

Historical Documents and Photographs

FOUND IN TWO LOST BOXES...

By the Los Ranchos Historical Society



We slipped on plastic gloves and slowly opened the two boxes of historical treasures that the late Mayor Joe Craig, a co-founder of the Los Ranchos Historical Society (LRHS) had found. Theresa Rael (LRHS president) and I, Gordene MacKenzie (co-founder and vice president of LRHS), found a treasure trove of historical photographs (donated by Arnold Sargeant) and historic documents and old newspaper articles.

Along with the photographs was a signed copy of Kit Sargeant's and Mary Davis' book *Shining River, Precious Land: an Oral History Albuquerque's North Valley*. Inside was an inscription thanking the Village and stating that "this project would not have been possible without the support of the Village of Los Ranchos."

We are still in the very early stages of collecting and delving deeper into early Village history. Here are a few snippets of what we found.

Old newspaper articles cited the primary reason for incorporating the Village of Los Ranchos was to keep Los Ranchos rural. However, secondary reasons included the Village obtaining their own fire station and limiting the number of trailer courts.

Surprisingly, we learned that, starting with the 1958 incorporation of Los Ranchos and later, there were various lawsuits filed against the Village. The initial incorporation of the new Village was ruled invalid by the courts because of a lack of evidence that county commissioners complied with regulations in incorporating the Village. The court further found the county surveyor didn't follow state regulations and that one of the commissioners who did not attend the meeting

illegally delegated his vote to another commissioner. The Village addressed the court's concerns and changed and correctly marked the new boundary with stones. The Village of Los Ranchos successfully incorporated in December of 1958.

However, not everyone was happy. The League of Women Voters opposed the incorporation as did some residents who feared they would fall victim to new zoning regulations and taxes.

For more Los Ranchos Historical Society news, please see page 30.

Village Hall Ground Broken

Officials of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque broke ground today for their village hall and fire station.

Mayor Wilfred Kitsch turned the first shovel full of dirt for the initial building which will be located just east of Rio Grande Blvd. on Green Valley Rd. NW.

Planned is a one-room metal 24x32 foot building insulated and heated with concrete floor which will house the new village fire engine, and also double as a public meeting hall for village residents, Mayor Kitsch said. Cost of the structure was estimated at \$3500.

As he turned the dirt, Mayor Kitsch called attention of the dozen people present that "this area was settled in 1661, long before the City of Albuquerque was settled."

Among those present for the brief ceremony in a farm yard lot leased from J. M. Julian for the village hall site, were Sam Hartnett, Robert Nordhaus and Capt. P. E. Gillespie, the village trustees, and Col. W. E. Glantz, the building contractor. Mr. Julian and Sam Balcomb, the assistant chiefs of the 26-member village volunteer fire department.



LOS RANCHOS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

In August, members of the Los Ranchos Historical Society toured the Wheels Museum after a riveting talk about the history of the railyards by Leba Freed, the founder of the museum. At the museum a group of us met with Diane Schaller, President of Historic Albuquerque. She shared aerial photographs of Los Ranchos with us and invited the LRHS to participate in the **Centennial Celebration of Route 66**.

The celebration will start May 2025 and run through December 2026. Diane asked us to prepare a 45 minute talk to be given monthly on Old Route 66 (4th Street) in Los Ranchos that roughly extends from Sadie's Restaurant on the south, to Ortega Rd. on the north. The event will be widely advertised locally, nationally and internationally.

August was a busy month with an LRHS planning meeting. Members of the LRHS helped plan and organize Mayor Joe Craig's Celebration of Life. Joe was a founding member of the Los Ranchos Historical Society. In September, Marsha Adams gave an excellent talk on Fred Harvey in New Mexico.

WANTED!!

PICTURES AND STORIES
ABOUT HISTORIC ROUTE 66
ON 4TH STREET

Share your memories!

Visit us at: <https://losranchoshistoricalsociety.org>

UPCOMING TALKS

October 26, 2024, Saturday, 1:00PM

LRHS will be doing an invited talk (by the library) on the history and life of NM writer Rudolfo Anaya at the Rudolfo Anaya North Valley Library at 7704 2nd Street NW, Albuquerque, 87107

November 9, 2024, Saturday, 1:00PM – 3:00PM A talk on Nat Kaplan—Adobe Designer & Builder In Harmony With The Earth by Susan Kaplan-Lentz, The talk will be held at a home designed and built by Nat Kaplan. Contact LRHS for more information.



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