

# The Schulte House and Family History

By Gordene MacKenzie, Los Ranchos Historical Society



Above: Annie Brown Schulte with her turkeys and the two-story house, in the 1920s. Bottom left: August Schulte's mercantile store, 1904. Below: Hugo Schulte and his goats. Opposite page: Los Ranchos flood.

Have you ever wondered where the small empty house sitting on the south side the Agri-Nature center came from and who once lived there? Vera Jennie Schulte (Jennie), whose family built the house on 4th street, shared with me some of her memories of the Schulte house, her family and her early life in Los Ranchos.

The Schulte house was built on 6666 4th street NW in 1927 by Jennie's great-great grandfather August Schulte and his wife Annie (Brown) Schulte. It was surrounded by apple and peach orchards. "The field behind the house was all alfalfa that smelled so good." August Schulte immigrated from Germany (during the German migration to New Mexico) when he was 19 years old. He settled in Alameda around 1892. August and Annie first built a single-story house, and later a two story house across the street.

August worked for a mercantile shop and 10 years later ended up owning it. In 1903 August and Annie's son Hugo William was born. August sold his store and land in Alameda and opened two mercantile stores on Fourth Street. In 1922 he retired and invested his earnings in a gold mine and a dairy he opened on the land that later became Taft Jr. High. In the 1920s, there

were over 92 licensed dairies in the North Valley. In the late 1930s, the family's dairy, like many others, was forced to close when numerous cows were euthanized after contracting diseases including tuberculosis, which officials worried would spread to humans. After this loss, Hugo William Schulte started a goat dairy.

In 1944, the Schulte family sold the Schulte single-story house to the Goller family but kept August and Annie's two-story house. In 1960, the house was moved to 414 Schulte Road where it was used as rental property. Sometime between 2007- 2010 the Gollers sold the property. Years later the Schulte house was purchased by the Village of Los Ranchos and moved to the Agri-Nature Center.



Jennie's father Hugo R. Schulte (Hugo Jr.), son of Hugo William and Eloise, was born in 1929. His mother, a TB nurse, came to NM with her sister who had tuberculosis. As a child Hugo Jr. helped his father Hugo William milk the cows and deliver milk. In the mid to late 1940s Hugo Jr. started working for Creamland Dairy. Jennie liked riding in the milk truck with her dad who let her carry the wire container with glass bottles of milk they delivered in the early morning dark.

The Schulte family remained close: August and Annie's home sat across the street from Hugo W. and Eloise's house. August, Hugo W. and Hugo Jr. told stories about



terrible flooding in the valley which washed out houses, fields, and roads. Some residents reported seeing pigs and other animals washed away. Jennie's family told her that graves were unearthed, and coffins opened during severe flooding.

"As a child, I was a tomboy and ornery," Jennie said. As the oldest of seven children she observed, "the boys got the fun toys. All three of my brothers had their own bicycles. I had to share one with my sisters."

"Early Saturday mornings when I was in Junior High I crawled out my two-story window and rode the bike all over the place. Nobody knew where I was. I found a ditch that had water running under the cottonwood tree roots and I watched as the sun came up and how it reflected on the water."

Before she caught the school bus in the morning Jennie had to feed and water 350 rabbits. Her great grandmother raised white turkeys that the family, along with the rabbits, sold for food. Jennie became attached to the animals and vowed never to let her children raise animals for food.



Jennie's father opened a machine shop on an acre of land on 4th street where he sold lawn and garden equipment, including a riding lawn mower. He also made a chemical fertilizer that he sold. Jennie remembers "He'd throw us kids in the back of the truck and drop us off with a lawn mower at houses in the Country Club area where we fertilized lawns and cut the grass. I was responsible for using the hand clippers. Dad said if you get thirsty drink out of the hose."

An accomplished painter who teaches art, Jennie didn't start painting until

she was in her 20s when two women whose children she cared for while they took art lessons invited her to paint with them. "That was it! I never stopped."

Jennie has led the volunteer effort for the restoration of the Schulte house hoping to turn it into a space where children and others can learn as she once did about the history and importance of preserving agriculture. The Schulte family pictures and documents are archived at Albuquerque history museum, Southwest collection at Zimmerman Library and at the Special Collections Library.

## LOS RANCHOS HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

FREE Route 66 Centennial 2026 Speaker Series on the 4th Saturday of each month through November, 11:00AM-12:30PM. 14 different speakers will rotate to 12 different locations and give talks on different topics related to Route 66.

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS AT RAYMOND SANCHEZ COMMUNITY CENTER (9800 4TH STREET NW)

### June 27, 2026: Roger Zimmerman *Rerouting Route 66 through New Mexico*

This presentation addresses the factors leading to the establishment of Route 66 in the new Federal highway system and the politically charged changes that resulted in a 107-mile shortening in New Mexico during the 1926-37 timeframe. La Bajada Hill was removed as an obstacle and problems of crossing the Rio Grande and the Rio Puerco had to be resolved.

### July 25, 2026: Abraham Santillanes *Why turn left at Albuquerque?*

#### *Albuquerque, Route 66 and the many roads that came before*

Other New Mexico towns overshadowed Albuquerque for most of its history. Transportation played an important role in bringing Albuquerque to the significant position it holds today in New Mexico. Starting with Francisco Coronado's trek from Mexico, through Juan de Oñate establishing the Camino Real, to William Becknell opening the Santa Fe Trail, many routes led to the original Albuquerque we now call Old Town. Later the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad and Route 66 helped solidify Albuquerque's importance.

Information on all the speakers and locations for the talks:

[www.route66speakers.org](http://www.route66speakers.org)

[www.losranchoshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.losranchoshistoricalsociety.org).

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