

# el Presidio



## THE OLD SANTA FE ASSOCIATION

### 2006 CITY OF SANTA FE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

On May 2, Santa Fe citizens who contributed to local preservation efforts over the past year were honored with Heritage Preservation Awards. Sponsored by the Old Santa Fe Association, the Historic Santa Fe Foundation,

and the City of Santa Fe, including new buildings, or renovating older buildings to historic preservation standards.

Presented at the Scottish Rite Temple, awards included those for architectural preservation projects, compatible new construction,



*Mac Watson, President, Historic Santa Fe Foundation, receives award on behalf of HSFF.*

and the City of Santa Fe, named after the late OSFA member who worked so hard over many decades to preserve the historic fabric of our city (*see page 2*). This year it went to the Historic Santa Fe Foundation for its restoration work at the Tudesqui House on East De Vargas Street.

Of special note are OSFA members who received awards. These include Karen Walker, for most compatible new construction, and Elaine

Bergman, executive director of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation, for her efforts in cultural preservation.

### DOWNTOWN VISION PLAN

Last year, the City of Santa Fe began preparing a "Downtown Vision Plan" as a guide for future development. Following public meetings led by consulting firm, Crandall Arambula, the city held extensive workshops that reflected the desire of city staff and the Downtown Steering Committee to reestablish the basic objectives and criteria for the plan.

In response, OSFA suggests some points for refocusing the study. These include more emphasis on historic preservation; protecting skylines and maintaining building heights; a comprehensive landscaping



*Karen Walker and builder, Dan Woodward, speak after receiving the award for most compatible new construction.*

and the City of Santa Fe, the honors recognize the highest local achievements in protecting the historic fabric of Santa Fe, sensitively integrat-

cultural preservation, service-in-preservation and archaeological projects. For the first time, there was also the special Sara Melton award,

plan; establishing a commission that will manage the downtown area and serve all groups of citizens; developing a comprehensive parking strategy; and designing transportation services that will connect downtown with outlying neighborhoods.

To make the downtown area more inviting to locals, OSFA also believes that street life, such as more food vendors and small events will attract people to the city center. Rules regulating use of the plaza should also be revised and the city must find a way to beautify and intensify use of the river.

There are two other issues of concern to OSFA. The City Council needs to support the Historical Design Review Board and grant fewer variances. Secondly, placing affordable housing in the downtown area is probably not viable economically and large-scale housing pro-

jects would adversely impact the downtown character.

In short, OSFA believes that making the downtown a more attractive and vital part of the community does not mean changing its physical nature. Preserving what we have and creatively enhancing the city's character is what is needed.



### Sara Melton In Memoriam

When I first met Sara Melton in the mid -1970's, I had been on the Board of Directors of the Old Santa Fe Association for several years. Sara joined the Board and became our primary resource for understanding the importance of the Historical Styles Ordinance in preserving Santa Fe's unique character.

The Old Santa Fe Association was formed in



*Sarah Melton*

1926 to protest the plan to build a Chautauqua conference center and it was the Old Santa Fe Association that lobbied for the creation of the present Historical Styles ordinance in the 1950s. This created the Downtown Historical Overlay Zoning District, without which we would have long ago lost the world class historical character of our downtown.

Sara had a extensive knowledge of the history of northern New Mexico and more importantly, she had an encyclopedic knowledge of authentic northern

New Mexican architectural styles and their historical origin.

Sara was a warrior. She took her knowledge to Planning Commission meetings, City Council meetings and most of the meetings of the Historical Styles committee. Her voice was clear, consistent, and directed. Sara believed that Santa Fe is a very special place worth fighting for at every forum; and at any time irresponsible, or just plain ugly, projects threaten its precious heritage.

With Sara 's death this

February, Santa Fe lost more than just a Living Treasure. We lost a voice for a vision of what Santa Fe has been and what we must continually fight to protect and preserve to stay the kind of place and preserve the quality of life that makes it one of America's great urban experiences.

We owe Sara a great deal. We owe ourselves more. We owe Santa Fe the responsibility to carry on her work and commitment. She will be greatly missed but her passing will be a tragedy if we fail to continue the task that made up the center of her life.

—Wayne Nichols

(Photo of Sara Melton by Jane Phillips, Santa Fe New Mexican)



## Changes on OSFA Board

OSFA has several new board members, all with considerable knowledge of

Santa Fe. Tom Chavez, long-time director of the Palace of the Governors, and Peter Goodwin, former city councilor, will serve as regular board members. Also new are Tim Maxwell, director emeritus with the Museum of New Mexico, and Tom Spray, executive director of Open Hands. Two new ex-officio members are Jill Momaday-Gray, liaison with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Ramona Valdez-Lopez, who represents the Fiesta Council.

Marilyn Bane is serving as Vice-President following the departure of Edward Archuleta, who needed more time for his busy career. Ed was a dedicated board member and will be missed by all. Ed will continue to work on behalf of OSFA's efforts.

## ALERT!

Dear members, please contact President Karen Walker and let OSFA have your e-mail address. It will help so much when issues

of concern to members arise. You can reach Karen at 982-0118 or [walkerre@aol.com](mailto:walkerre@aol.com)

## ENSURING WATER FOR THE FUTURE

No one knows how long Santa Fe citizens will live under Stage 2 or higher water restrictions. Will it be weeks or years? According to the City's 40-year water plan, we will run out of water in 10 years unless a lot more water is acquired. And that's if all goes as planned! (The plan can be viewed at [www.santafenm.gov/waterwise/](http://www.santafenm.gov/waterwise/)).

OSFA believes that a backup plan is to be had—just in case! There are about 6000 acre-feet per year of purified water already in hand at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. As insurance against future shortages, this water can be pumped to the head of the Santa Fe River and its flow will recharge the downstream city wells, at the same time sus-

taining and enhancing the river environment. Further, water flowing in the river will help reverse the alarming drop in groundwater levels in our aquifer. In the case of a crisis, this water could be used in the city water system with further treatment.

We are working with other like-minded groups to form a River Water Consortium to further this **Water Insurance Policy**. Tell your friends to join us!

## HISTORIC BUILDING MAKE-OVER

After many years of its upper floors sitting fallow, the building housing Doodlet's is getting a renovation. The architectural team of Jeff Seres, DCSW, and Deborah Auten are developing the plans to revive the structure.

Most Santa Fean's don't realize that the edifice is really two build-

ings that were later consolidated. The first incarnation of the building housing Doodlet's was as a hotel. Built in the 1870s, it had a triple-adobe ground floor wall and a double-adobe second story. With its gabled roof, it must have been a local landmark. However, that roof came down to add a third story of framed lumber.

The neighboring building to the west had started out as a single-story adobe, and second- and third-stories of framed construction were added. Perhaps to compete with the impressive hotel next door, a French mansard roof comprised the third floor.

In 1908, the two buildings were joined to become the Hotel Normandie. That was the last time the building experienced any major structural changes or repairs. In 1912, the hotel was known as the Montezuma and was considerably larger than

one would suspect today.

The Hotel Montezuma stretched northward from Doodlets, along Don Gaspar, to San Francisco Street. It formed a U-shaped building with livery stables near the open west end. In 1968, the center portion of the hotel along Don Gaspar was demolished, but original rooms from the hotel remain at each end of the Don Gaspar block.

The building may have served as a hotel until the late 1950s/early 1960s and often was the residence of Santa Fe Opera apprentices. Theo Raven, current owner, purchased it in 1968. Theo had opened a shop in Prince Patio, near the Shed Restaurant, in 1955. Originally, Theo called it the Christmas Shop and sold European folk art. After a move to another part of Sena Plaza and then to the former Ortega's location across from La



Fonda, a series of fortunate encounters led her to purchase what she calls the Helen Marshall building, after the previous owner, sister of Laughlin Barker. Bill Lumpkins then helped her with remodeling.

Current plans call for complete renovation of the building, including remodeling of retail space and the creation of three apartments. The Historic Design Review Board approved the project and to comply with building codes, allowed the addition of two new doorways. These will be the only visible exterior changes. The plumbing fixtures, such as the clawfoot bathtubs, will

be reused in the apartments and the current windows will be repaired if possible.

Architect Jeff Seres is excited about the project and feels like a "forensic architect" as past construction details are revealed during the renovations. The removal of fixtures and other architectural elements has revealed past décor hidden underneath. The project is expected to be completed by early 2007.

By the way, Will Schuster dubbed Theo as Doodlet, hence the name of the store. She will be reopening the popular shop. *(Thanks to Jeff Seres and Theo Raven for the above information.)*

## BOOK CORNER

*New Mexico Then & Now* (William Stone, Westcliffe Publishers, 2003) offers thoughtful photographic comparisons that chronicle the

present and the past . Photographer Stone studied historic photos from 1855-1945, some by the West's best known photographers, and determined the camera position used by the original photographer. Stone then used the same location to capture the view as it is today (a method known as repeat photography). The photo pairs are grouped into portfolios on several state regions including Santa Fe.

Each photo set has a brief historical discussion of the original scene and Stone's thoughts on the historic changes as well as his photographic efforts. The portfolios also include historical essays by author Jerold Widdison.

The author traveled thousands of miles across the state and visited some very remote locations. Encountering flat tires, bad lighting, and disapproving landowners, Stone



sometimes never got the shot he wanted. Other times, breathtaking scenes of storms or sunsets appeared, but behind him. Stone chose to pass on these dazzling opportunities so he could recapture the historic scene. At times he could not determine where a photo was taken and he repeatedly returned to the locale. In a serendipitous moment, he revisited Las Vegas for another try at a photo he could not previously take. He found that the original photographic location was being cleared for a new building. This gave him an chance to get the shot that he could not have had otherwise.

Surprisingly, the photos show that some locales have changed very little. In contrast, an 1873 photo of Santa Fe taken from Fort Marcy Hill shows extensive cultivated fields surrounding the core downtown area. Stone's photo reveals almost no open space. Changes in the state's water flow are evident throughout the book, too. Streams that once carried logs are now trickles while some historic settlements are now submerged under reservoir pools.

The prodigious effort that went into both the historic and contemporary photography provides a great payoff for those interested in New

Mexico's past. The photos show the great impact humans have on the land, how the environment has changed, and how stability also exists. Surely, some photographer will follow up on Stone's work one hundred years from now. The results of repeat photography are potent records of change and will likely be irresistible to future photographers.

—Tim Maxwell



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## THE OLD SANTA FE ASSOCIATION

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### OUR MISSION

*“To promote the prosperity and welfare of the City and County of Santa Fe and their inhabitants, to preserve and maintain the ancient landmarks, historical structures and traditions of Old Santa Fe and to guide their growth and development in such a way as to promote that unique charm and distinction, born of age, culture, tradition and environment, which are the priceless assets and heritage of Santa Fe.”*

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