

# Socorro County Historical Society

Post Office Box 923  
Socorro, New Mexico 87801

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS • APRIL 2011

# 2011 ANNUAL MEETING, BANQUET & PUBLIC TALK SAT. APRIL 23

At **RANCHER'S STEAKHOUSE**  
Socorro, New Mexico

**T**he annual meeting and banquet for the Socorro County Historical Society will be held **Saturday, April 23, 2011** at the Rancher's Steakhouse. We've moved our annual activity up a bit to avoid all the graduation and other activities that conflict with restaurant availability.

**Social Hour** and the cash bar begins at 6:00 p.m. in the banquet room.

**Banquet.** Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. This year's menu includes a choice of two entrees, broiled chicken breast with mushroom sauce or sirloin steak. Service includes baked potato, broccoli Normandy, hot dinner rolls and butter, ice tea and coffee. Mixed drinks or wine available from the cash bar. Dessert will be white chocolate raspberry cheese cake.

**The Annual Business Meeting** will follow dinner, about 8:00 p.m. President Bob Eveleth will present the Annual Report of past and future activities of the Society. Election for next year's President, Treasurer, and Secretary will follow.

**Public Talk.** Bob will also be presenting this year's public history talk on "The Lady on the Mountain" -- the story of the face of Mary Magdalen (Magdalena). See page 3 for details. This is the public talk portion of our annual meeting which is open to the public at

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### **Our electronic Newsletter**

About 80% of the members of the Socorro County Historical Society now have email. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter at a different address than where you received this one, or if you have something to contribute, please let the Secretary know  
(Paul Harden, na5n@zianet.com).

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no charge – so for those who don't wish to participate in the banquet, at least invite them to the public talk.

This year's annual meeting is in honor of **Frances Senn**. Frances is one of your SCHS Board members and has served the Society for years. She was recruited by Vickie Moore shortly before the creation of the Hammel Museum in the early 1980s and has served the Society ever since.



**Board member  
Frances Senn**

However, her "roots" with the brewery and museum go back to the 1880s when her grandfather, 19-year-old Joseph Francis Epele (EP-pe-lee), arrived in Socorro with the Hammel family. They had been neighbors in Munich, Germany. Epele was the brewmaster of the Hammel Brewery for many years. In 1920, a hop masher he was cleaning was accidentally energized, crushing Epele in the machine. He died from the injuries two weeks later.

**Annual Meeting Agenda**

6:00 pm – Social hour at the cash bar  
 7:00 pm – SCHS Banquet dinner  
 8:00 pm – Annual business meeting  
 Membership Report  
 Election of officers  
 8:15 pm – Public talk by:  
 Robert Eveleth, SCHS President  
*"Lady on the Mountain"*

\$20 per person; open to the public  
 Tickets available at the door

Frances has an undeniable claim to the Hammel legacy.

We hope you plan to attend this year's meeting and banquet, enjoy your fellow members, learn about the Magdalena face on the mountain, and help us honor Frances Senn.

Banquet tickets are \$20, available at the door, with activities open to members and the public alike.

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## SCHS Annual Business Meeting Nominations of Officers

At the time of this writing, there are no nominations for SCHS officers except the present slate of officers, namely:

- President Robert Eveleth
- Treasurer Kay Brower
- Secretary Paul Harden

**The SCHS Board of Directors** also consists of the following individuals:

- Roy Heatwole
- Kay Krehbiel
- Peter Romero
- Valerie Kimble
- Jon Spargo
- Frances Senn
- Thaddeus Bejnar

**Nominations:** If you would like to be a nominee for an officer of the Society, you can contact Paul Harden in confidence at [na5n@zianet.com](mailto:na5n@zianet.com), or announce your intention to Robert Eveleth prior to the Business Meeting.

## SCHS ANNUAL DUES – NOW DUE

A little more than a year ago, the SCHS Board was fairly well occupied with the wall collapse and repair. As a result, we neglected to properly announce it was time to renew your SCHS membership. The Board decided to not actively pursue the matter. We announced through the SCHS newsletter that dues would not be required until 2011. Still, some members sent in their annual dues. Many thanks. The rest of you enjoyed our year of hiatus. That's fine, as that's what the Board agreed upon.

Well, it's 2011 and SCHS membership dues are now due. Membership in the Society is \$20 per year. You can mail your dues to our Treasurer at:

- Kay Brower
- 1306 Vista Drive
- Socorro, NM 87801

or dues can be paid at the annual meeting.

# Our Public Talk:

## The Lady on the Mountain Presented by Robert Eveleth President, SCHS

Who hasn't seen the image of Mary Magdalen on Magdalena Peak? Granted, maybe you tilted your head, squinted, even scratched your head trying to figure out exactly how that feature is supposed to be a woman's face. Others see her image right away.

More importantly is the history behind this famous Socorro County lady. This year's public talk will be a special slide presentation by our President, **Robert Eveleth**, entitled *"The Lady On The Mountain - History, Geology and Folklore of Magdalena Peak."*

From a geological viewpoint, the Lady on the Mountain is an assemblage of loose rock and talus material held in place by rock outcrops and vegetation. This assemblage, sculpted solely by the hand of nature, has assumed a most startling, and depending upon the perspective, clear impression of a woman's face in profile.

From the historical standpoint, the "Lady" has kept her vigil over the Magdalena-Kelly

area for uncounted millennia and has instilled superstitions within. She has completely captured the imaginations of human observers for time immemorial.

What chain of events created her and how long has she been there? Who named her and how long will she remain? And what effect, if any, did her ethereal presence instill within the local inhabitants? Each of these mysteries, and perhaps a few additional, will be examined in detail.

Robert Eveleth has researched the history of the Lady for years. You'll be amazed at some of the folklore he has uncovered, largely forgotten by time. This is a talk all are bound to truly enjoy. And just maybe, the next time you see the Lady, you won't have to scratch your head quite as hard to see her.

If you have neighbors or friends not interested in the banquet, invite them to Bob's talk. The historical presentation portion of the program is always open to the public to enjoy.

## FLOOR REPAIR



The old concrete floor on the south end of the building, in the old "Refer Room" has fallen into disrepair over the years, becoming a hazard to walk on (left photo). The old surface was covered with a self-leveling compound (Center). The floor is now nice and hard, smooth, and attractive. Most of the work renovating this area is being performed by members of the Socorro Train Gang.

## SOCORRO TRAIN GANG



The Socorro Train Gang occupies the second floor of the Hammel Brewery with extensive model train displays. The train gang has also been excellent stewards of the museum and responsible for many improvements and maintenance to the historic building.

## MISSING BEER VAT



(Left) A 1980 photo of the Hammel brewery restoration for the museum, showing a large beer vat in the corner. It was disassembled and stored at the time. Recently, the Socorro Train Gang found the vat, in pieces, and decided to rebuild it. One of those "little jobs" that ended up taking hours trying to get all the pieces to properly fit. Since it is a handmade vat, each wood stave and hoop is different, requiring exacting fits. Once again the vat stands assembled as a reminder of the Hammel Brewery days.

The basic parts to a beer vat, or a mash vat – just in case you wondered.

# OCTOBERFEST 2010



Plenty of good food throughout the day.



And good drink



Oktoberfest had nice weather and a nice turnout for the food, our vendors, and the live music.



The instrumental duet, shown here with their mandolins, well entertained attendees with some classical selections.



Las Cantadas choral group pleased the crowd as always with their vibrant and harmonic selections.



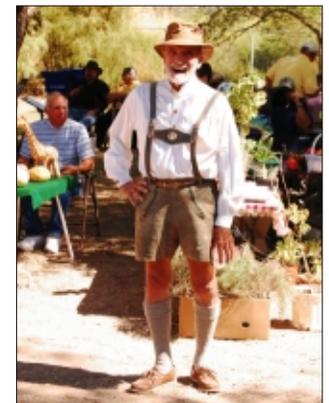
Toe tappin' classic country and western music of the Rawhide Band – including 'Lil Elvis.'



Dr. Comstock leads the Oompah band – always a favorite at Oktoberfest – neatly tucked inside the "wintergarten."



The Oompah Band plays "Happy Birthday" for Barbara DuBois with a hearty sing-along from those in attendance.



Not everybody had this much fun – but some came close!