



MY NEEDLE ALWAYS SETTLES
BETWEEN WEST AND SOUTHWEST.
THE FUTURE LIES THAT WAY TO ME,
AND THE EARTH SEEMS MORE
UNEXHAUSTED AND RICHER
ON THAT SIDE. —Henry David Thoreau

Living in a State of Enchantment

WE LIVE IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

I know it when I'm here, but I know it even more keenly whenever I fly back to New Mexico after a trip to pretty much anywhere else in America. Gazing out the window as the plane begins its long descent, I contemplate the endless space, the wrinkled blue mountains, and the merciful dearth of human scars on the land. After Dallas, after Phoenix, after any of those Bubba Gumped, Mattress Firmed, Olive Gardened, La Quinta-fied rat warrens of modern America, I often find myself literally breathing a sigh of relief: *Home!* I remember all over again why I came here, and why I stay.

The contradictions of New Mexico never cease to astound me—and they lie at the root of why I love this place so much. Who can make sense of it? Here we are, one of the youngest states in the Union, constructed on the ruins of some of North America's most ancient civilizations. Dry but high, vast in size but puny in population, we're a great state that suffers from an inferiority complex. Yet people the world over fantasize about coming and living here—somehow, some day, some way. We're an oasis of high culture (Santa Fe Opera), but also of high kitsch (Roswell's UFO Festival—"a great place to crash!"). We're a place with deep strains of humility (penitents on the road to Chimayó), and also of cosmic arrogance (nuclear interlopers at Los Alamos). We're a state that's tied to the old ways, for better and worse—cockfighting was declared illegal only a few years ago. And yet we're also poised on the furthest frontiers of futurism and technology—home of the Virgin Galactic Spaceport, Intel, and the Very Large Array.

It's ironic that the very things that make New Mexico marvelous and unique—dramatic climate, sere country, a sharp diversity of peoples—were the very things that so many bewhiskered windbags in Washington found loathsome when they were pondering statehood candidates in the late 1800s. To many back East, this place seemed a crazy-quilt of weird religions, unintelligible languages, and warring tribes, all set in a forbidding moonscape. Some politicians vowed that New Mexico should remain a Territory forever; others contended that the U.S. should just give it all back to Mexico and be done with the place.

But New Mexico is rather like cholla cactus: It has a way of sticking to people. It worked its way into the national imagination and eventually won over those politicians back East. On January 6, 1912, America welcomed her 47th member of the Union.

Yet even with statehood, I'm not sure New Mexico was ever fully conquered or assimilated, and that's something I've always loved about this place. It's still very much its own land, at the crossroads of myriad cultures, where the desert meets the mountains meet the plains. Living here is probably the closest one can come to an expat experience in the Lower 48. We're in the United States, but not entirely of it.

So, happy 100th birthday, New Mexico. There is nowhere else quite like you. You offer a sense of space and possibility stretching to the horizons. And you keep reminding me, whenever I leave you: I live in the right place.

Hampton Sides, the author of *Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West*, is featured in "Storytellers," on page 7.

BY HAMPTON SIDES



ADAM SCHALLAU



KEN STINNETT

It's about time, it's about space: From the futuristic Very Large Array in the south to ancient Chaco Canyon up north, New Mexico constantly inspires appreciation of the ineffable.

NEW MEXICO STATEHOOD

AN EVENTFUL DEBUT 1912–1922

NEW MEXICANS CELEBRATED the long-awaited news of statehood with great fanfare on January 6, 1912. Drivers honked their horns, people danced in the streets, and patriotic parades were held in communities across the new state. Nine days later, seven thousand New Mexicans cheered when William C. McDonald took the oath of office as the state's first governor.

Filled with enthusiasm, state leaders promoted New Mexico at the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego—and won the prize for the best state exhibit. Silent movies filmed here, with stars like Mary Pickford and Tom Mix, also drew attention to the state.

The jubilation suddenly ended in 1916, when the Mexican Revolution spilled over the border and Pancho Villa destroyed much of Columbus, New Mexico. “Black Jack” Pershing and his Punitive Expedition chased Villa in Mexico for nearly a year, but never caught him.

When the United States entered the Great War in 1917, more than 15,000 New Mexicans served in the armed forces; 501 men lost their lives. Soldiers and civilians alike perished in the terrible Spanish flu epidemic of 1918. In that same year, New Mexicans celebrated the end of World War I with as much fervor as they had celebrated statehood less than seven years earlier.

—Richard Melzer

Historian **Richard Melzer** is featured in “Storytellers,” on page 7. Timeline compiled by Ashley M. Biggers, Jaima Chevalier, and Whitney Dreier, with invaluable input by the Statehood Centennial Steering Committee.



PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS (NMHM/DCA), #023027

January 6, 1912: **President William Howard Taft** signs a proclamation making New Mexico the 47th state in the Union.



1915: **Ernest L. Blumenschein** (right) and Bert G. Phillips decided to stay in Taos after having their wagon wheel repaired there in 1898. They went on to form the **Taos Society of Artists**, one of the most influential groups in the history of New Mexican art.



PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS (NMHM/DCA), #040423

1913: The official state seal is adapted from the territorial seal, which featured a Mexican brown eagle with a snake in its mouth, resting on a cactus plant. In the new seal, an American eagle spreads its wings and clutches an arrow, representing the change in sovereignty from Mexico to the U.S. The seal bears the Latin phrase “*Crescit eundo*” (It grows as it goes), now the state motto.

1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922



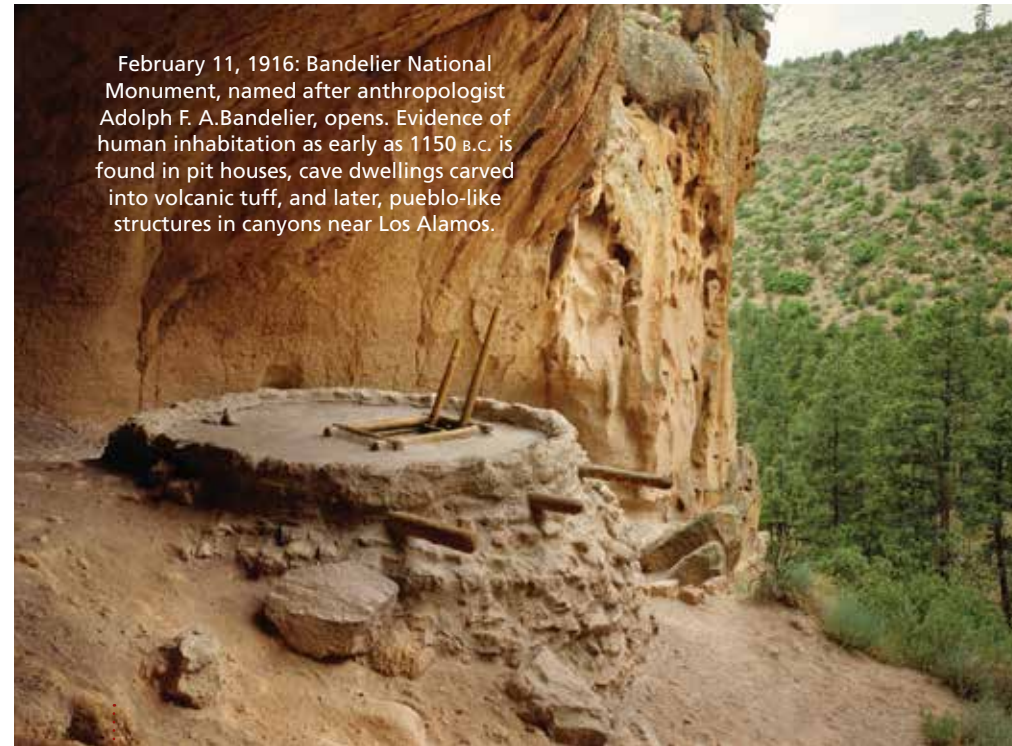
PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS (NMHM/DCA), #169615

1910s: The Santa Fe County Assessor records some 200 **burros** on the tax rolls. These creatures are highly valued as tourist attractions, described by the *Santa Fe New Mexican* as “the saints of the desert” or the “Rocky Mountain canaries.”

March 9, 1916: Francisco “Pancho” Villa, along with a contingent of other Mexican revolutionaries, leads a raid on Columbus, New Mexico. On March 16, General John “Black Jack” Pershing and his U.S. Army troops, including some from the New Mexico National Guard, pursue Villa 400 miles into Mexico. Villa eludes his pursuers, growing his legend as a revolutionary.



1916: **Elephant Butte Dam**, the second largest irrigation dam in the world, opens creating one of the largest bodies of water in the state. The lake becomes a destination for fishing and boating. Other popular water-recreation areas in the state include **Eagle Nest Lake**, **Navajo Lake**, and the **San Juan River**; the last provides some of North America's best fly-fishing.



February 11, 1916: **Bandelier National Monument**, named after anthropologist Adolph F. A. Bandelier, opens. Evidence of human inhabitation as early as 1150 B.C. is found in pit houses, cave dwellings carved into volcanic tuff, and later, pueblo-like structures in canyons near Los Alamos.



1918: New Yorker Mabel Dodge Stern leaves Park Avenue for remote Taos, where she marries Taos Pueblo native Antonio Lujan. Thereafter, **Mabel Dodge Luhan** lures other writers and artists, including D. H. Lawrence and Ansel Adams, to join her salons, at which she promoted modern art, bohemian culture, and Native American rights. Taos has drawn artists and luminaries as diverse as heiress Millicent Rogers (whose museum you can see in Taos today), and actor-director Dennis Hopper.

1917: **The Art Gallery of the Museum of New Mexico (now the New Mexico Museum of Art)** opens in Santa Fe. **Carlos Vierra** helped design the Museum, using the 1630 San Esteban mission at Acoma Pueblo as his model. Vierra's creation and others like it contributed to the design aesthetic now internationally known as **Santa Fe Style**.

1920: The U.S. census shows 5,733 African Americans living in the state. At the time, several hundred African-American citizens lived in **Blackdom**, a community near Roswell that grew thanks to the Homestead Act of 1862, which encouraged people to move west, claim land, and settle.

1920: **Los Cinco Pintores** (The Five Painters)—Josef Bakos, Will Shuster, Walter Mruk, Willard Nash, and Fremont Ellis—hold their first exhibit in Santa Fe.



LAURENCE PARENT

1922: The Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial begins in Gallup. The event includes a parade through town, Native dances, and an art fair. Navajos, Comanches, Kiowas, Apaches, Zunis, and Taos Pueblos, among many other U.S. tribes and first nations from other countries, attended the event then and continue to do so. The 90th annual Ceremonial will be held in August.



1920s: As tuberculosis becomes the country's most fatal disease, New Mexico's **sanitoriums** become popular destinations at which to recuperate.

1920s: With the popular rise of films, small theaters arose such as the **Shuler in Ratón**, the **KiMo in Albuquerque**, and the **Yam in Portales**. All are still open today.

1922: The School of American Research and the Museum of New Mexico host the Southwest Indian Fair, now **Santa Fe Indian Market**. Today, the August market celebrates excellence in Native art and is one of the largest events in the state, drawing more than 100,000 attendees each year.



BOOM AND BUST

1923-1932

Like most Americans, New Mexicans entered the 1920s with great optimism. The Great War had ended, women had won the right to vote (New Mexico voted in favor of the amendment in 1920), and the country experienced unprecedented prosperity, which was shared by several sectors of the state's economy.

Railroads, led by the Santa Fe and the Southern Pacific, brought countless tourists. The famous Southwestern Indian Detours carried tourists ("dudes") by car to distant pueblos and natural wonders, such as Carlsbad Caverns.

A growing number of artists and authors, including Georgia O'Keeffe and D. H. Lawrence, were drawn to the state. Meanwhile, authors like Witter Bynner and artists like Will Shuster hosted fellow members of Santa Fe's art colony, often serving liquor in a decade of poorly enforced prohibition.

A lucrative new industry was created with the discovery of oil in the Permian basin of southeastern New Mexico in 1924. Oil-field workers arrived by the hundreds, making Hobbs one of the fastest-growing boomtowns in the U.S. Cars, often fueled with New Mexico gasoline, now challenged railroads as the nation's primary form of transportation, especially along modern highways like Route 66, commissioned in 1926.

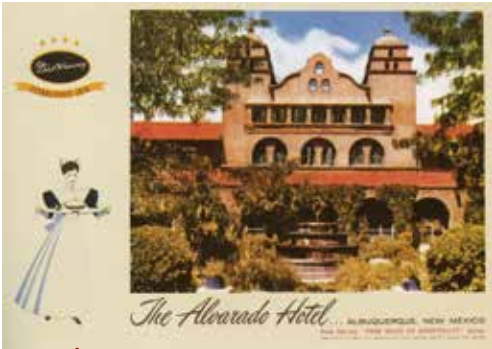
But while many prospered, large numbers of rural farmers and ranchers barely survived. It was said that when the Great Depression began in 1929, most New Mexicans were already so poor that they barely noticed.—R.M.



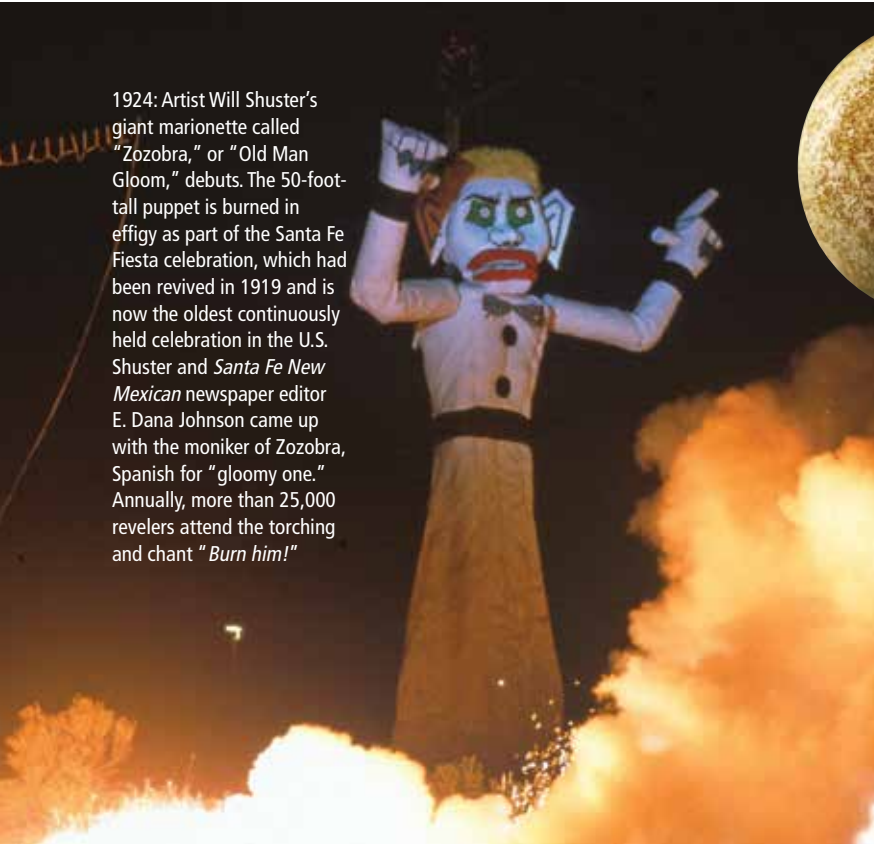
RICHARD MELZER COLLECTION

1923: The National Park service designates Carlsbad Cave National Monument. The system of 117 caves, which includes the popular Big Room, is made a National Park in 1930. Today, the state boasts 13 national parks and monuments, including Chaco Culture National Historical Park, White Sands National Monument near Alamogordo, and the Aztec Ruins National Monument in Aztec.

1923: The El Navajo Hotel, designed by Mary Colter, opens in Gallup as a **Harvey House**. Fred Harvey hotels and restaurants for rail travelers also included the Alvarado in Albuquerque, the Castañeda in Las Vegas, and La Fonda in Santa Fe. See Harvey House history in person at the Harvey House Museum in Belén.



SANTA FE THE CHIEF WAY



STEVE LARESE

1924: Artist Will Shuster's giant marionette called "Zozobra," or "Old Man Gloom," debuts. The 50-foot-tall puppet is burned in effigy as part of the Santa Fe Fiesta celebration, which had been revived in 1919 and is now the oldest continuously held celebration in the U.S. Shuster and *Santa Fe New Mexican* newspaper editor E. Dana Johnson came up with the moniker of Zozobra, Spanish for "gloomy one." Annually, more than 25,000 revelers attend the torching and chant "Burn him!"



February 18, 1930: Clyde W. Tombaugh, later a professor at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, discovers **Pluto**, then thought to be the ninth planet. (In 2006, it was reclassified as a "dwarf planet.")



PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS (NMHM/DCA) #040223

1930s: **Southwest Indian Detours**, in which couriers (specially trained young women) guided visitors off the beaten path, appear in the national press.

1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932



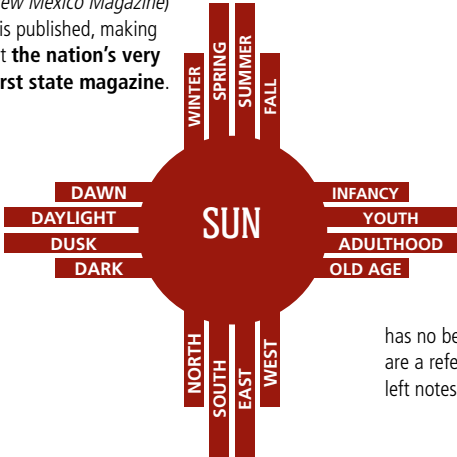
July 1923: The first issue of *New Mexico Highway Journal* (later *New Mexico Magazine*) is published, making it **the nation's very first state magazine**.

June 3, 1924: **The Gila Wilderness**, in the Gila National Forest, becomes the nation's first designated Wilderness Area, spotlighting New Mexico as a place to relish primitive natural landscapes. **Aldo Leopold**, one of the fathers of the conservation movement, worked in New Mexico as part of his duties with the U.S. Forest Service. Today, there are two other Wilderness Areas in the Gila: the Aldo Leopold and the Blue Range.



ALDO LEOPOLD FOUNDATION

March 11, 1925: With the signature of Governor Arthur Hannett, New Mexico adopts the current state flag—a red symbol on a field of yellow, the colors of Isabel of Castilla, which the Spanish Conquistadors brought to the New World. The sun symbol is an ancient Native American symbol from Zia Pueblo. **The Zia** is often described as a symbol of perfect friendship because it has no beginning and no end. The rays on the sides of the symbol are a reference to the powerful number of four. (The illustration at left notes the symbolism of each ray.)



1925: Author Mary Austin and Frank Applegate found the Spanish Colonial Arts Society in Santa Fe. Beginning in 1926 and continuing today, the Society's **Traditional Spanish Market** presents works representing Hispanic spirituality, culture, and tradition. Artists' work ranges from *bultos* and *retablos* (carvings and paintings, most typically of religious figures), but also weaving, pots, jewelry, furnishings, paintings, ironwork, leatherwork, tinwork, straw appliqué, and *colcha* (a New Mexican style of embroidery). See works of art like this comb year-round at the **Museum of Spanish Colonial Art**.



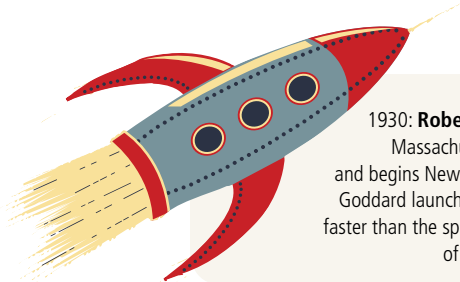
HAIR COMB (PENETA) LAWRENCE BACA AND ARENE CISNEROS, 1999, MUSEUM OF SPANISH COLONIAL ART COLLECTION

1929: **Blackwater Draw**, near Clovis, is first recognized as an important site of early human occupation. It is now considered one of the most significant archaeological sites in North America.



COURTESY BANDELER NATIONAL MONUMENT

1932: Dorothy Dunn establishes The Studio, a painting forum for Native American students at the Santa Fe Indian School. Many, such as Quincy Tahoma and **Pablita Velarde** (whose painting is shown here), become successful.



1930: **Robert Goddard** arrives in Roswell from Massachusetts. He experiments in rocketry and begins New Mexico's connection to the **Space Age**. Goddard launches the first liquid-fuel rocket that travels faster than the speed of sound, and is considered the father of modern rocket propulsion.

NEW DEAL TO THE RESCUE

1933–1942

THE GREAT DEPRESSION HIT THE U.S. like an economic tsunami after 1929. By 1933, the worst year of the prolonged crisis, 25 percent of New Mexico’s skilled workers were unemployed, as were more than half of unskilled workers in many rural parts of the state. Drought made conditions even worse, especially for farmers and ranchers living in northeastern New Mexico. Windstorms blew fine dust everywhere, burying crops, choking livestock, and obstructing travelers’ vision. In scenes like those that inspired John Steinbeck’s *Grapes of Wrath*, thousands in New Mexico’s Dust Bowl region abandoned their homes and migrated west.

Eager for bold solutions to the economic crisis, New Mexicans helped elect Franklin D. Roosevelt to the presidency in 1932. Roosevelt offered a New Deal to spark the economy. Led by such skilled local politicians as Governor Clyde Tingley and Senator Dennis Chavez, New Mexico drew more New Deal money per capita than any other state. The Works Project Administration (WPA) hired unemployed workers to build roads, schools, post offices, etc. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) worked to conserve natural resources. Without the New Deal, it would have taken New Mexico decades to achieve these improvements on its own.—R.M.



1933: Roads, trails, and recreational structures at **Bottomless Lakes State Park**, New Mexico’s first state park, are built with help from the **WPA** and **CCC**. Today the state is home to 35 state parks.



1938: The **New Mexico State Fair** reopens in a new location in Albuquerque after being shut down since 1917. Territorial fairs were first hosted in the Duke City in 1881, but ended some 30 years later. WPA funds revived this celebration of farming and ranching. (The Main Gate from 1947 is pictured here.) Today, Expo New Mexico hosts 600,000 visitors at the State Fair each year.

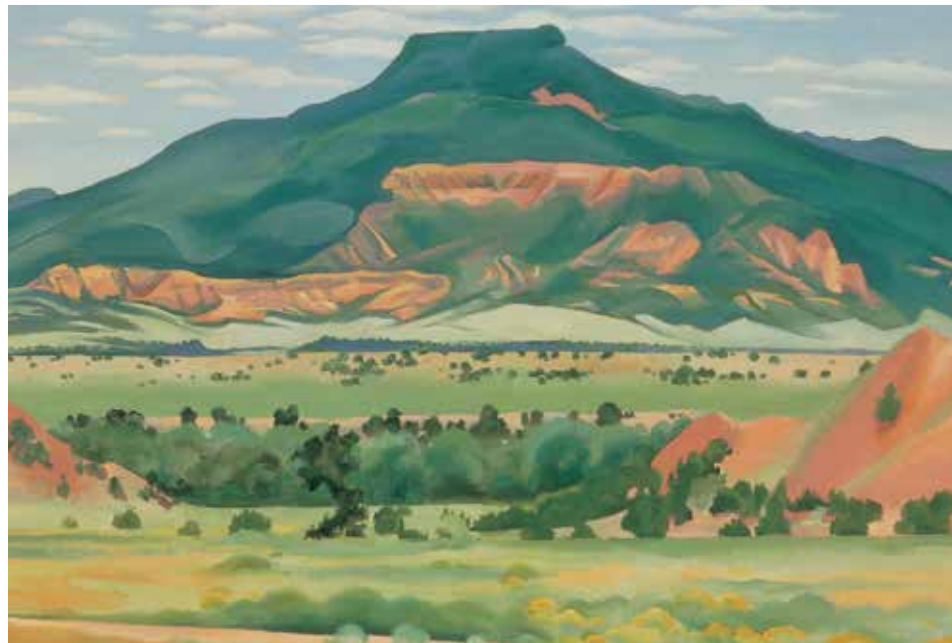


1933: New Deal art and public-works programs begin. The programs provide much-needed employment and beautify public buildings, as in *The Rain Priest* (below), by Gene Kloss, now at the **Albuquerque Museum of Art and History**.



1935: The New Mexico Tourist Bureau and *New Mexico Magazine* begin describing the state as the “Land of Enchantment.” The nickname was made official in 1999.

1936: **Dr. Thomas P. Martin’s widow turns their home and surrounding buildings into The Hotel Martin in Taos. Now the Taos Inn, the 76-year-old hotel is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its lobby is known as the living room of Taos.**



1940: Georgia O’Keeffe purchases a home at **Ghost Ranch**, near Abiquiú. Although O’Keeffe first visited the state in 1929 to stay with her friend Mabel Dodge Luhan, purchasing the property at Ghost Ranch marked her long-term connection with these lands. The landscapes here influence her work, as seen in *My Front Yard, Summer* (above). Today, Ghost Ranch is a destination for artist workshops and spiritual retreats.

GEORGIA O’KEEFFE, MY FRONT YARD, SUMMER, 1941. OIL ON CANVAS, 20 X 30 INCHES. GIFT OF THE GEORGIA O’KEEFFE FOUNDATION. © GEORGIA O’KEEFFE MUSEUM.



August 19, 1941: New Mexico newspapers announce that the National Guard’s 200th Coast Artillery is leaving Fort Bliss, headed for a secret destination. Within months, after a valiant defense, the 200th, which includes many New Mexico soldiers, is captured by Japanese forces in the Philippines. Half of the 1,800 New Mexicans captured die in the Bataan Death March and during years of inhumane captivity before the end of the war.

1942: **Navajo members of the 382nd Platoon, U.S. Marine Corps, establish a secret code, never broken, and become known as Code Talkers.**



1940s: The **Pie Town Festival** gets cookin’ in Pie Town. (The General Store from 1940 is pictured here.) The festival is still held on the second Saturday of each September. You can enjoy the town’s most celebrated dessert year-round at two cafes: the Daily Pie and the Pie-O-Neer.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, LC-USF35-579 PHOTO BY RUSSELL LEE

January 1941: **Construction begins on the Albuquerque Army Air Base, which later became Kirtland Air Force Base, the third largest military installation in the Air Force Material Command.**

1942: Immediately after Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans are forced to report to Assembly Centers and are placed in internment camps, including one in Santa Fe that held 4,555. Another site opens in Lordsburg.

1942: Secretary of War Henry Stimson informs the Los Alamos Ranch School that the government will acquire the property. The land near the Jemez Mountains is then used for a nuclear research effort code-named the **Manhattan Project**. For secrecy, scientists check in with Dorothy McKibbin (pictured with Project Director **J. Robert Oppenheimer** and scientist Victor Weisskopf) at 109 East Palace in Santa Fe. The project site becomes **Los Alamos National Laboratory**.



COURTESY LANL ARCHIVES

A MIGHTY WAR EFFORT

1943–1952

NEARLY 50,000 NEW MEXICANS served in the armed services during World War II, suffering 2,256 casualties; New Mexicans received seven Medals of Honor during the war. Navajo Code Talkers developed a secret military code that was used to help win key battles in the Pacific. New Mexico native Bill Mauldin and Albuquerque resident Ernie Pyle won Pulitzer Prizes for their war coverage. On the home front, Army air bases were built in Hobbs, Carlsbad, Clovis, Roswell, Alamogordo, Albuquerque, and other towns.

In New Mexico’s most spectacular contribution to World War II, a secret scientific community was organized on the remote Pajarito Plateau to develop the world’s first atomic weapons. Led by physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer and General Leslie Groves, scientists of the Manhattan Project worked day and night to perfect a bomb that was finally tested at the Trinity Test Site, southeast of Socorro, in mid-July 1945. Similar bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, causing mass destruction, but leading to Japan’s surrender one month after the Trinity blast.

It is possible to argue that New Mexico proudly contributed to the United States’ final victory in World War II more than any other state of its size in the Union. After the War, both the U.S. and New Mexico experienced a boom period, thanks to returning service men who sought college educations and purchased homes. Naturally, New Mexico residents also contributed to the post-war baby boom.—R.M.



July 16, 1945: Manhattan Project scientists detonate the world’s first nuclear device at the **Trinity Test Site**, beginning the atomic age. The **White Sands Missile Range** now hosts twice-yearly tours of the site on the first Saturday of April and October.

COURTESY LANL ARCHIVES



1945: New Mexican Bill Mauldin wins his first Pulitzer Prize for World War II cartoons and reporting.



PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS (NIMH/DCA) #HP.03.11

1946: Co-founder of the Boy Scouts of America and conservation writer Ernest Thompson Seton dies at his home in Seton Village, New Mexico. Today, the Seton Memorial Library at Philmont Scout Ranch, near Cimarrón, houses many of his papers and artifacts.

1947: An excavation at Ghost Ranch, led by Dr. Edwin Colbert and crew member George Wittaker, uncover the 205-million-year-old dinosaur known as *Coelophysis*. This fossil has been found only in New Mexico. It was named the **official state fossil** in 1981.



COURTESY MARTIN COOPER

1949: The roadrunner is named the **New Mexico State Bird**. By the 1950s, the Warner Bros.’ iteration of the bird is immortalized in Looney Tunes—even if *that* roadrunner looks nothing like the real deal.

1949: Sandia National Laboratories opens in Albuquerque. Together, Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratory make New Mexico a hotbed of research and development for energy and military technology.



July 1947: Rancher W. W. “Mack” Brazel discovers what appears to be the remains of a crashed flying saucer outside Roswell. Although the military initially issues a press release confirming Brazel’s find, they quickly rescind the announcement, embroiling the incident in mystery and tales of a government cover-up. Today, UFO enthusiasts and skeptics still flock to Roswell to see the **International UFO Museum and Research Center** (opened in 1992), and to attend the **Roswell UFO Festival**, held every Fourth of July weekend. Don’t miss the animatronic aliens at the museum, or the costume contest during the festival.



ALIEN PHOTO BY JULIEN MICROBERTS



1950: At the on-air prompting of television game-show host Ralph Edwards, the town of Hot Springs changes its name to Truth or Consequences in honor of the show’s tenth anniversary. Today, the town, which does have its fair share of hot springs, is an enclave of big-city escapees and artists.

July 9, 1952: Blake’s Lotaburger opens in Albuquerque and becomes one of first restaurants to add green chile to cheeseburgers. Today, get your fix by traveling the official **New Mexico Green-Chile Cheeseburger Trail**.



May 9, 1950: A fire crew battling the 17,000-acre Capitán Gap fire in Lincoln National Forest rescues an abandoned black bear cub with burned paws. He lives at the Washington National Zoo for 26 years and becomes the official mascot of the Fire Prevention program of the U.S. Forest Service. Smokey’s stature as an icon continues after his 1976 death.

Today, visit his grave at **Smokey Bear Historical Park** in Capitán.



1950s: Although U.S. 66 was officially commissioned as the Chicago-to-Los-Angeles route in 1926, the **Mother Road**’s heyday was the 1950s, when travelers cruised the open road in search of adventure. You can still grab a malt at the 66 Diner, on Central Avenue in Albuquerque.

COLD WAR HOT SPOTS

1953–1962

NEW MEXICO PLAYED A KEY ROLE in the Cold War, which led to ever-greater federal involvement in the state. Eager to keep pace with the Soviet Union militarily, the U.S. government converted four World War II army air bases into Air Force bases (Cannon, Holloman, Walker, and Kirtland) that continued to train crews and test new planes and weapons. The White Sands Missile Range, on 3,200 square miles of southern New Mexico, tested advanced weapons and rockets.

The U.S. created new nuclear weapons, including the hydrogen bomb, at Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories. Grants became known as the “uranium capital” of the nation.

The Cold War erupted into actual combat with the Korean conflict of 1950 to 1952. Nearly 200 New Mexicans lost their lives in this “forgotten war.”

Many newcomers arrived to work in Cold War industries; Albuquerque’s population skyrocketed from 35,449 in 1940 to 262,199 in 1960. Smaller towns, like Los Alamos, Alamogordo, and Grants, experienced similar growth. New, modern highways, trains, and commercial airlines brought tourists to the state in record numbers. Construction of homes, businesses, motels, and restaurants boomed.—R.M.



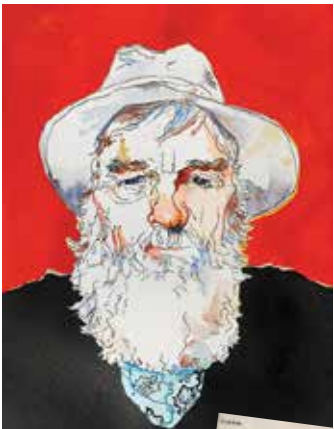
COURTESY MUSEUM OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART. PHOTO BY BLAIR CLARK

September 1953: **Museum of International Folk Art** opens in Santa Fe, thanks to major donations of funds and collections by founder Florence Dibell Bartlett. Today, the collection includes more than 135,000 artifacts, including this Bolivian altar (left). Don’t miss the Alexander Girard wing, named after the famous designer, who donated his collection, and which showcases folk art, toys, miniatures, and textiles from more than 100 nations.



PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTO

1953: **Julius and Ethel Rosenberg** were put to death for espionage. The two were convicted of conspiring with Ethel’s brother, David Greenglass, an Albuquerque resident who worked on the Manhattan Project, to pass sketches of the atomic bomb and the names of individuals working on the project to a Soviet agent.



PAUL MCCREERY

1956: Environmentalist, raconteur, and author **Edward Abbey** publishes *The Brave Cowboy*, one of his two novels set in New Mexico.



KEN HOWARD / COURTESY SANTA FE OPERA

1957: Founded by John Crosby, the **Santa Fe Opera** opens, bringing international singing talent to the Capital. While raising funds for the SFO, Crosby met composer Igor Stravinsky and later asked him to perform at the opening night the opera. Today, the Santa Fe Opera’s season at its open-air theater is one of the highlights of the summer in Santa Fe.

1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962



LOONEY TUNES CHARACTERS, NAMES AND ALL RELATED INDICIA © WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT 2011

1953: Cartoonist **Chuck Jones** popularizes Bugs Bunny’s phrase, “I *knew* I shoulda tooked that left toin at Albakoikie,” sparking a pop-culture onslaught of references to getting lost near the Duke City. Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies creator Chuck Jones lived in California, but traveled frequently to New Mexico. Reflecting his attachment to the state, a gallery of his work operates in Santa Fe today.

1956: With the help of a mule and 16 men from Taos Pueblo, **Ernie Blake** installs a **Bridger-Boseman J-Bar lift**. **Taos Ski Valley** is born.



CLAYELLIS

1954: **La Conquistadora**, the oldest statue of the Virgin Mary in the U.S., is crowned by Cardinal Francis Spellman, and in 1960 receives papal coronation. See the historic figure today at the **Cathedral Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi** in Santa Fe.



1956: Norman Petty records hits at his Clovis studio. Music greats such as Buddy Holly, Waylon Jennings, and Roy Orbison have recorded there. Today, tour Norman Petty Studios or attend the **Clovis Music Festival**, held each September.



1957: Santa Fe’s Historic Design Ordinance passes. It limits the height of downtown buildings and mandates the appearance of adobe to keep the city’s distinctive style intact for generations to come.



1962: Local legend has it that Teresa Hernández serves her first **Frito Pie** at Woolworth’s in Santa Fe.



Georgia O'Keeffe Hitching a Ride to Abiquiu, by Maria Chabot. The photographer's handwritten note on the back of the picture identifies the driver as artist Maurice Grosser. © GEORGIA O'KEEFFE MUSEUM



OUT OF TIME

AS THESE BLACK-AND-WHITE IMAGES remind us, great factors in New Mexico's enduring allure are its sense of timelessness and its cultural mix. The Martinez family, pictured below, looks as if they could have ridden that wagon straight out the 19th century—but this was 1939, a mere five years and 40 miles from Georgia O'Keeffe's ride on the back of that motorcycle. The cowboy picture at left is undated—which is somehow fitting for such a classic slice of Western imagery. On the following page, Lee Marmon's *White Man's Moccasins*, from 1954, slyly and succinctly expresses the confluence (or was it a collision?) of traditional Native culture and modernity. And if you drove out to Ship Rock today, chances are you'd see road-trippers pulled over to take photos of the epic formation, just as the family pictured here did in 1953.

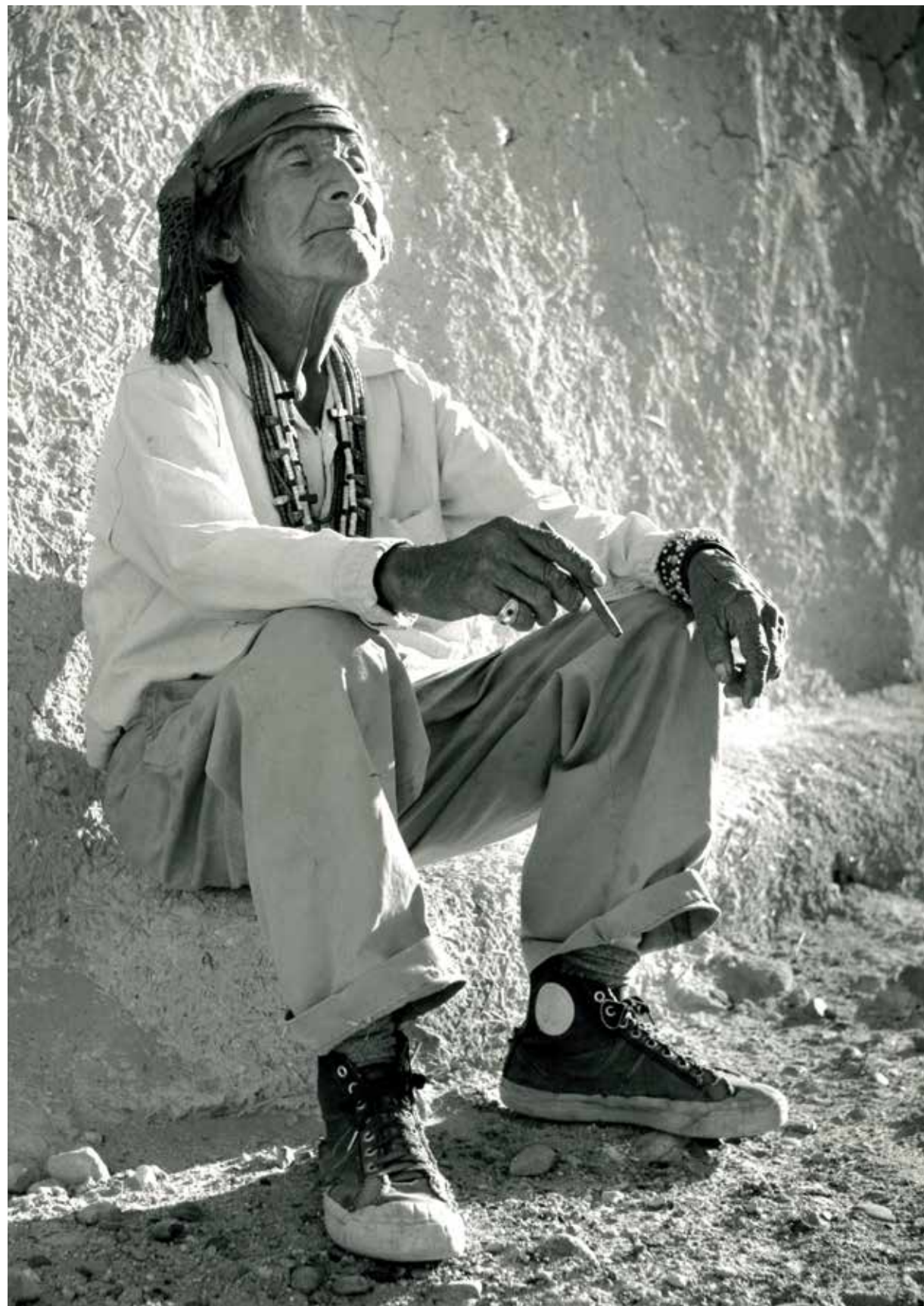
Left: Cowboys on the Bell Ranch, near Tucumcari, wrangle a calf in preparation for branding.

DATE AND PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN, *NEW MEXICO MAGAZINE* ARCHIVAL COLLECTION.

Below: The Martinez family moves a wagonload of their belongings through Córdova in September 1939.

PHOTO BY CARL HOLZMAN, COURTESY MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO (NEGATIVE NO. 9053).





Left: Lee Marmon's famous *White Man's Moccasins* was taken in his Laguna Pueblo homeland, where "Old Man Jeff" Sousea was caretaker of the Laguna Mission.

Opposite: The monumental and photogenic Ship Rock Peak, in the Navajo Nation, west of Farmington. PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN, NEW MEXICO MAGAZINE ARCHIVAL COLLECTION.



CULTURES CLASHING

1963–1972

THE 1960S WILL BE REMEMBERED as a decade of growth and conflict in the U.S. and New Mexico.

The state continued to grow as an integral part of what President Eisenhower had called the military-industrial complex, which included the space race. Whole new communities, such as Rio Rancho, welcomed their first residents, and hippie communes added countercultural elements to an already diverse state.

But New Mexico also experienced turmoil. Frustrated by the loss of their land grants, many Hispanics turned to Reis López Tijerina and his originally peaceful Alianza Federal de Mercedes, founded in 1963; López Tijerina resorted to increasingly violent measures that ultimately doomed his movement. Taos Pueblo residents non-violently defended their sacred Blue Lake in the Carson National Forest.

The Vietnam war divided the state: Abroad, New Mexicans served in the military. At home, anti-war protests sometimes turned violent, as when opposing factions clashed on Albuquerque's Central Avenue and National Guard troops were sent to the University of New Mexico. Peace was restored in New Mexico only when peace was restored in the nation and in Southeast Asia.—R.M.



NEW MEXICO MAGAZINE ARCHIVES/PHOTO BY DON LAINE



1965: The **Río Grande Gorge Bridge** is completed in Taos, towering 650 feet above the river.

December 8, 1966: The renovated Capitol building for the state of New Mexico is dedicated. It is dubbed “**the Roundhouse**” for its design, which resembles the shape of a Zia symbol when viewed from above. The building’s art collection, which is open to the public and includes works from a wide selection of prominent living local artists, is **one of the best-kept secrets in Santa Fe.**



June 5, 1967: **Reis López Tijerina** leads a raid on the courthouse in Tierra Amarilla, wounding a jailer and deputy and kidnapping two people. The group, part of the Chicano Rights Movement, was fighting to restore New Mexico land grants to the descendants of their Spanish Colonial and Mexican owners.



1969: The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish introduces the oryx, an African antelope species, to White Sands Missile Range to establish a huntable, big-game animal population. Although the oryx is certainly one of the more unusual species hunted in the state, sport hunters have enjoyed pursuing elk, deer, pronghorn antelope, and even cougars and bears here.

1968: **Bobby Unser wins the Indianapolis 500 car race, the first of his three victories there. His brother Al won the granddaddy of all stock car races a total of four times; Al Unser Jr. won twice, cementing the family's claim to racing fame. All hail from Albuquerque.**



COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES

1970: President Nixon signs Congressional legislation returning **Blue Lake** and 48,000 acres of surrounding land to **Taos Pueblo**. The Lake is sacred to the Pueblo and is closed to visitors.



LAURENCE PARENT

1970: The states of New Mexico and Colorado begin operating the **Cumbres & Toltec National Scenic Railroad**—the nation’s longest and highest narrow-gauge railroad. The 64 miles of track cross the New Mexico–Colorado state line 11 times between Chama and Antonito.



1972: The **Albuquerque Dukes** baseball team joins the Triple-A Pacific Coast League. The Dukes team formed originally in 1915, as part of the Class-D Rio Grande Association. They were among the minor-league teams, like the Madrid Miners, that flourished here in the 1920s and 30s. The Dukes formed and disbanded several times while earning their status as a major league farm team. Sing it with us: “Those Dukes are comin’ out! Comin’ out swingin’! Come on Dukes, play ball!” (Shortstop Ron Washington’s collectible 1978 card is seen here.)

1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972

1965: Painter **R. C. Gorman** (seen here working in his Taos studio) shows his first one-man exhibition in New Mexico, at the Manchester Gallery in Taos. Throughout his life, this famed Native artist became synonymous with Taos. He died in 2005, but his work is still on display in his adopted town at the R. C. Gorman Navajo Gallery.

1967: The first state film commission in the U.S. is created in New Mexico, galvanizing the local film industry. More than 500 movies and television shows have been filmed in the state; read about 10 of them in “Tamalewood Film Fiesta,” on page 66.

1966: **University Arena (“The Pit”), home to Lobo men’s and women’s basketball games, opens at University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.**

1966: The 2.7-mile **Sandia Peak Tramway** opens, becoming the longest aerial tram in the world. The Tram carries visitors from the eastern edge of Albuquerque to Sandia Peak Ski Area on the backside of the mountain. The swinging gondolas rise to an elevation of 10,378 feet at the crest. Panoramic views of 11,000 square miles of the Río Grande Valley await at the top.



USA LAW

1967: The New Buffalo Commune, a living complex dedicated to self-sufficiency and an independent lifestyle, is founded near Arroyo Hondo outside Taos. Here, commune members Laura and Paul Foster wed at the Hog Farm’s summer solstice celebration in Aspen Meadows in 1968.



1970: **Tony Hillerman** publishes *The Blessing Way*, the first of 18 mystery novels featuring Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn and Sergeant Jim Chee. As well as being excellent stories, his novels celebrate the New Mexican landscape and the traditions of her Native peoples. Hillerman is one of the state’s best-known authors.

April 8, 1972: **Spearheaded by Sid Cutter, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta begins with a modest 13 hot-air balloons in a mall parking lot. Today, with more than 600 balloons taking flight each October, the Fiesta is the largest ballooning event on earth. Held at the 365-acre Balloon Fiesta Park, the event includes mass ascensions, night glows, and special-shapes rodeos. Explore ballooning history anytime at the Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum.**



1971: The city of Hatch hosts the first **Hatch Chile Festival**, celebrating the good ol’ red and green in the self-proclaimed **Chile Capital of the World**. With the Mesilla Valley’s abundant crop, the city lives up to its sobriquet. In 2010, New Mexico farmers harvested more than 66,600 tons of chile. The festival is held during the harvest season, usually in September.

STEPPING IT UP

1973–1982

IN A DECADE NOT KNOWN AS A national golden era, New Mexico experienced a surge of creativity and bold achievements.

Rudolfo Anaya’s *Bless Me, Ultima* (1972) is perhaps the most famous and admired novel ever written about Hispanic culture in the Southwest. John Nichols’s *Milagro Beanfield War* (1974) described the struggle to preserve Hispanic life against modern development and personal greed. R. C. Gorman’s paintings made him one of the most celebrated young Indian artists in the country.

Members of the famous Unser racing family have won no fewer than nine Indianapolis 500 races, including four in the 1970s alone. In 1978, three New Mexicans—Ben Abruzzo, Maxie Anderson, and Larry Newman—became the first team to fly across the Atlantic in a gas balloon.

On the down side, the Watergate scandal rocked the nation; New Mexico Senator Joseph Montoya became nationally known as a member of the investigating committee whose intensive scrutiny ultimately led to President Nixon’s resignation. Closer to home, a scandal involving the recruitment of basketball players at the University of New Mexico led to convictions in what will be forever known as Lobogate. It would take years for the university’s basketball program to recover.—R.M.



1975: **Bill Gates** and Paul Allen begin Microsoft in Albuquerque, launching the personal-computing revolution and registering the Duke City in the annals of geek history. Gates left the city in 1979, but not before getting in trouble with the law—OK, OK, it was just for a traffic violation.



DANIEL R. SCHUELER

August 1976: The **Indian Pueblo Cultural Center** opens in Albuquerque, celebrating the history and culture of the state’s 19 Pueblos. In addition to its exhibits, the center hosts Native dancing throughout the year.



1980: **Intel**, the world’s most profitable manufacturer of computer chips, opens a plant in **Rio Rancho**, spurring an influx of new residents and helping the city become the third most populous in the state today.



March 1982: The Space Shuttle *Columbia* lands at White Sands Space Harbor. White Sands became a backup landing site for NASA in 1979.



1981: **Jemez Pueblo runner Al Waquie** sets a new record in the Pike’s Peak marathon in Colorado—3:26:17. Waquie trained at his native Pueblo, which carries on a long tradition of running. He won the marathon again in 1982 and 1985, and the torturous nine-mile La Luz Trail Run to the summit of the Sandia Mountains near Albuquerque eight times, from 1977 to 1985.

1980: The first **Great American Duck Race** is held as a city fundraiser in Deming. Still held annually, this carnival is your chance to borrow a duck to race in both swimming and running competitions.

1980: Las Cruces hosts the first **Whole Enchilada Fiesta**, a three-day celebration of southern New Mexico’s traditions, people, and food. The September festival is topped off with the creation of the largest enchilada around—the massive dish includes 75 gallons of red-chile sauce and 175 pounds of grated cheese.



CHARLES MANN

1980: The **Very Large Array** is dedicated on the Plains of San Agustin, 60 miles west of Socorro. Astronomers from around the world travel to New Mexico to use the array to study the universe. It has been seen in several Hollywood films, most notably *Contact* (1997), starring Jodie Foster.



RICHARD MELZER COLLECTION

1974: The Navajo community holds a largely peaceful protest in Farmington as part of the era’s ongoing **Native Rights movement**. They marched until several teenagers were sentenced for savagely beating three Navajo men.

1979: The **Albuquerque Museum of Art and History** opens its current facility near Old Town. The Museum hosts national touring exhibitions and those with works by the finest artists in the state, such as this one by T or C painter Delmas Howe.



THE THREE GRACES BY DELMAS HOWE. 1978. OIL ON CANVAS. COURTESY OF THE ALBUQUERQUE MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY. GIFT OF THE ARTIST.

1979: Two hikers in the BLM Wilderness Study Area near Ojito (San Ysidro/Isidro) discover protruding vertebrae of a previously unknown dinosaur, the *Seismosaurus* (Earth Shaker or earthquake lizard). It is one of the biggest dinosaurs ever to call New Mexico home, at an estimated weight of 190,000 pounds and a length of 120 feet. The partial skeleton (dating from 150 million years ago) is on view at the **New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science**, in Albuquerque.



KEN STINNETT

August 1982: **Mesilla Plaza** is designated a National Historic Landmark. The Plaza was built during the early 1800s to protect area residents from raiding Apaches; many of the existing buildings date to that era. The Gadsden Purchase was celebrated here in 1853 when troops from Fort Fillmore raised the flag over the Plaza to celebrate the transfer of some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico to the U.S.

A CHANGE IN FORTUNES

1983–1992

DÉTENTE, DISARMAMENT TREATIES, and a democratic movement in Eastern Europe caused the fall of one communist regime after another, including the Soviet Union itself. These distant events had a deep, lasting impact on New Mexico.

The reduction in nuclear weapons, coupled with the 1979 disaster at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant, cut demand for uranium mined in New Mexico. Grants faced a sudden bust. The need for new weapons developed at the Los Alamos and Sandia national labs was questioned. Rumors flew that air bases might close. New Mexico's over dependence on federal government projects and spending became increasingly evident.

New Mexico's reliance on its oil and gas industry was also clear. Competition with foreign oil producers and fluctuations in the world market caused economic instability in towns like Hobbs and Farmington. The state government suffered whenever oil and gas production declined.—R.M.



1983: The first animal to travel to outer space, a chimp named **Ham** (an acronym for Holloman Aero Medical Research Lab), is buried at the **New Mexico Museum of Space History** in Alamogordo. After traveling 150 miles above Earth, Ham spent the rest of his life in the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and a second zoological park in North Carolina, before dying of natural causes.



1987: The **Museum of Indian Arts & Culture**, which features Native works from the Southwest, opens in Santa Fe.

POLYCHROME JAR, 1974. UNKNOWN ARTIST. COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF INDIAN ARTS AND CULTURE. PHOTO BY BLAIR CLARK



MARK CROWWELL

1987: The Friends of the **Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge** host the first **Festival of the Cranes** to celebrate the return of 15,000 sandhill cranes and other migratory birds to this refuge near Socorro. Today, the November event includes bird watching (of course), photography classes, and an art fair.



THEODORE GREER

1992: **Taos Pueblo** is designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** because it exemplifies the enduring culture of present-day Pueblo peoples. Chaco Culture National Historic Park also earned the status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for culture; Carlsbad Caverns National Park earned UNESCO recognition as a Natural Site.

1983

1984

1985

1986

1987

1988

1989

1990

1991

1992

1984: The **Santa Fe Institute**, specializing in the interdisciplinary study of the most compelling and complex problems of our time, is founded as a private nonprofit research and education center.



1985: New Mexico native **Kathy Whitworth**, who started playing golf in Jal at age 15, earns her 88th career win in the Ladies Professional Golf Association, more than anyone in the LPGA or the PGA has ever accomplished.



MITCHELL CLINTON

1987: The **Tour of the Gila** bicycle road race begins in Silver City. Today, both professional and amateur cyclists participate in the multi-day race, held in late April to early May. Even seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong has participated. (Pro rider Taylor Phinney is pictured here winning a stage of the 2010 event.)

NEW MEXICO FARM AND RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM



1988: The New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Foundation forms, and, in May 1998, the **New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum** opens to the public. While you're there, be sure to survey the south 20 to check out the museum's crops and herd of longhorn cattle.



COURTESY MERIDEL RUBENSTEIN

1991: Albuquerque's 1% for Art Program sponsors one of its best-known works: *Cruising San Mateo* (a.k.a. Chevy on a Stick), a tiled sculpture by Barbara Grygutis. The 1965 vehicle has become a required photo op for visitors to the Duke City, which is now festooned with art thanks to this public art program—one of the oldest in the country.



1992: Christmas on the Pecos, a holiday light celebration, begins floating down the Pecos River in Carlsbad between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve.

1990: The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History acquires **Dave's Dream**, a 1969 Ford LTD lowrider from Chimayó, establishing the vehicle as a cultural icon. (Artist Dave Jaramillo's wife, Maria Irene, and son, Dave Jr., are pictured here with the car after the artist's death.)



THE MILLENNIUM

1993–2002

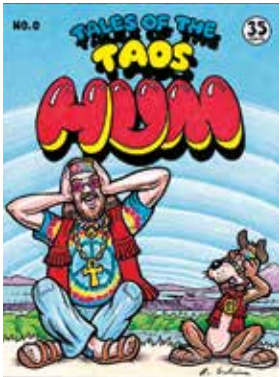
ALTHOUGH THE U.S. WAS BUILDING fewer nuclear weapons in the wake of the Cold War, the need to securely store the country’s existing arsenal persisted—a concern that was tragically reinforced by the rising terrorist threat and the events of September 11, 2001.

For many years the military had stored much of its material at installations in the Manzano Mountains. The need for more advanced security led the Air Force to construct the Kirtland Underground Munitions Storage Complex, which opened in 1994.

Years of nuclear research and usage had also produced tons of high- and low-level nuclear waste that had long been stockpiled in dangerously exposed locations. With the help of Sandia National Laboratories’ scientists and engineers, a Waste Isolation Pilot Plan was built 2,150 feet below ground east of Carlsbad, and opened in 1999.

In 2000, a “controlled” fire in the forest near Los Alamos grew out of control, burning over 42,000 acres, and destroying large portions of Pueblo Indian land and much of Los Alamos—but not its labs.

Meanwhile, tourists continued to arrive in New Mexico during one of the most prosperous decades in American history. Special celebrations continued to draw tourists to other towns across the state, including the Hatch Chile Festival, the Roswell UFO Festival, the Great American Duck Race in Deming, and, of course, the Santa Fe Fiesta.—R.M.



DENNIS LARKINS

1993: A group of Taos residents report hearing a low sound—soon known as the “hum”—and ask the state to investigate. No conclusive causes were discovered.



1996: “Red or Green?” is adopted as the official state question. In 2007, the Legislature added “Christmas” as the answer.



PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS (NMHM/DCAI, #PA-WU-082.07)

1996: **Fray Angélico Chávez** dies. Born in Wagon Mound, he was ordained as a Franciscan priest, and achieved acclaim as one of the greatest religious poets of U.S. Hispanic origin.

July 1997:
The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum opens in Santa Fe, making it the first art museum in the world dedicated to an American woman artist. It becomes the most-visited art museum in New Mexico.



1998: The state marks the **Cuatro Centenario**, marking 400 years of European presence in New Mexico and the settlement at La Villa de San Gabriel by **Don Juan de Oñate** in 1598.



MIKE STAUFFER

2000: The historic Baca Ranch is protected as the **Valles Caldera National Preserve**. The 89,000-acre public-land preserve, which sits in a volcanic caldera in the Jemez Mountains, is a destination for hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.



July 1995: Amateur astronomer Alan Hale discovers the Hale-Bopp comet from the mountain village of Cloudcroft.

1995: Governor Gary Johnson signs gaming compacts with 11 tribes, allowing **casinos** to begin operations. Today, luxury accommodations with large performance venues, spas, and golf courses make tribal resorts sure-fire destinations.



COURTESY SANDIA CASINO AND RESORT



STEVE LARESE

1996: Media mogul **Ted Turner** purchases the approximately 590,000-acre Vermejo Park Ranch from Pennzoil Corporation. His land stewardship includes maintaining bison herds. Both Vermejo Park and Ladder Ranch, another Turner property near T or C, are working to conserve the cutthroat trout, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed as endangered. Previously, in 1982, Pennzoil had deeded 150 square miles of the Ranch to the U.S. Forest Service; these lands became the **Valle Vidal** (pictured).

1999: A meteorite explodes over Portales, scattering 143 pounds of debris. More than 200 meteorites are known to have landed in New Mexico; about half have been found in Roosevelt County.



2000: The Chicago Bears draft **Brian Urlacher** out of UNM as the ninth pick in the NFL draft. Since then he has been a Pro Bowl middle line-backer. Lovington honors him with a 20-foot-tall mural.



COURTESY NATION HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER. PHOTO BY STEVE BROMBERG

2000: The **National Hispanic Cultural Center** opens in Albuquerque and becomes a destination for performing and visual arts. The center also boasts *Mundos de Mestizaje* (Worlds of the Mized Races). Created by Frederico Vigil, the mural is the largest concave fresco in North America; it adorns the cylindrical Torreón at the entrance.



LESLEY S. KING

September 2000: *The Trail Ahead*, by artist Brian Norwood, is dedicated outside Jal. The 17-piece sculpture of metal silhouettes celebrates the Western lifestyle. The longest figure—a cowboy on horseback—is 21 feet long; overall, the piece stretches approximately 400 feet.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

2003–2012

SHORTLY BEFORE New Mexico achieved statehood, in 1912, the senior class at the University of New Mexico buried a time capsule that has recently been excavated and opened with some fanfare. Items included a newspaper, a yearbook, and a curious parking permit (for horse-drawn buggies?).

What would the current generation of New Mexicans bury in a time capsule to define their state in the first decade of the 21st century?

- A ticket for the Rail Runner, the commuter train connecting Belén to Albuquerque to Santa Fe, which opened in stages during this decade.
- A Richard Branson–autographed photo of futuristic planes flying over New Mexico’s new Spaceport, along with a ticket costing \$200,000 for a half-hour space flight.
- A bobble-head version of Orbit, the mascot of the Albuquerque Isotopes Triple-A baseball team, created in 2003.
- A DVD of *True Grit*, one of hundreds of movies filmed in the state in the first decade of the century.
- The final issue (February 23, 2008) of the 86-year-old *Albuquerque Tribune*, to reflect the decade’s quickly changing communications technology—and an iPad2.
- A *bulto* purchased at Traditional Spanish Market and a piece of pottery from Indian Market in Santa Fe.

These artifacts reflect a truly diverse state, respectful of its past, proud of its present, and hopeful for its next hundred years of statehood.—R.M.



FOX BROADCASTING



COURTESY INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART MARKET

2004: The International Folk Art Museum hosts the first **International Folk Art Market** in Santa Fe, bringing artists from around the world to the Capital City. In 2010, the Market, which is held annually in July, featured 132 artists from 50 countries.

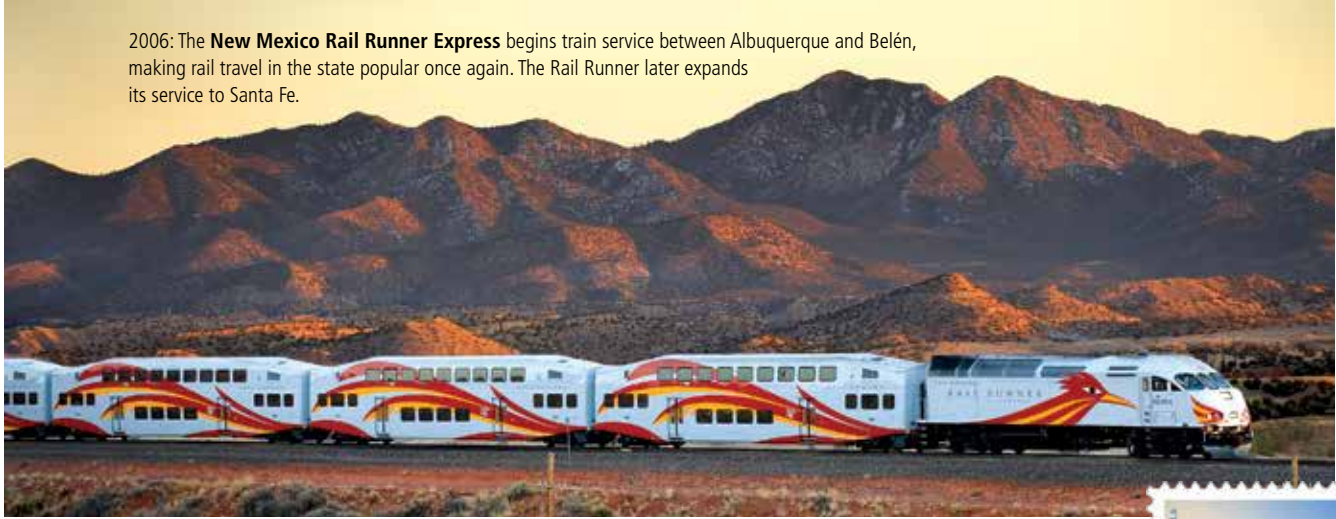


2005: The State of New Mexico and Virgin Galactic, headed by **Richard Branson** (right), announce a joint agreement to build **Spaceport America**, continuing New Mexico’s role as a leader in the aerospace industry. Today, the Visitors Center, 30 miles south of T or C, is open to the public.



KAREN KUEHN

November 2005: San Juan Pueblo officially changes its name back to **Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo** (Place of the Strong People), marking the Pueblo’s efforts to return to its roots and inspiring several other Pueblos to do the same.



CHRIS CORRIE

2006: The **New Mexico Rail Runner Express** begins train service between Albuquerque and Belén, making rail travel in the state popular once again. The Rail Runner later expands its service to Santa Fe.



May 2009: **Mine That Bird**, trained by New Mexican Bennie Woolley Jr., wins the Kentucky Derby. New Mexico has a long and successful history of horse breeding. The All-American Futurity, held every Labor Day weekend at Ruidoso Downs, is racing’s richest race for two-year-olds—in 2011, the purse totaled more than \$2.4 million.

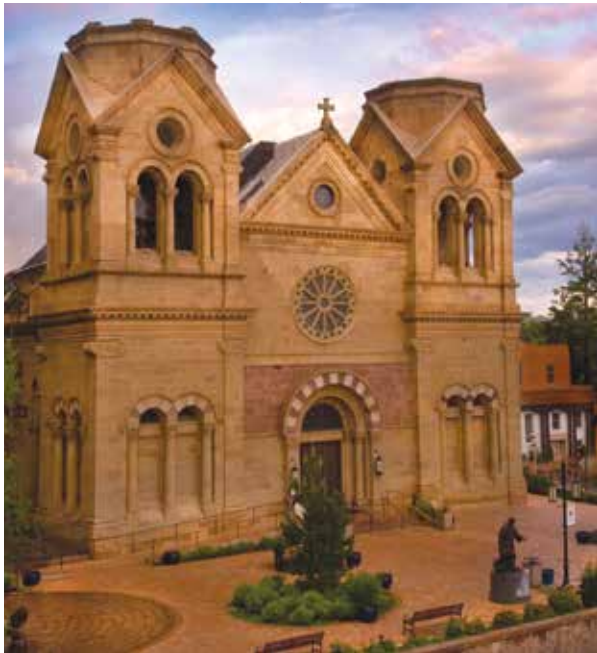
2010: **Santa Fe** celebrates its **400th anniversary**, making it the nation’s oldest capital city.



January 6, 2012: The Postal Service releases the official Centennial stamp. Taos artist Doug West’s view of the Rio Puerco and Cabelon Peak is titled *Sanctuary*. **Happy birthday, New Mexico!**

2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

2003: After a hiatus, Albuquerque once again roots for a minor-league baseball team when the **Isotopes** come up to bat. The name for the team came from the TV series *The Simpsons*: In the episode “Hungry, Hungry Homer,” Homer goes on a hunger strike to protest attempts to move his beloved Springfield Isotopes to Albuquerque. The team now plays ball in Isotopes Park every summer.



LEROY N. SANCHEZ

2005: The **St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral** in Santa Fe is elevated to the status of a Basilica by the Vatican in recognition of its historical and regional importance.



COURTESY JENNIFER LYNN FARRAR

2008: Timothy McGinn commissions the 30-foot-tall **World’s Largest Pistachio** outside Alamogordo to celebrate Otero County’s most abundant crop and as a tribute to his father, Thomas Michael McGinn, who founded the Pistachio Tree Ranch.

November 2010: **Gruet Winery** wins United States Wine Producer of the Year from the International Wine and Spirits Competition, marking this winery’s success on the national stage. A wine-growing region for more than 400 years, New Mexico is home to some 40 wineries statewide.



2011: **Judy Chicago** wins the **New Mexico Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts** in recognition of the Belén resident’s five decades as a multidisciplinary artist (best known for her installation *The Dinner Party*), author, feminist, educator, and intellectual.



July 12, 2011: President Barack Obama awards **Army Ranger Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry** the **Medal of Honor** for selfless actions in combat in Afghanistan in 2008; Petry continues New Mexicans’ tradition of honorable service.

