition sponsored by the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce in 1913, a contest designed to promote the “New-Old Santa Fe Style,” was an early attack in what was to be a continuing campaign. In January of 1915, Sylvanus Morley, one of the generals of the Revival forces, published an article in *Old Santa Fe* entitled “Santa Fe Architecture” which covers the subject in detail, from the time “when the Spaniards first pushed their intrepid way into New Mexico” to find “great communal houses four and five stories high.” He gives credit to E.P. Ripley, then president of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, for the use of the California Mission style for A, T & SF hotels and stations, “the most beautiful and ‘true to type’ being the ‘Alvarado’ at Albuquerque, New Mexico.”

Morley goes on to say that “however appropriate California Mission Architecture might be for California,

it was hardly the ‘correct thing’ for New Mexico” and that El Ortiz, the Fred Harvey Hotel at Lamy, was built in the “Santa Fe Style.” In a footnote he explains that the store and warehouse of the Colorado Supply Company at Morley, Colorado, antedated El Ortiz by about a year. The warehouse was “designed and built by the architectural firm of I.H. and W.M. Rapp Co., of Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1908. It was the first attempt to adapt Santa Fe Architecture to modern building requirements, and also one of the most successful.”

In discussing the difference between California Mission and Santa Fe styles, Morley stresses that in the Santa Fe Style there occurs “the complete elimination of the Roman arch and semi-circular outlines so common in California Mission Architecture. This is never used in Santa Fe facades, and constitutes the chief point of difference. . . Too much

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*House awarded second prize in the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce Architectural Prize Contest.*

stress cannot be laid on this point. The Roman arch of California Mission Architecture is fatal to the artistic success of structures in the Santa Fe Style. The writer is particularly anxious to sound a warning note in this connection, as many otherwise good 'Santa Fe Style' buildings have been ruined by the addition of Roman arch portals or curving fire-walls."

His other criteria for Santa Fe Style are that the "general effect is low and long; . . . all prominent facade lines are horizontal; . . . the facade is broken by . . . portales . . . balconies . . . vigas and canales; . . . the color preferably should be one of the numerous shades of adobe; . . . carved wood members are extensively and effectively utilized in facade decoration."

Morley uses his own home as an example. "The writer's residence is an excellent example of this simple type of Santa Fe Architecture. When the house came into his possession it was very much down at the heel. The architrave sagged under the weight of the earth roof; the fire-wall had disappeared; and finally modern windows — tall vertical openings in the facade — destroyed the

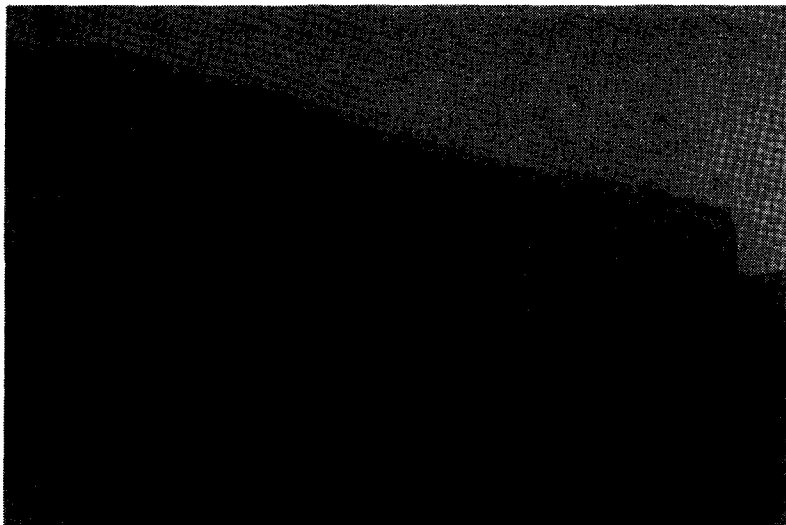
harmony of the otherwise long and low effect.

The architrave was taken down and straightened, a composition roof was used to replace the old one of earth, the fire-wall was rebuilt, and finally small casement windows were added and the 'vertical wounds' in the facade healed."

He further illustrated his points by a review of the architectural competition. "To stimulate local interest in the native architecture, the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce in the fall of 1913, organized at the writer's suggestion, an architectural contest, prizes being offered for the 'best design of a Santa Fe Style residence not to exceed \$3500 in cost.'

"Sixty-five designs were submitted in all; and many new and happy ideas were brought to light. One of the most important results achieved was the demonstration by a number of designs of the perfect adaptability of the style to modern dwellings.

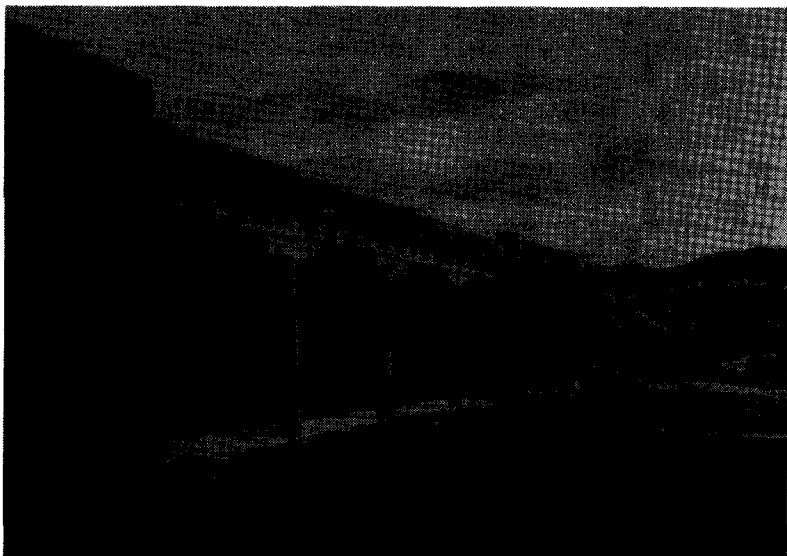
"The houses shown . . . were awarded first and second prizes respectively in this contest. The former shows symmetrical facade treatment relieved by a portal at the side. The beautiful proportions and perfect



*"El Nido," house of Mr. S. G. Morley before "Santa Fe" treatment.*

*Photo by Jesse Nusbaum*

*Museum of New Mexico*



*The Morley house after "Santa Fe" treatment.*

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balance of the doorway and adjacent wall spaces, including the water spouts, were the features which won for this design the first prize.

"The house awarded second prize . . . shows several novel features. The use of brick cornices, battered walls, different roof levels, and exterior placita with gateway on the street, were points which highly recommended this design to the judges.

"... The house awarded first prize was designed by Mr. Kenneth M. Chapman, and the one awarded second prize, by Mr. Carlos Vierra."

In conclusion, Morley advises against transplanting this "native architecture" to the East or Middle

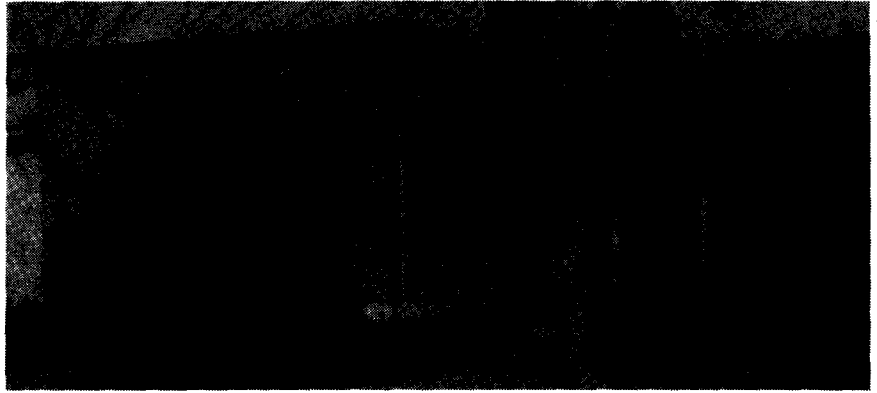
West, because this product of an arid environment could not be recommended for a moist and humid climate. "So far as New Mexico is concerned, however, there can be no question. Here all factors — historic propriety, environmental exigency, and constructional economy, combine to make the Santa Fe Style the architecture par excellence for the region."

Since the time this article was published, of course, there have been many who have said that the Santa Fe Style is not just the architecture "par excellence" for the region but the *only* acceptable one. Others opt for variety, and the battle goes on.

— Agnes Luffkin



"Oh, it's OK; it's not a building... just a cover for our hot air balloon court."



**Tully House: Mexican style.** On the highway between Juarez and Nuevo Casas Grandes, Mexico, our chairman photographed this small adobe house with painted brick.

Photo by Don Van Soelen

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## 1962 Board of Directors

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### *The Early Years*

May's issue of the *Bulletin* featured a story on the formation of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. Although the three "incorporators" were mentioned, we neglected to credit the Board of Directors who guided the Foundation in its first year. We apologize and list them here:

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Alan C. Vedder  
Vice-Chair: — Thomas F. McKenna  
Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Sylvia Loomis  
Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_ A.C. Dumrose  
Members at Large: — M.R. Adler,  
Mrs. T.J. Asplund, John P. Conron,  
Mrs. Carl Jensen, Mrs. Rudolph Kieve,  
John Gaw Meem, Robert Plettenberg, and Joe R. Sena, Jr.

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## El Zaguan Update

Several projects were planned for this summer, some of which are finished and some still to be completed. A new roof has been installed and the radiator valves are being replaced in all the apartments. The exterior woodwork inside the zaguan has been repainted and all the screens repaired; the ceiling will be painted to match the walls. A new water line has been installed for the Bandelier Gardens which means more water will be available to the garden and new water holes have been dug around the horse chestnut trees to insure they are watered properly. We also hope to repair and repaint the porch and lattice work around the gardens.



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# Harmonium Rededicated

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## *Foundation members enjoy concert*

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In an impressive and moving program held at Loretto Chapel on July 1, Archbishop Robert F. Sanchez rededicated the Alexandre-Francois LeBain harmonium, recently returned to its rightful choir loft location. Unhappily, the blocking of nearby streets along the city-sponsored holiday parade route prevented many foundation members from reaching the Chapel at the appointed time. With his customary quiet eloquence, Archbishop Sanchez, in dedicating the restored historic instrument, also gave his blessing to the work of the Foundation and Santa Fe citizens in preserving the Chapel and other physical evidences of New Mexico's cultural heritage. A brief history of the harmonium was pres-

ented by Chairman Don Van Soelen. The highlight of the program, however, was the experience of hearing the harmonium within the acoustical perfection of the Chapel, played by a gifted musician. The small but appreciative audience participated in singing "America" and the stately 1708 "Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past." The true qualities of the harmonium were superbly revealed in the performance of Anton Dvorak's "Bagatelle" by Mary Jean Cook, joined by violinists Charmain Weber and Thomas Weber and by Laurel Rogers as cellist. Other performances by Mary Jean Cook are planned for the future appreciation of the harmonium.

— MEJ

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## The Tourist's Lament

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### *An Editorial in Verse:*

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By Mark Time

Oh, lay me down at Lamy  
In the village far away,  
Where I first learned that the main line  
Missed the City of Santa Fe.  
Oh, let me feel once more the thrill  
That came to me that day  
When I learned that the Ancient City  
Was eighteen miles away!

I wonder does that same day-coach  
Still toward the city stray,  
And won't it, sometime, fall apart,  
Like the Bishop's one-hoss shay.

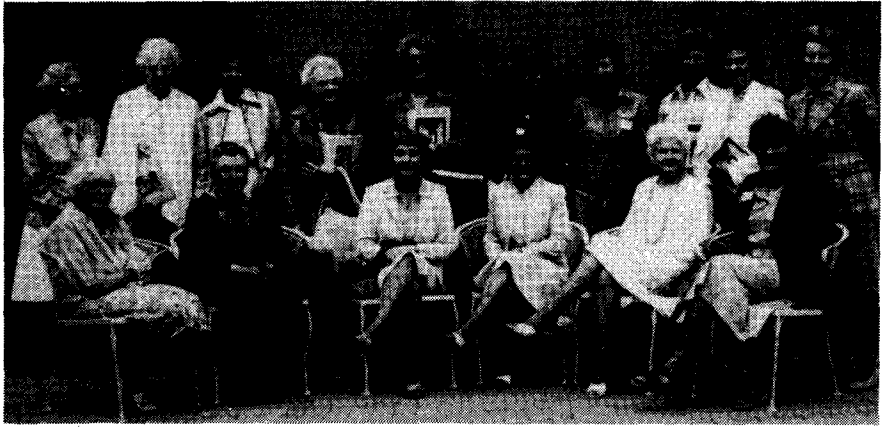
Oh, that I, undisturbed, might rest,  
And in my slumbers pay  
A grateful tribute to the road,  
And 'wake in Santa Fe.

Behold, I dreamed. A Pullman left  
The mainline once each day;  
And all who wished to see the town  
Could in that sleeper stay.

And so it came that thousands blessed  
The road that brought them through.  
I wonder if I'll see that dream  
Some day, oh Lord, come true.

— *Santa Fe Trail Magazine*, Vol. 1, No. 2, August 1913

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*Volunteers attending tea included, standing from left: Claire Blackmore, Dorothy Alvord, Jordie Chilson, Jeanne Hurd, Pat Berardinelli, Peggy Luker, Ramona Brandt, Mary Myer, Eva Larragoite and Katherine Adams. Seated from left are Lina Borthick, Katy Hadley, Clara Chapman, Helen Perry, Mary Gilliland and Barbara Martin.*

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## Volunteer's Tea

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***Three cheers for the people who make it work!***

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On May 24, 1982, Jordie Chilson and Barbara Martin of the Foundation Board, in conjunction with the Inn at Loretto, hosted a tea honoring the volunteers that have served the Membership Committee and the Loretto Chapel. Alan Vedder narrated a slide show from his collection of pictures of old Santa Fe. (The Board hopes to invite Mr. Vedder to show his pictures again).

Volunteers awarded Foundation notecards and copies of the new edition of *Old Santa Fe Today* were:

Dorothy Alvord, Martha Ann Appel, Elizabeth Bartsch, Winnabelle Beasley, Patt Berardinelli, Claire Blackmore, Lina Borthick, Ramona Brandt, Jean Buchanan, Catherine Byers, Clara Chapman,

Rene Clayton, Consuelo Collins, Bertha Crocker, Gladys Daniels, Celestine Draves, Mary Gilliland, Adela Gonzales, Francis Goodman, Katy Hadley, Beverly Hayden, Ruth Holmes, Jeanne Hurd, Roberta Kirk, Elizabeth Lange, Eva Larragoite, Peggy Luker, Maryfrances Mackel, Jeanelle McIntyre, Jo McMannis, Mary Meyer, Adela Miera, Irma Miller, Marjorie Muth, Peggy Neal, Sonia Penny, Helen Perry, Caroline Pomonis, Eleanor Rohrbacher, Kay Stein, Anita Thomas, Gwen Wallis, Charlotte White, and Irene Wood.

