



# The Mansardian

The Quarterly Publication of the Silver City Museum Society



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Sign welcoming tourists to Silver City, circa 1940. From the collection of the Silver City Museum.



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The museum enjoys national recognition. Local, state, and national coverage **Page 7**



It is nearly time for our 39th Ice Cream Social! Details on **Page 2**



The joy in museum work for me has always been found in making connections; connecting with people and their pasts, connecting



Bart Roselli

Museum staff recently participated in an unbelievably successful annual conference of the Historical Society of New Mexico, which took place here in Silver

different parts of a community, and celebrating those connections that open my eyes to greater understanding and appreciation of how our world operates.

City at the end of March. Historians and history buffs from all over the state and surrounding states enjoyed dozens of presentations about various aspects of New Mexico history. I am proud to say that several of our staff made presentations about current projects of the Silver City Museum.

The depth and variety of new connections made at the conference proved the most valuable takeaway from the event. I was able to meet the director of the New Mexico History Museum and the executive director of the New Mexico Humanities Council - both very helpful connections. Shannon Wilson, the museum's Volunteers, Youth and Family Programs Manager, connected with teachers in Albuquerque, who were impressed with our work and wanted to know more. I learned of a

## Museum Society Trustees Approve Purchase of New Gift Store POS Technology

The Silver City Museum Society Board of Trustees recently helped museum staff purchase the necessary hardware and software for off-site, point-of-sale purchases at the museum gift store. This wonderful technology allows gift store sales to happen at virtually any location, which means more opportunity to expand this important revenue source for the museum and its diverse programming.

Thank you to Museum Society trustees for approving this important purchase! Marcus Hanson, Melody Collins, and Lloyd Parker also deserve a heart-felt thank-you for their research and assistance in determining the best option, which allowed gift store staff to sell items at the recent Historical Society of New Mexico's Annual Conference.

## Welcome Rebecca!

The former manager of the Silver City Visitor Center, recently joined the museum staff as Coordinator of Adult Education Programs.



Rebecca Martin

Rebecca arrived in Silver City in 2001 for a visit and never left! Before coming to New Mexico, she worked in corporate training and development, and sees her new

position as the perfect way to blend her background of educating adults together with her passion for Silver City and the surrounding area.

Many people know Rebecca by way of her steadfast companion, Teddy Bear, a very popular dog who also worked with her at the Visitor Center. The two of them can be seen frequently walking together all around downtown and are regulars in the Museum Courtyard!

Chinese community in Kingston while talking with Barb Lovell, director of the Kingston School House Museum. Javier Marrufo, our Curator, served on a panel with the archivist of the Chaves History Library, and discovered that there exists materials stored in Santa Fe that will help us further explore the history of Silver City and Grant County.

Melody Collins, Museum Store Manager, and staff member Jolynn and volunteer Jennifer, met people from all over, and helped them make connections to Silver City history, while selling items at the museum store booth they so carefully organized.

All sorts of valuable connections were made, which is why this conference serves as a metaphor for the work we do. Helping our visitors, Museum Society members and local constituents make meaningful connections to our past is even more important, post-pandemic, when face-to-face meetings remind us that a community must, to be healthy, come together to create a civil society. The museum offers that bridge, helping to bring us together. Sustaining this noble work takes support. You, our dear members, are the wind in our sails. Thank you so very much for your generous donations, volunteer hours and other support which makes it all come together.

*Bart Roselli*

Yours in community,  
Bart A. Roselli  
Museum Director

## The Mansardian

Editor: Sarah Zamora  
Layout: Tom Oberg

The Mansardian is a quarterly publication of the non-profit, Silver City Museum Society.

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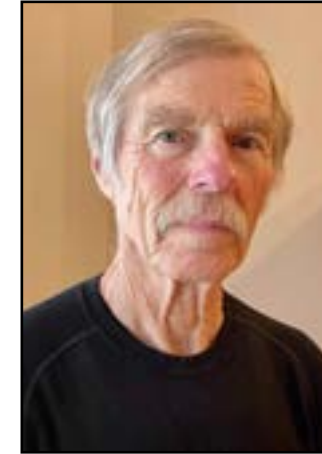
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## Review: The Apache Diaspora

by Ted Whittemore

Geronimo, Cochise, Victorio, Mangas Coloradas — the names and lives of these Apache leaders are well-known to students of the American West. Paul Conrad's "The Apache Diaspora: Four Centuries of Displacement and Survival" is a useful and important narrative, which situates the lives of these well-known leaders and of ordinary



Ted Whittemore

Apache people in a long, complex and fascinating historical context. Not only is the book a good read, but is also a valuable complement to individual biographies of these leaders, many of which are available in the Museum Gift Store.

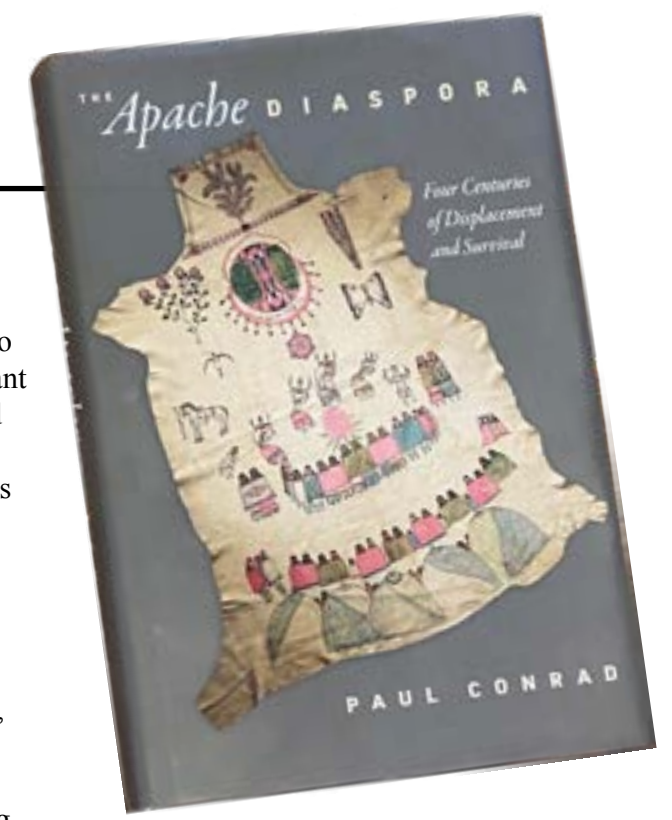
As the subtitle of Conrad's book suggests, Geronimo's famous exile to Florida in 1885 was far from the first Apache experience of displacement. Indeed, the displacement of Apaches from their homes began with the first incursions of the Spanish into what was then called New Spain — now the American Southwest — in the 15th century. Conrad describes the use of forcibly displaced Apache women as maids in the Governor's Mansion in Santa Fe, or in wealthy colonists' households and their various ways of resistance. While some women acceded to Catholic friars' conversion efforts in order to survive, others escaped, and still others committed suicide. In any case, the die was cast for the Apache people from the outset of the Spanish arrival; their future consisted of both displacement from their homelands and kin, and their continuous struggles to survive, return and restore.

The early history Conrad presents in this book focuses on the colonists' use of the Apaches' labor power. As he puts it, "the gold of New Mexico was its people, and the ability to exploit them was a means to build wealth." He describes the distinction between the formal Spanish ban on slavery, outlawed in the mid-16th century, and their practice of continuing to exploit Apache labor. This "distinction without a difference," he makes quite clear, came to the fore especially when workers were needed for new silver mines in Parral, in what is now northern Mexico. Apaches — mostly men — were captured in the north and sent southward down the Camino Real to these mines, where they labored under harsh conditions, often to death. Because other Indian laborers were imported into Parral from diverse Spanish territories, as were black African slaves, Apaches were able to make new cultural contacts, which gave them some degree of solace and solidarity in their common diasporic experience. However, the unquenchable desire to return

home and to reunite with kin compelled many to flee the "mining district" altogether. An important theme running through the early history Conrad describes, is the relationship between Apaches and other indigenous people, and among various Apache groups themselves. Among the former, probably the most notable is that between Apaches and Comanches. Although Apaches now have a reputation for warlike violence and brutality, these traits may more properly be attributed to the Comanches, erstwhile enemies, captors and enslavers of the Apaches. Conrad also describes in detail the relationships among Apache, Navajo and Pueblo peoples, and among different Apache groups. Suffice it to say, these relationships were fluid, complex, and sometimes contradictory — sometimes cooperative, at other times conflicted — based, as they were, on changing constraints and opportunities. Needless to say, relations with white outsiders also played a major part in the nature of these relationships.

Conrad devotes an entire chapter to discussing the nature of Apache social groups. Unlike the stereotypical European formation, Apaches did not have universal, one-man rulers or a single, undifferentiated Apache "nation." Rather, Apache formations were based on place, family and kin. These formations were conditioned by geographic diversity, such as Chiricahua, Warm Springs, Plains, and others typically called "Apache" altogether. As Conrad explains, the colonizers had their own strategic reasons for this general term. Conrad repeatedly emphasizes the centrality of kinship, not only in forming the group, but also as a survival mechanism throughout the Apache displacement experience. Kinship drove individual efforts to return home and reunite with displaced relatives, to maintain some sort of contact or communication with them, or even to move together as a kin group when being forcibly displaced.

Whereas the displacement experience undergone by Apaches for the first several hundred years of colonial occupation was rooted in the colonists' focus on exploiting Apache labor, beginning with the rise of U.S. colonial power in the 19th century, displacement took on a different focus. Conrad explains how Manifest Destiny and white settlers' insatiable greed for land and resources called for the removal of Apaches from their homelands, if not for their outright eradication. These displacements were usually to less habitable locations, such as to the malarial lowlands of the San Carlos reservation in present-day Arizona. In spite of the harsh conditions of such displacements, some of the people undertook to improve them by their own creativity and hard work to make them survivable. Others, such as Geronimo, insisted on breaking out of reservation boundaries on raiding parties, or to retrieve missing kin. Such ventures brought down the wrath of white colonists and the power



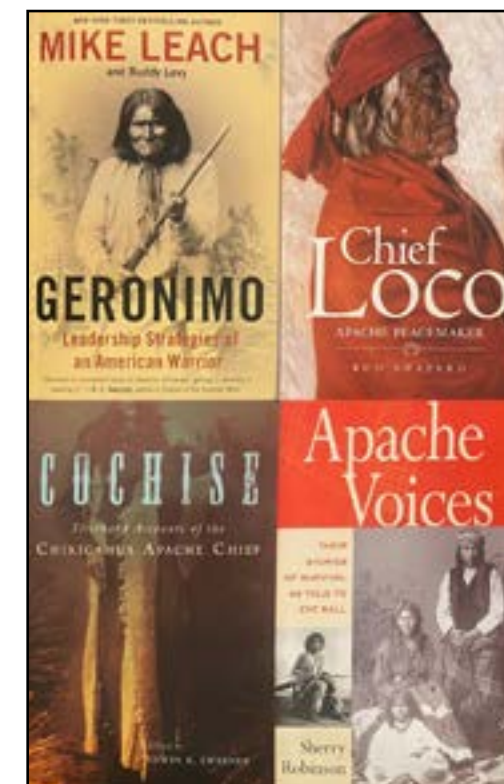
of the state, with the entire group suffering punishment as a consequence.

Conrad describes the resulting tensions within the group and the hostility built up against Geronimo himself by those who valued stability and peaceful relations with the whites as necessary for survival. Ultimately, reservations alone proved unworkable from the state's perspective, and this led to the next phase of displacement — the exile of "non-peaceful" Apaches and their families to locations far from the Apache homelands, including Oklahoma, Florida and Alabama. Conrad describes the exiled Apaches' resourcefulness in coping with their displacements to the foreign lands of the eastern U.S. He describes not just the fascination with which white people viewed the Apaches, but also how the Apaches capitalized on this with profitable commercial ventures, such as handicrafts, day labor, and Geronimo's selling "signed" photographs of himself while imprisoned at Fort Pickens in Florida. Conrad also shows how Apaches used technology — white people's newspapers and telegraph — to communicate and maintain contact with the distant kin.

The displacement policy of family separation uprooted Apache youth from their homes and sent them to the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. Conrad shows how Apaches were often able to turn this displacement experience into a means of survival, as many "graduates" of the school returned home to use their education to help the people back home navigate and resist the government policies of which they were victims. None of this is to minimize the harsh conditions of displacement suffered overall, but rather to point out, again, the Apaches' resilience, persistence and instinct for survival.

Conrad's narrative is precise and faithful to very complex and important details of Apache nomenclature and experience. His discussion of Apache dehumanization and the use of Apaches as currency by whites is especially revealing. His research delves into very old documents and secondary literature, and also includes statements from more recent Apache sources. It would be interesting to see how contemporary Apaches would respond to his work, as Conrad is quick to acknowledge his own "outsider" status as a reporter of Apache history. In sum, his book explains thoroughly and very readably how the Apaches have overcome 400 years of displacement, and why they can well assert, "We are still here."

*Ted studied philosophy and taught school in his native New Hampshire. He and his wife Deborah have lived in Silver City for about three years. Ted currently plays drums in a blues and rock band.*



Many more titles are available in the Museum Store.

**39th Annual Ice Cream Social!**  
Tuesday July 4th 11:00-3:00  
In the Museum Courtyard  
Music Stage with new variety of musicians  
Large shaded kids area with many FREE activities!  
Our World-Famous Cake Walk!  
Ice Cream and Hot Dogs!  
Lots of vendors!



## New Exhibits Coming Soon

### Tom Oberg, Exhibit Projects Manager

Those of us here at the museum have been proud and humbled to share the story of Arturo Flores. Ensuring that this man of the people receives the recognition and perspective he is entitled has been our great honor and we will, in truth, be sorry to see the exhibit go. But we are excited by what is to come and think you will be as well.

There is still time to view the “The Life and Times of Arturo Flores,” exhibit, which will come down this September. Mr. Flores’ talent as an organizer is on full display. From the first text block in the exhibit, it’s clear that discrimination was an ever-present factor in Mr. Flores’ life, yet his strength of character far outshone the daily grind of racism and discrimination. That same strength is also honored through the images of the strikers - the men, women, even children of Grant County; ordinary people doing extraordinary things to help procure a better future for us all.

There’s still time to hear Mr. Flores tell his story in a series of taped interviews that his son, Lorenzo “Larry” Flores, recorded of his father in his later years. The recordings can be accessed via QR codes throughout the exhibition.

Three new exhibits are coming to the museum this year. The next major offering, tells the story of Chihuahua Hill, highlighting personal and family stories from this historic community. Museum Curator Javier Marrufo has compiled dozens of hours of recorded oral histories including hundreds of pages of transcripts from the generous residents of Chihuahua Hill, both past and present. The exhibit is scheduled to open September, 29th with a gallery guide and exhibit-specific website, along with other public programming. Staff members are very excited about this offering and hope you will be too.

Next up is the annual exhibit, “Arte Chicano ‘23.” This year’s exhibit will showcase Juanita Escobedo, a much-loved community artist who had a formative influence in the life of our very own curator, Javier Marrufo. The exhibit’s guest curator is Diana Ingalls Leyba, an accomplished



Arturo Flores



Scan this QR code to listen to a portion of Arturo Flores' story

community artist known not only for her art, but also for her dedication to Silver City. “Arte Chicano ‘23” opens in October.

Finally in December, a more permanent exhibit is in the planning stages, which will highlight the history of the museum’s home - the Henry Boyer (H.B.) Ailman House. This exhibit will feature a timeline to showcase the important aspects of the house, its multiple additions and uses as well as its site and the surrounding community. The gallery will also include a community bulletin board and a “thank you” wall, designed to acknowledge museum partners, sponsors and community members, all of whom are so very much appreciated for their continued support and commitment to the Silver City Museum.

## Museum Society Fundraising Footnotes

The Silver City Museum Society’s variety of recent fundraising events and initiatives are organized to support the museum, as well as to strengthen ties between the museum and the community.

Medel. Thanks to Silver City Town Manager, Alex Brown 25,000 new rack cards will be distributed in various sites around Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

Thanks to the Museum Society’s efforts as well as the hard work of web designer Cristian Uribe, a new website, [SilverCityMuseumSociety.org](http://SilverCityMuseumSociety.org), is now up and running. Visitors can see the latest news and updates on the museum, as well as information about sponsorship and partnership opportunities, volunteerism and a range of programs and events.

The Museum Society also participated in the annual Grant County day of giving, known as Give Grandly, which this year included more than 60 area nonprofits who came together to raise funds for many important causes. Thank you for your generous support of the Silver City Museum Society!

In addition to the new website, rack cards and membership brochures have also received a facelift, thanks to the graphic design skills of Marivel

Another successful event organized by the Museum Society’s Fundraising Committee was the annual

Yard and Art Sale in the museum courtyard. This event offered a fun opportunity for community members to browse through one-of-a-kind items, and show their support for the museum.

BINGO continues to be a hit, with the room selling out for each event, held quarterly in the Murray Hotel Ballroom. Thank you to Len Zamora and D’Ana Torres for serving as the BINGO callers.

Finally, the Spring Community Conversation series was sponsored by Vladimir Gnilozubov, financial broker at Edward Jones, WILL, LULAC, the Town of Silver City, and First American Bank. Thank you to all of our generous sponsors!

## Summer Community Conversation Series Explores the Wild West

This summer’s community conversation series will explore the Wild West in Southwest New Mexico. Community conversations are co-sponsored by WILL, the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning and held from 11 am to 12:30 pm each third Saturday of the month, beginning June, at the historic Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard Street. The following is a brief description of the summer series.

**June 17:** “Two Perspectives - Frontier Newspapers and Apache Living Memory” explores varied viewpoints attempting to explain the Apache Wars. Javier Marrufo will provide an overview of how historic newspapers depicted the Apache, followed by a discussion with two tribal members, Joe Saenz and Bill Bradford.

**July 15:** “How the West Was Fun - Mythicizing the American West with Johnny D.

Boggs.” Artists, songwriters and film-makers cultivated the enduring nostalgia that enchants tourists and other visitors. Johnny D. Boggs is the author of more than 50 western novels and numerous nonfiction articles. He has received nine Spur Awards from Western Writers of America and a Western Heritage Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

**August 19:** “This Ain’t My First Go Round - Rodeo Roots in Grant County.” Museum curator Javier Marrufo will query two knowledgeable locals, Leroy Chappell and JoAnn Miller, about Grant County rodeos. In the 1940s local rodeo became more formalized. The Sheriff’s Posse organized the annual Fourth of July Rodeos in Silver City that led to the annual Wild West Rodeo at the Southwest Horseman’s Arena east of Silver City. The annual Ranch Rodeo, Nunn’s Frontier Rodeo and Junior Rodeo take place during the Grant County Fair in September at Gila.

## Many Thanks to our New and Renewing Members

New Members: Debora Calhoun, Silver Smiles Dental, Jane Spinti, Jennifer Headtke, Donna Mercadante, Mary Baumhover, Dave Rydeski  
Renewing Members: James Whittemore, William Baldwin, Jan Embree-Bever, Lee Gruber, Lequita Lett, Bonnie Maldonado, Tom Watson, Patricia de Naranjo, Barbara Gabioud, Ida Caffey, Phyllis Haines-McQuaide, Susan Hinojosa, Terry Humble, Candice Allgaier, DeAnna Mooney, Larry Godfrey, Elizabeth

Kaido, Matt Rehani, Joan Noble, Betty Spence, Tom Vaughan, Karl Giese, Jeanie McLerie, Lucy Whitmarsh, Kathy Cole, L Dean Clark, Kate Barnhart, Nancy Cliff, Rachel Ann Merz, William Nolde, Thomas Ryan, Pamela Weber, Ted Presler, A. Judith Ward, Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society, Mary Cowan, Jane Riger, Daniel Borenstein, David Kinneberg, Dennis McMullen.

## A Torn Leaflet and Local 890: The Importance of Primary Historical Resources

### By Javier Marrufo, Curator

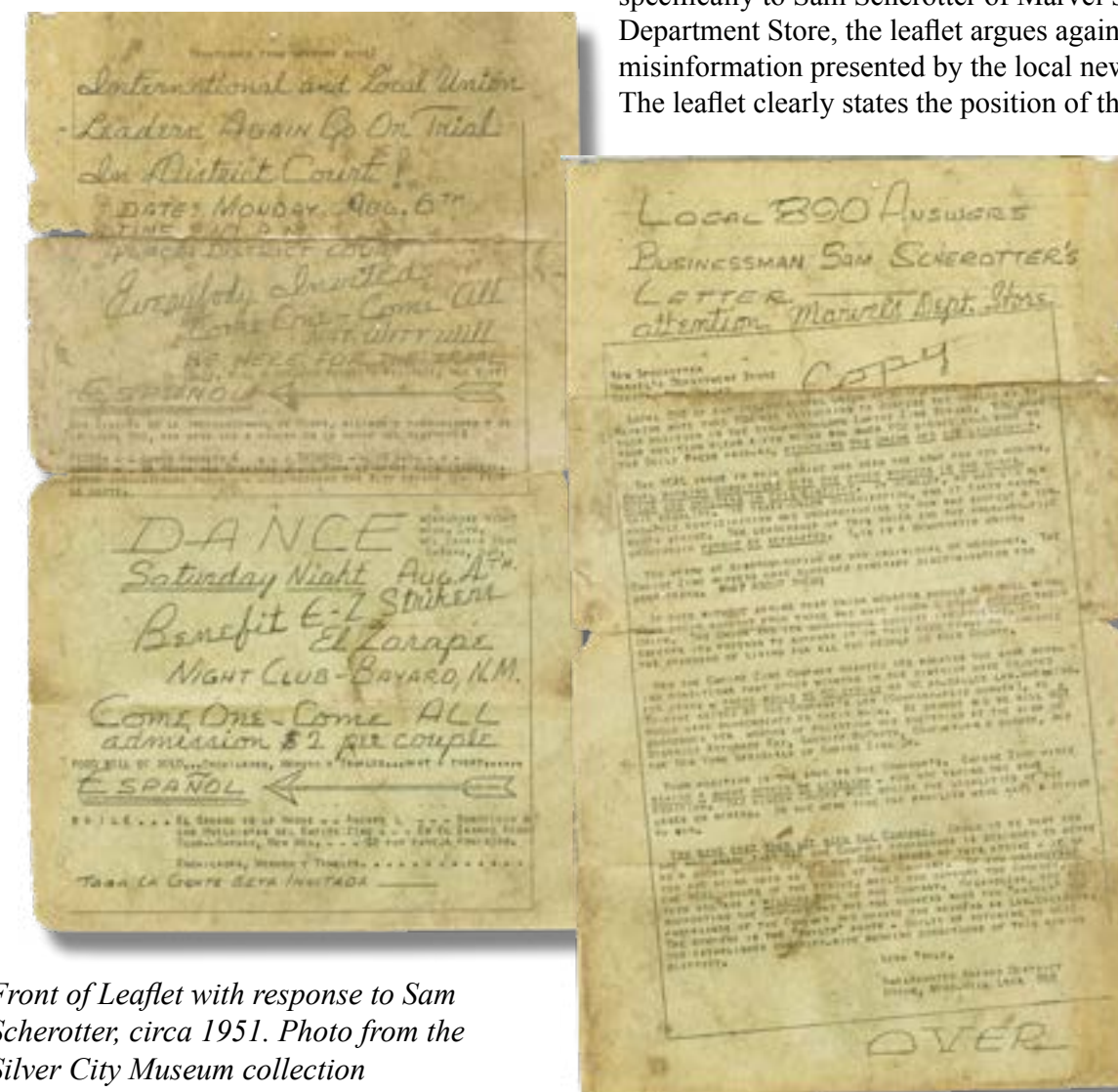
Historical discovery is often serendipitous. You never know when another piece of a particular puzzle will appear. In October, 2020, the Silver City Museum launched an exhibit called “The Life and Times of Arturo Flores,” an exhibit dedicated to the life of local union leader, self-taught photographer and artist, Arturo Flores. A portion of the exhibit explores Arturo’s role in the Empire Zinc Mine Strike, a 15-month conflict between Local 890 and the Empire Zinc Company.

In Arturo’s own oral histories, which feature prominently in the exhibit, he tells of the importance of mimeographed leaflets that were distributed to union members leading up to and throughout the course of the strike. In Arturo’s own words, “We made leaflets to give them information about what the union was doing.”

These leaflets kept union members informed of strike matters, explained ideas and ideologies, served as an organizing tool to ensure attendance at key events, and notified members of outside attacks on the strikers. The importance of these leaflets in the strike and the ultimate concessions won made them a key item to include in the exhibit. However, precious few of these leaflets have survived the passage of time. Copies of such leaflets were given to the museum from Western New Mexico University and are displayed alongside an era-appropriate mimeograph machine from the Village of Hatch Museum.

A few months after the opening of the “Life and Times of Arturo Flores” exhibit, one of the Silver City Museum’s amazing community members donated a collection of items from the 40th anniversary of the Salt of the Earth, a film dramatizing the events of the strike. Tucked away into an envelope in this collection was a folded, torn and aging piece of paper. The Silver City Museum’s Collections Manager, Ashley Smith, meticulously unfolded and cleaned the aged paper to reveal a headline: International and Local Union Leaders Go on Trial in District Court! Just like that, the Silver City Museum

found in its possession an authentic, original leaflet made by Local 890 during the Empire Zinc Mine Strike. Pieces of documentation like these are essential to enriching the history of the strike, which has become one of the region’s most important historical events. It adds necessary context from the perspective of the strikers, rather than outside observers.



Front of Leaflet with response to Sam Scherotter, circa 1951. Photo from the Silver City Museum collection

The leaflet is printed front and back. It is torn around the edges, but remains perfectly legible. One side promotes the upcoming trial in both English and Spanish: “Everybody Invited. Come One-Come All,” it says in handwritten letters with “Toda la gente esta invitada. Venga uno—Vengan todos” in smaller typeface, below. The same page also promotes a dance at the Zarape Night Club in Bayard to “Benefit E-Z Strikers,”

also repeated in Spanish, reflecting the bilingual experience of those who participated in the strike.

The flip side of the leaflet adds great detail to the strike. It contains a response, written by Local 890 leadership, to an article published in the Silver City Daily Press and signed by several prominent Grant County citizens. Speaking specifically to Sam Scherotter of Marvel’s Department Store, the leaflet argues against misinformation presented by the local newspaper. The leaflet clearly states the position of the union

Back of Leaflet promoting trail and dance, circa 1951. Photo from the Silver City Museum collection.

and the reasons for the strike: “The REAL issue in this strike has been the same for ten months, equal working conditions with the other workers in the mines, mills and smelters in this district.”

This document is important because it serves as a primary source for historical research. It reveals, in their own writing, the thoughts of those participating in the strike and how they countered the arguments made by those who stood against them. They reiterate over and over that equality was at the heart of the strike.

“You speak of discrimination of any individual or merchant. The Empire Zinc workers have suffered contract discrimination for many years. WHAT ABOUT THEM?...Had the Empire Zinc Company granted its workers the same working conditions that other workers in the district have enjoyed for years, there would be NO strike or NO so-called law-breaking.”

This aged, torn leaflet helps offer a more complete context of the Empire Zinc Mine Strike. The Silver City Museum is fortunate to have such an important historical document, a document that will now be kept and cared for as long as there exists a museum and staff to do so. A copy of this leaflet will be added to the Arturo Flores Exhibit for all to read.



The Zarape Night Club, Bayard New Mexico, circa 1951. Photo from the Silver City Museum collection



## Partners and Staff

### Museum Staff Create Teaching Tools for New Mexico Teachers

#### Shannon Wilson, Volunteer and Youth & Family Programs Manager

In keeping with the museum's mission of "inspiring people to explore the diverse history and culture of southwestern New Mexico," we are developing educational programs to encourage elementary and secondary students to engage with Silver City's rich history and culture. Assisted by David Phillips, I am creating on-site opportunities for students to participate in curriculum-aligned activities.

Last year the New Mexico Public Education Department published new curriculum standards for social studies. We are developing activities that will help teachers meet these standards with museum resources. For example, one standard for third-grade teachers requires them to help students understand a topic from multiple perspectives. I am developing an activity that meets that standard by asking fourth-graders to read short narratives and view photographs of the mining industry from the perspectives

of early twentieth-century mine owners, mine workers and business owners that supported the mining industry. We hope that a visit to the museum will be more than just a field trip, and that teachers can build on the museum activity when they return to the classroom.

The state's new social studies standards require that students engage in inquiry-based learning through use of primary and secondary historical sources. To help teachers achieve that goal, we have created binders in paper and digital form that focus on specific historical topics. To date, we have created binders on the Chinese in Silver City, the railroads, the *Salt of the Earth* film, and the Empire Zinc strike. David Phillips is developing several other binders on other topics: African-Americans in Silver City; Territorial New Mexico; and famous and infamous women of the town. Primary sources include photographs, excerpts from local newspapers and oral histories. Secondary sources include

documents, scholarly articles, excerpts from book chapters, and select bibliographies that educators and their students can use in their teaching, research, and writing.

Recently, we met with two local high school teachers, Lee Wilson and Claudie Thompson, who lead Silver High's award-winning National History Day project. Lee and Claudie have agreed to help promote these new educational resources to their fellow teachers, and the Silver Consolidated Schools Associate Superintendent for Instruction, Cindy Barris, has agreed to create links to digital versions of the binders on the district's social studies website. Furthermore, I have been in contact with the South Valley Charter School in Albuquerque and will provide their faculty with these digital versions.

Through these efforts, we hope to build stronger connections between local education professionals and the museum.

## Partners and Staff

### Museum Enjoys National Recognition

#### Sarah Zamora, Community Engagement Manager

The Silver City Museum's current exhibit, the Life and Times of Arturo Flores, has received recognition from various publications, including the Santa Fe New Mexican's arts and leisure magazine, *Pasatiempo*, and *The Nation*. The exhibit, which runs through August, features more than Flores' photographic account of the Empire Zinc strike, but also offers insights into the life of this hard-working man, veteran, father, activist, and artist. The exhibit's mural-style design, which features live recordings of Arturo sharing his life story, is highlighted throughout the coverage.

The March 17 issue of *Pasatiempo* briefly covers the exhibit, providing basic background information about the strike and its outcome, the 1954 film about the strike, *Salt of the Earth*, and the fact that Flores' black-and-white images from the front lines of the strike had never been seen publicly until the exhibit opened last fall.

Journalist Dr. Natasha Varner references the exhibit in her well-researched and detailed March 21 article for *The Nation*, "What an Epic Women's Strike Can Teach Us Over 70 Years Later," which chronicles the history of the 15-month strike against the backdrop of McCarthyism and anti-communist fear. The article focuses on the key role that courageous women played to ultimately win concessions from company bosses.

Dr. Varner quotes museum director Bart Roselli, who explains that about a third of the exhibit's information focuses on the role of women. He notes that while the strike is still a "raw nerve" in the community, there's more receptivity to talking about it than there has been in the past. Dr. Varner concludes her article by tying the women's civil and domestic disobedience during the Empire Zinc strike to the assault on women's rights with the 2022 Dobbs decision to end abortion rights won in *Roe v. Wade*.

Overall, the Silver City Museum's exhibit



Josephine Flores, Arturo Flores' wife, is pictured on the right. This photo was taken by Arturo Flores and is in the collection of the Silver City Museum.

has received overwhelmingly positive praise in the local press and has brought people out who had never before set foot in the museum. The coverage highlights the power of women's activism and serves as a reminder that women and their needs cannot be ignored.



Clockwise from top right: Shannon Wilson presenting the session "Supporting Classroom Teachers with Museum Resources"; Susan Berry, facilitator, conference organizer, and presenter; Professor Michelle Hall Kells, Terry Humble, Lorenzo "Larry" Flores, panelists for "Through the Lens: Perspectives on Historical Photographs."

### Online Historical Resource Guide

#### Scott Fritz, Ph.D., Professor of History, WNMU

When I was asked to write an article for the Mansardian regarding an online historical resources finding aid, I thought: What a great opportunity to promote local history and the



Scott Fritz, Ph.D., a Professor of History at WNMU and has worked with the Silver City Museum on various projects over the years.

Silver City Museum. The webpage that I am referring to is titled the Historical Resources Guide for Southwestern New Mexico, and it is part of Western New Mexico University's new Miller Library webpage.

The webpage's idea originated from a group of local historians, including myself, Susan Berry, and Doug Dinwiddie, who have formed the Historical Resource Alliance of Southwestern New Mexico. We've been advocating for the creation of a regional history archive in Silver City and felt that this webpage would be a good start because it shows where historical documents can be found "scattered" in museums, libraries, and government offices throughout Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna counties.

As of now, the webpage includes summaries of historical documents that can be researched in these locations: WNMU's Miller Library, Grant County Clerk's Office, Silver City Public Library, the Ft. Bayard Historical Preservation Society, Lordsburg-Hidalgo Library, and the Silver City Museum. The webpage also includes contact information for each place, as well as interactive maps to assist researchers traveling to these locations.

The webpage can be found by going to Miller Library's webpage and finding it under the

"Digital Resources" dropdown box. There, you will see a link to the page, titled "Southwest NM Historical Resource Guide." You can also access it by typing this link in your internet browser: <http://millerlibrary.wnmu.edu/historical-resources/#silver-city-museum-directions>.

The Historical Resources Guide webpage is in its infancy and will continue to grow as I locate other historical documents available for the public to research. The webpage will also be updated by members of the Historical Resource

Alliance of Southwestern New Mexico.

If you have questions or would like to help with this project, please contact me at: [Scott.Fritz@wnmu.edu](mailto:Scott.Fritz@wnmu.edu).



## Volunteer Corner

### Matriarch of our Volunteer Crew

#### Shannon Wilson, Volunteer and Youth & Family Programs Manager

We would like to shine a spotlight on Jan White, the matriarch of our volunteer crew. Jan has been working for, or with, the museum for eleven and a half years! She is a retired English teacher, who spent seventeen of her forty-four years at Cobre schools. Jan is also a long-time member of the Delta Kappa Gamma organization. Her group offers support by providing scholarships, supplies, and advice to new, female teachers. They also throw an annual appreciation event for a selected teacher from each local school. In addition to this charitable donation of her time and energy, Jan spends two days a week volunteering at the museum, helps with museum events,

and generously donates in various other ways. This past year, Jan had a difficult time battling Covid that gave us all a scare. We were so worried for her and couldn't have been



Jan White

more pleased when her sickness turned the corner. However, she did have to rely on oxygen, and when she got well enough to do without, she came down with pneumonia. So, two days a week, oxygen tank in tow, Jan still comes to work her shifts at the museum. If you ask her how she's feeling, the answer is always, "just fine." She not only remembers, but also brings gifts for staff members' birthdays. Her kindness and disposition are inspirational, and we love her dearly. We want to use this edition to say "thank you" to Jan, and let her know how important she is to us all.

### WILL outside the classroom

#### Trish Kirchhoff, Communications Chair, WNMU

WILL, the Western Institute of Lifelong Learning, is an intentional community of learners that offers a multitude of classes on history,



Sterling Van De Moortel

Sterling Van De Moortel is a frequent facilitator for such ventures, either finding the best expert

art, music, nature... you name it, we will entertain it. What some folks might not know is that WILL also offers beyond-the-classroom learning opportunities – from facilitator-led hikes and nature walks to field trips that highlight local areas of interest.

on a subject to lead an outing or investigating and facilitating a class of his own. Sterling has become an expert on our local cemeteries, a proponent of the Five Points Project, and now is planning a class on existing and planned hiking trails in Grant County.

When asked about his commitment to WILL Sterling said, "I strongly believe that we adults learn best ... and have the most fun ... when we unleash our curiosity and head out to explore and experience our world." So now that you know WILL is vested in teaching about the world outside the classroom as well as within, check out our courses at [www.will.community](http://www.will.community)



Introducing the perfect gift for every occasion ... a Silver City Museum Store GIFT CARD!



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Available now in amounts from \$10 to \$250. Every purchase supports the Silver City Museum.



## June

**Community Conversations  
Saturday, June 17th**  
11:00am-12:30pm  
Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard  
“Two Perspectives - Frontier  
Newspapers and Apache Living  
Memory” with Javier Marrufo  
and guest panelists Joe Saenz  
and Bill Bradford

**Fiesta Latina  
Kids activities, Puppet  
Show, and Crafts  
June 17th - 18th**  
Saturday, June 17, 12 - 4;  
Sunday, June, 18, 12 - 3  
Regents Square,  
WNMU campus,  
1000 W. College Ave.



**Clayfest  
Mata Ortiz Pottery Sale  
Saturday, July 15**  
10:00am-4:00pm  
Silver City Museum Annex,  
302 W. Broadway  
Demonstration by Oralia Lopez

**Family Fun Activities  
Saturday, July 15th**  
11:00am-1:00pm  
Museum Courtyard  
Make your own felted wool  
vessel using a clay form

## July

**39th Ice Cream Social  
Old Fashioned Fun  
for All Ages  
Tuesday, July 4th**  
11:00am - 3:00pm  
Museum Courtyard,  
312 W. Broadway

**Community Conversations  
Saturday, July 15th**  
11:00-12:30  
Silco Theater, 311 N. Bullard  
“How the West Was Fun -  
Mythicizing the American West  
with Johnny D. Boggs.”



**B-I-N-G-O**  
**Cash prizes for all 10 games**  
**Monday, July 17th**  
Doors open @ 5:00pm  
Bingo from 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Murray Hotel Ballroom,  
200 W. Broadway  
Concessions & Bingo  
supplies for sale

# Upcoming Programs and Events

## Become a Member!

### Membership Options:

**Student** – Membership for one person currently enrolled in school

**Senior** – Membership for one person 60+ years

**Friend** – Membership for one person

**Family and Couples**

Membership for up to two adults, plus children under 18

**Supporter**

Basic membership benefits plus recognition on the museum

appreciation wall, and a print of a historic photo from the museum archives

**Stakeholder**

Basic and Supporter benefits plus acknowledgement on our website

**Patron**

Basic, Supporter, and Stakeholder benefits plus acknowledgement

on our website and a private, behind-the-scenes tour with the Museum Director

**Benefactor**

Basic, Supporter, Stakeholder, and Patron benefits plus a

\$50 gift certificate at the Museum Store

\$500

\$250

\$150

\$100

\$50

\$35

\$30

\$15



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On Facebook!**



For more information, visit our website:  
[www.SilverCityMuseumSociety.org](http://www.SilverCityMuseumSociety.org)

- A subscription to *The Mansardian* and emails to keep you up-to-date on museum activities
- Invitations to special events such as members only exhibit openings
- 10% Museum Store discount,
- 20% off at the holiday sale in the Museum Store.

**All Membership Levels Include:**

**The Silver City Museum Society**  
312 West Broadway  
Silver City, NM 88061

*The 2023/2024 Mansardian is underwritten by Liz Mikols in memory of her husband Joe Schindler.*

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# The Mansardian

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