



BURT WOLF

TRAVELS & TRADITIONS

SANTA FE

Santa Fe in northern New Mexico rests in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and Native Americans have been living in and around Santa Fe for at least 12,000 years. Spanish conquistadors and missionaries arrived in the early 1600s, about the same time that the English showed up in Virginia. In 1821, control of the area passed from the King of Spain to the newly formed government of Mexico. Thousands of settlers poured in. American pioneers also started arriving on the Santa Fe Trail from Franklin, Missouri. In 1850, at the conclusion of the war between Mexico and the United States, New Mexico became an American territory and in 1912 a state.

The First World War kept wealthy Americans from taking their annual trip to Europe, which led them to rediscover their own country. Suddenly, the history of the American West and Native American culture became fashionable subjects. Anthropologists arrived determined to understand and preserve Santa Fe's past.

The downtown Santa Fe area has some of the most restrictive development laws in the United States. All buildings must conform to the traditional Pueblo Revival-style or the Territorial adobe style.

THE PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS

In the center of Santa Fe is The Palace of the Governors, an outstanding example of



Spanish adobe architecture. It was constructed in 1610 and is the oldest government building in the United States. For about four

hundred years, it has been the residence of Spanish, Mexican and American Governors.

The Palace houses The New Mexico History Museum with over 17,000 historical objects that document the history of the area: 223 years of Spanish control, 25 years as part of Mexico, 66 years as a territory of the United States, and statehood since 1912.

The Palace's Photo Archives contain over 750,000 historical images and copies are available for purchase. The building is also home to the Palace Press. Craftsmen use hand-operated printing equipment to produce limited editions of works related to the Southwest.

In 1834, the first printing press arrived in New Mexico and within the year, Padre Antonio José Martínez, of Taos, began using it to



produce an assortment of religious and political material as well as school primers.

In 1877, John Menaul, a Presbyterian missionary, translated the English text of McGuffey's First Eclectic Reader into the language of the Laguna Pueblo. Then he brought in a press and printed the first book in a Pueblo language. Today, the Palace Press is a working exhibition that demonstrates 19th and 20th century letterpress printing techniques and equipment.

Outside the Palace dozens of Native American artisans display and sell their work --- pottery, jewelry and other crafts from each of more than 20 different Native American communities in New Mexico. They are participating in a museum program that regulates what they may sell. Everything must be handmade by the craftsman or his or her

immediate family. The pieces must display a maker's mark and be registered with the Palace of the Governors. In effect, these objects have been authenticated by the museum.

THE CHAPEL OF SAN MIGUEL

The Chapel of San Miguel is the oldest church structure in the United States still in use. The original adobe walls were built in 1610 by Tlaxcala Indians who came here from Mexico and worked under the direction of Franciscan missionaries. It was built to serve the Mexican Indians who arrived with the early Spanish settlers.



The altar screen is considered to be one of the greatest works of Colonial art in the Southwest. It was hand-made of native pine and held together with wooden pegs and joints. It was designed to accommodate paintings on canvas of Saints and Spanish royalty that were brought from Mexico, as well as, locally produced sculptures.

In 1880, a young Christian Brother covered the altar screen with five coats of white kitchen paint and the detail was almost lost. Fortunately, in 1955, the true nature of the work was rediscovered and over 100 gallons of paint remover returned the altar screen to its original magnificence. Yet, another reminder to keep a close eye on your decorator.

A BIRDS EYE VIEW

Northern New Mexico has been home to talented artists and craftsmen for thousands of years and what has always inspired them was the natural



landscape that surrounded them. HeliNM is a helicopter charter service that can take you on a tour of some of the most beautiful parts of the Southwest. Places that would be almost inaccessible except by air.

PLAINS LEDGER DRAWINGS

As part of its westward expansion, the United States government developed an aggressive anti-Indian policy. Army units forced the relocation of the Plains tribes and undertook the systematic destruction of the buffalo. Buffalo were a primary source of food, clothing, tools and one of the building materials for the very homes in which the Indians lived.

Buffalo hide was also an essential material for native artists. Santa Fe has a number of galleries that specialize in Native American artwork. The Morning Star Gallery is devoted to historic Native American art and has an extensive collection of beadwork, pottery, basketry, masks, clothing and textiles.

It also has a collection of ledger drawings, which are exactly what their name implies; drawings on the ledger paper used for bookkeeping. As it became more and more difficult to get buffalo hides, Indian artists began working with colored pencils on ledger paper



SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE



Recognized as one of the finest professional choral ensembles in the country, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale is particularly known for its remarkable sound, seamless blend, wide-ranging programming and moving performances in some of Santa Fe's most beautiful and historic sites.

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that they could purchase at the trading posts. The drawings record battles, buffalo hunts, and the history of the Plains.

Each artist was taught how images should be made by the tribal elders. Horses should be drawn with a small head, an arched neck, and when they are in motion their legs should be shown widespread. The ledger drawings may look like the untrained drawings of a child, but they are actually highly stylized images that have evolved over time and present a pictorial shorthand that was easily understood by the entire Indian community.

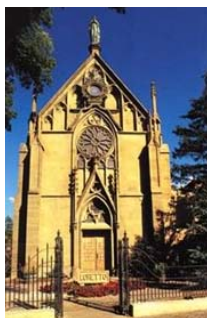
GEORGIA O'KEEFFE MUSEUM

The most famous artist to take up residence in the neighborhood was probably Georgia O'Keeffe. And Santa Fe has a museum that is completely dedicated to her works. The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum is also the only museum in the United States dedicated to the work of a female artist. O'Keeffe was born in 1887 and died at the age of 98 in 1986. The museum traces the development of her work from her early days in Wisconsin and Texas to her years in New Mexico. Her husband, Alfred Stieglitz was one of the great pioneers of photography, and their creative partnership is one of the remarkable stories of 20th century art.

THE LORETTO CHAPEL

In 1848, Jean Baptiste Lamy, a French American priest stationed in Cincinnati, Ohio was appointed as bishop and sent to New Mexico. He was very much on his own and sent word back east for help. The first group to arrive in response to his request were the seven Sisters of Loretto.

In 1873, the Sisters pooled their own money and built the Chapel of Loretto. It was the first stone masonry structure in Santa Fe. These days, it is famous for its Miraculous Staircase----a set of spiral wooden steps that rise to the choir loft and appear to be totally unsupported. The Loretto Chapel is regarded as the first gothic structure built west of the Mississippi. They started construction in 1873 and it was finished by 1878.



THE MIRACULOUS STAIRCASE

The legend of the Loretto Chapel staircase states that the chapel's original design provided nothing more than a ladder to get to the choir loft. The Sisters had a beautiful chapel, and a lovely choir loft for singing the liturgy. But since nuns are not in the habit of climbing ladders, they had no way to get to the choir loft. So the Sisters did what nuns know how to do, and that was to pray.

A stranger arrived and built the spiral staircase. It makes two full 360 degree turns. It stands apparently on its own weight without any center supports. And it is built without nails---It was simply held together with square pegs. It has 33 steps, which we would know from our bible history. 33 is the number of years that Jesus lived on this Earth.



After completing this incredible staircase, the stranger disappeared without asking to be paid. When the nuns went to the only nearby boarding house to find the man and pay him, they discovered no such man had been staying there. Word quickly circulated that the staircase had been built by St. Joseph, the patron saint of carpenters.

LORETTO CHAPEL

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For over 100 years, the Sisters of Loretto ran a school for girls but in 1968 rising costs forced them to close the school and return to Cincinnati. These days the chapel is used for wedding ceremonies and performances by the Santa Fe Desert Chorale.

The Santa Fe Desert Chorale is a group of talented singers from around the United States who are committed to the preservation of Hispanic music. And have been able to rescue and preserve some of the finest examples. They

usually perform *a cappella* which means without instrumental accompaniment.

THE PUEBLOS

In 1880, a 40-year-old self-taught anthropologist named Adolph Bandelier went to New Mexico under the sponsorship of the Archeological Institute of America. His goal was to trace the customs of the southwestern and Mexican peoples. The area in which he worked is now the 32,000-acre Bandelier National Monument. It is just to the west of Santa Fe and it was the place where Bandelier began to understand the culture of the Pueblo Indians.



The Pueblos of New Mexico are the descendants of a prehistoric people, who lived in compact settlements, which the Spanish explorers called *pueblos*—a Spanish word for village. They were primarily farmers, who also hunted deer and antelope in the nearby mountains and from time to time sent hunting parties to the Plains for buffalo.

The Pueblo communities are made-up of families that migrated to the area from other parts of the west. There were about 70 pueblos and each had its own designs for clothing, pottery and tools. They also had their own approach to gastronomy.

In 1570, Don Francisco Vasquez de Coronado traveled through the American southwest and made contact with the local pueblos.

Prior to the arrival of the Spanish each pueblo was a self-sufficient, politically independent city-state that was governed by a council made-up of the heads of various religious societies. The societies centered their activities in underground ceremonial chambers called *kivas*. The *kivas* also functioned as private social clubs for male members of the clan.

Modern Pueblo communities have retained much of their pre-Spanish culture. Their social life centers on the village, whose inhabitants are organized into family clans and secret societies. Their rituals deal with respecting their

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ancestors, keeping in touch with the changes of seasons and weather patterns, and the general overall well-being of the community.

ADOBE ARCHITECTURE

The ancestors of the Pueblo Indians have lived in northern New Mexico for at least twelve thousand years. They were primarily hunters and until about 700AD they lived in underground pithouses. But when crops like corn and beans came up from Mexico, the population began farming. They cut down on their travel and started building above ground structures made of stones and held together with mortar and covered with mud. The architectural style is called *adobe*.



Adobe is a heavy clay soil that is ideal for making sun-dried bricks. It is a Spanish-Arabic word that describes the clay as

well as the bricks. It has been used for thousands of years in the Middle East, North Africa and Southern Spain. In the Americas, pre-Columbian adobe structures ranged from dry climates in Peru to the American Southwest.

The actual mixture used to make the bricks includes the clay, sand and silt that can be dried into uniform shapes. In New Mexico, adobe was the natural choice for building because wood was scarce, adobe was easy to use, and because it was an ideal insulation material for both heat and cold. Today, it is one of the most fashionable materials in the Southwest, and with proper maintenance an adobe wall will stand up for hundreds of years.

Adobe buildings can go up for five stories with each floor being set back from the floor below. The result is a zigzag pyramid with terraces formed by the roof tops of the floor below. People moved between levels by means of wooden ladders that went up through holes in the ceilings. Adjoining rooms on each level have doorways. And the entire structure was usually built around a central courtyard.



Rooms radiated out from the center of the pueblo. When a family wanted to increase the size of its dwelling, rooms were added above and below the original rooms. The family elders lived on the lower floors. The younger folks climbed the ladders to the kid's floor.

LA POSADA DE SANTA FE RESORT & SPA



Santa Fe's love of its history even extends to its hotels. In 1876, Abraham Staab, who had emigrated to Santa Fe from Germany purchased a plot of land on Palace Avenue and began working on the mansion which he had promised his new bride. The building was a formal brick structure in a classic European style.

About 100 years later the structure was

WHERE TO STAY



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incorporated into a new hotel complex known as La Posada de Santa Fe Resort & Spa. La Posada means "the resting place". Today, La Posada is made up of a series of adobe buildings that sit on six acres of pine trees, sculptures, pools, and fountains.

Its restaurant, Fuego, is well-known for its excellent food and an extensive selection of wine. Each week during the spring and summer there is a performance by Ronald Roybal, a self-taught musician with both Pueblo and Spanish Colonial ancestors.

The hotel has a Spa that offers some rather imaginative treatments that reflect the area's history. Both chocolate and hot chili peppers are indigenous to the New World and considered medicine by the Native Americans. La Posada has combined them into a Chocolate-Chili body wrap. It comes in both milk and dark.

WHAT'S COOKING

Tia Sophia's is a laid-back local favorite, located downtown and offering authentic and inexpensive New Mexican cuisine. Their specialties include a giant breakfast burrito, a green chile that because of its high concentration of capsaicin might help cure the common cold, and light sopapillas.



For 25 years, Cafe Pasqual's has been serving highly flavored dishes that are inspired by the culinary traditions of New Mexico, Old Mexico

and Asia. They are dedicated to using fresh, seasonal, organic foods. Cafe Pasqual's is named for the folk saint of Mexican and New Mexican kitchens and cooks, Cafe Pasqual's is located in the heart of downtown Santa Fe in a historic pueblo-style adobe one block off the central plaza. The dining room is lined with hand-painted Mexican tiles and murals by the Mexican painter Leovigildo Martinez.

Spanish-American and American Indian foods are often accompanied by Indian Fry Bread, or *Sopaipillas*. Indian Fry Bread is also known as Navajo Fry Bread and is a dense yeast-raised bread. Sopaipillas are more like square popovers.



Their ingredients, however and cooking techniques are similar. Each contains almost identical proportions of flour, salt, baking soda, water and some form of shortening. Both are deep fried in oil until golden brown. The major difference is that Indian fry bread is shaped into rounds about the size of a golf-ball and then patted into 9-inch rounds that are about a half-inch thick then fried. Sopaipillas are rolled as thin as possible so they will float on the hot oil.

In Mexican restaurants the sopaipillas are often served with honey or stuffed with fruit. They are also split open on one side and stuffed with refried beans or beans and cheese or chili and beans, or roast beef, lettuce and tomato. No matter what goes on the inside, red or green chili salsa and cheese go on top.



The land here is called New Mexico but it is actually very old. In fact it contains the oldest site in the United States, continually inhabited by the same community. The Native Americans of New Mexico call themselves "The People" and they have lived on these lands for over 12,000 years. In terms of

their history, the Hispanics and Anglos are what's new. But the Hispanic and Anglo influences are powerful, and a new culture is emerging--- it's a blend of the ancient Native American, Hispanic and Anglo cultures.

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