

THE GRIT

SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION December 2000 - January 2001

Thank you for your years of service to our community!!!

By former SHHA Board Member George C. Height

Sandia Homeowners have had a true and responsible County Commissioner in Barbara Seward. As the past Government Liaison Director for the SHHA Board of Directors, I had many occasions to ask Barbara for her counsel and input on problems relating to SHHA. She was always responsive and has been a friend to the residents in Sandia Heights. I hope that future commissioners will be as helpful. Thank you, Commissioner Seward.

Thanks for the memories...

With grateful appreciation, by Barbara J. Seward,
Bernalillo County Commissioner, District IV

The old adage, "time flies when you're having fun", seems particularly appropriate for this, my final message in the Grit as your County Commissioner. The last eight years are evaporating into a kaleidoscope of treasured memories. Working with you has been a joyous, fruitful experience. We have seen successful projects completed in the areas of transportation, public safety, land use, parks and other ventures too numerous to mention. None of this would have been possible without your help and cooperation. Your support has been heartwarming. I shall cherish the friendships forever. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your County Commissioner the past eight years.



Paseo /Tramway Commercial Development Withdrawn for 1 year

letter from SHHA attorney:

Board of Directors
Sandia Heights Homeowners Association
P.O. Pox 20021
Albuquerque, N'M 87154-0021

Members of the Board:

There is good news in Sandia Heights. The proposal to build a large commercial development east of Tramway and Paseo del Norte has been withdrawn by the developer. This was the result of a well-organized effort of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association and the participation of hundreds of interested residents.

First, some background. In late September, 2000, property owner Robert Mhoon submitted an application to Bernalillo County to create a "mixed use" development east of the "T" intersection at Tramway and Paseo del Norte. Drawings showed some 90,000 square feet of restaurants and retail uses, and only about 9,000 square feet of residential dwellings on land zoned only for single family residential uses. The planned access to the development was through a proposed east-bound leg of the "T" intersection, so that Paseo del Norte would dead-end into the commercial center.

Neighbors and Association board members moved quickly to find out more about the proposal. What the application *didn't say* was, in the end, more important than what the application said. The application failed to disclose that Bernalillo County paid the developer a quarter million dollars nine years ago because he lost access to Tramway and lost the ability to develop the property in commercial uses. The application failed to disclose that the metropolitan area's Long Range Major Street Plan didn't allow roadway access to the Mhoon property from Tramway Boulevard. The application also failed to support the need for a zone change from residential to commercial.

The Association made sure that the city-county planning commission was aware of these material omissions, and of the Association's vehement opposition to the re-zoning request. County planning staff recommended the application be denied. Over 200 Sandia Heights neighbors were in attendance for the planning commission's hearing on November 1st. By the time of the hearing, the would-be developer's only argument was to ask for a deferral until he could re-submit a corrected proposal. The planning board denied the requested delay, and insisted that the developer give his presentation on the merits of the re-zoning. Rather than

face a certain denial of the application, he withdrew the application at the last minute.

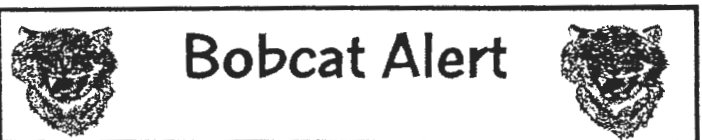
The effect of Mhoon's withdrawal is that he is prohibited from submitting another special use zone change request on the property for one year. He has indicated that he may spend that year seeking the permission of the State Highway Department and the regional transportation planning authority to allow a driveway into his property to the east. While it is unlikely that these entities would reverse their long-held policy, the Association must be vigilant in monitoring such requests. I believe it would be very difficult for Mr. Mhoon to explain how the taxpayers paid him for having "lost" access to Tramway and that he would still be entitled to obtain the benefit of such access.

Special thanks for this great result are owed to many, but here are a few: George Connor, Don Wortman, Rick Nelson, John Jennings, Nancy Nunally, Charles Pechewlys, and the Association's Board of Directors. In these sometimes cynical days, it's nice to know that citizens' voices matter and can still be heard.

It has been our pleasure to assist in this effort. Please contact me if we can be of help in the future.

Sincerely,

David S. Campbell



Several Bobcats have been sighted in the area of Tramway Lane, between Live Oak and Cedar Hill Rd. They are not shy, as they often are seen on roofs of houses and backyards.

The drought has caused them to come down from the mountain looking for food. Their diet includes rabbits, cats and small dogs. Care should be exercised with regard to your pets and how often they are left unattended in your yard.

So be on the ALERT !

"Food for The Inner Soul" from the SHHA President

Recently I had the opportunity to meet and speak with Doug West, whose serigraphs I have collected for the past fifteen years. I was worried about meeting him because I wanted to like him, after all, I have put his work all over the walls in my home and look at his work on a daily basis. In fact, the evening I headed out to meet him we had what I considered "a Doug West sky."

What would it be like to meet someone whose art I have collected and not like him? This was a strange but true thought. To my pleasure, he was a wonderful warm person. I liked him immediately and talked in depth about his motivation to print New Mexico skies, clouds, mountains, rivers and seasons of the sun. I thought for sure he either drew or photographed our unique scenes, which are continually changing. To my surprise he told me he visits areas and when he gets back to his studio he draws "coloring book" lines on paper which he then mixes ink for and starts his screen-printing. Uniquely enough, he starts all of his prints with a colored sky - a New Mexico Sky, you know the type. I told him I see what he sees through his work but wondered what motivated him to do so many beautiful vistas, all so different and yet so beautiful. He told me he does not include machines, roadways or people in his work and that his work was "food for his inner soul."

You may ask what does this have to do with Sandia Heights? Well, when I first came here on a visit in 1969, Tramway Blvd. was a gravel road and as I stood looking out towards the West I was overwhelmed by an inner peace. I thought I had to live someplace like this, the only problem was this was the only place like this - yep one of a kind. In 1983, I returned to Sandia Heights and it did indeed feed my inner soul.

Well, here we are in 2000, a lot has changed, it's not 1969 anymore, but we still live in a very unique neighborhood. We have a lot to be thankful for and I truly am. I want to keep Sandia Heights unique and give back to it for making me feel so good, down to my soul.

A long story you say - so what? Well, that's why I live here and that's why I joined the homeowner's association. Maybe even a small contribution on my part will keep our neighborhood a place that feeds the inner soul. I look to enjoy what we have and keep it nice for others who want the same peace.

John F. Jennings
November 2000



Why I am involved with SHHA by Finian Murphy, Board Member

When we first moved to Sandia Heights two years ago, a neighbor in the Habitat 6K Homeowners Association encouraged us to become dues paying members of SHHA. We moved to Sandia Heights because of its scenic beauty and peaceful atmosphere. Habitat 6K, where we live, has its own home owners association and monthly dues. However, it seemed only right that we join SHHA since it is committed to maintaining the beauty and peaceful atmosphere that we chose to live in.

This past year I was encouraged to seek membership on the SHHA Board of Directors. I did so not out of purely altruistic motives. I like where we live. I want to see it stay a very desirable location. The best way of doing this is by becoming involved in SHHA. I am also the President of Habitat 6K Board of Directors. I want the 32 home owners in Habitat 6K to have a voice, through me, in SHHA. All of us homeowners in Sandia Heights have a financial investment in our homes here. My way of protecting my investment is by becoming involved.

Resident Feedback Requested

At the November Board Meeting, several residents expressed their concerns about safety on our roads in Sandia Heights. The concern is for children, pedestrians and bikers. If this is a concern of yours, SHHA would like to hear from you.

SHHA has supported a neighborhood effort in the submission of Capital Improvement "Neighborhood Request Forms" to Bernalillo County to purchase the property at Tramway Blvd. and Cedar Hill Rd. from the developer. These Request Forms were responsible for showing the County the need for a park in Sandia Heights. The County agreed and included the purchase in their bond issue.

The County Parks and Recreation Bond Issue passed in the November 7th election. The County is presently working on the formal purchase contract with the developer. The majority of the forms submitted suggested a small "pocket park" similar to Little Cloud Park at Tramway and San Bernadino with the remainder of the property retaining it's natural terrain.

SHHA would like to hear your comments or suggestions.

Responses to: SHHA Comments
PO Box 20021
Albuquerque, NM 87154-0021
or Fax 856-8544

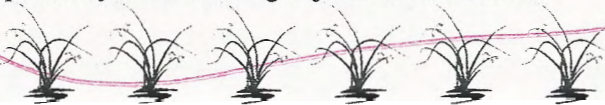
October Board of Directors Meeting

By Deborah Griswold, Secretary

On October 11, 2000, the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association met at the Sheriff's Substation. A quorum of sixteen Board members was present as well as several guests. The meeting was called to order by President John Jennings at 7:08 PM. Phil Garcia of Kraemer and Garcia provided a brief presentation as an agent of Bob Mhoun, who was pursuing a zoning change and special use permit for development of the property at the intersection of Tramway and Paseo del Norte as a "village center". Reports were given by the Treasurer, and the Architectural Control, Communications, Traffic and Safety, New Development, and Ad Hoc Commercial Development Committees. The 2000 - 2001 Budget was approved.

Bob Christman reported on the County's progress in obtaining the vacant property at Cedar Hill and Tramway. The County's offer had been accepted. The County asked for SHHA's support to get the Bond approved. The Board approved a motion for the Parks and New Development Committee to expend up to \$700 of the Committee's budget in sending a letter requesting support of the bond to the 87122 zip code residents.

The Board was informed that the City and County have plans for Tramway to be an expressway. A motion was made and passed unanimously to write a letter to oppose development of Tramway as an expressway. The meeting adjourned at 8:42PM.



Sandia Heights Wildflower and Garden Club

By: Diane M. Mueller

The January 2001 meeting of the Sandia Heights Wildflower and Garden Club will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2001 at the home of Dick and Janice Stumph, 232 Spring Creek Ct. which is at the far northern end of Sandia Heights.

Any Sandia Heights resident interested in gardening is invited to attend.

The speaker will be Michael Martin Melendrez, who is the owner of Trees That Please in Los Lunas, a USDA Plant Specialist, and a Principal in Watch It Grow Soil Nutrient Program. Michael's topic will be: "Building Ecologically Sound Landscapes and the Plants That Help Us Do That".

A March meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 21 at the home of Diane M. Mueller. Judith Phillips will be the speaker.



Treasurer's Report

By Rick Nelson, Treasurer

Much had to be considered while creating a budget that would best serve the members of Sandia Heights Homeowners Association. Projects to do, the Grit to publish, having staff to answer your questions and those unexpected things--more than \$7,500.00 legal expense to help oppose the proposed commercial development at Tramway and Paseo and on and on.

The first thing done was to create three reserve funds to insure the association can meet its current and future responsibility to its members. The three reserve funds are: Operations reserve, Legal reserve, and Open Space reserve. Each fund was set up in the amount of \$20,000.00. These funds are in CDs that have no penalty for early withdrawal.

Each Committee has been provided operating funds for the year. Funding for the new office is included also. It might be of interest to you that the monthly rent [not including staff or utilities] on the office costs each member household 55 cents per month. This 55 cents provides a place for staff to work and you a place to get information and to meet with staff and board members. Having the office has also provided board members a central place to meet and work with easy access to information they need.

Our hope is that SHHA will now be able to provide much faster and improved service to its members.

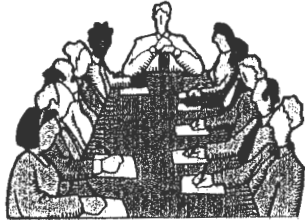
We did not have room in this new Grit to print the line item budget. If any member would like a copy of the 2000 - 2001 budget a copy may be picked up at the SHHA office at 2B San Rafael just up the road from the Subway.



We know the SHHA Web Page has been sick, but help is here. Debbie Miller is now the Web Master and is getting it in shape. Soon all of it will be up to date. Check it out:

<http://www.nmia.com/shha>

NEW BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED



Sandia Heights Homeowners' Association (SHHA) is in search of candidates to fill nine forthcoming vacancies on its Board of Directors.

**Sandia Heights is a great place to live.
Your help is needed to
keep it that way.**

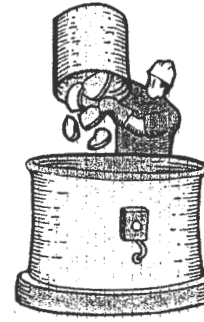
**To become a candidate call the
SHHA office at 797-7793**

**The election will be held at the
Annual Membership meeting
June 2, 2001
At 10 am**

**in the basement area of the
Church of the Good Shepherd
7834 Tennyson, NE**

**Find more information on our Website
www.sandiahomeowners.org**

SPRING LITTER CLEANUP



**Saturday
April 28, 2001
9 am until 12 noon
Join your neighbors and
help clean up
Sandia Heights**

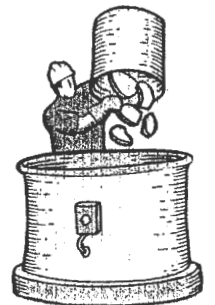
**Trash and recycling bags
will be handed
out at the SHHA office
2B San Rafael**

**Thursday and Friday 12 to 4 pm
and from 9 am Saturday, April 28th**

**Filled bags will be picked up from the
SHHA office by Sandia Services at
12 noon on the 28th**

PITCH IN AND HELP

For information call SHHA



No Paint, Chemicals or Hazardous Material

SHHA IMPORTANT DATES

Spring Litter Cleanup April 28, 2001
[see inside for information]

County Zoning Hearing April 26, 2001
[A hearing regarding zoning changes in North Albuquerque Acres will be held at 6:00pm at the City Council/County Commission Chambers at One Civic Plaza]

Regular SHHA Meeting May 9, 2001
[Sheriff Sub-Station, Eubank Blvd. & Holly Ave.]

Annual Membership Meeting
June 2, 2001 at 10am at:
The Church of the Good Shepherd
7834 Tennyson, NE

Watch for further information regarding the Annual Meeting in the Grit and on the SHHA Website:

www.sandiahomeowners.org

A Little Grit will be published when there is new and important information for Sandia Heights residents.

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A Little Grit

Sandia Heights Homeowners Association
PO Box 20021
Albuquerque, NM 87154

New Board Members Needed!
(see inside)

Spring Litter Cleanup
(see inside)

**Don't Forget the SHHA
Annual Meeting on June 2nd**

SHHA COFFEE 2000

at the home of
Silvia and Martin Inkelas



On Saturday morning, October 28, Martin and Sylvia Inkelas were the gracious host and hostess of the SHHA Fall Coffee. The Inkelas home is a wonderful montage of tapestries, unique collectables, international photos, candles, framed florals and live greenery.

Few guests noticed the inclement weather outside as they chatted with neighbors, friends, and visitors. Hot teas and coffee with a gourmet selection of breads, muffins, and fruits were served to the fifty-two guests.



Holiday Open House

at the New SHHA Office
December 9, 10AM to 2PM

On Saturday, December 9, 10AM to 2PM, an Open House is scheduled at the new SHHA Office at 2B, San Rafael, just up the road behind the Subway building. Have some morsels and hot wassail as you tour the new office. Please plan to attend this next event.

These socials are a wonderful opportunity for SHHA homeowners to see neighbors, network, discuss relevant issues and perhaps meet a new friend.



COMMUNICATIONS, MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

Melanie Christman, Chair

The Communications Committee, with the help of the office staff and volunteers, has been tediously working at updating and correcting the SHHA data base. This data base generates the labels for all mailings to our residents. The committee would like to thank all those members who worked on this project: Gloria Nelson, Joan Goldberg, Martha Sutter, James Anderson, and committee members Rick Nelson and Melanie Christman.

The 2001 Directory/Resident's Guide is forthcoming. It is sent to all members of SHHA. When your Directory arrives, please check your listing. If it is incorrect, please fill out the form included and send the correction to the SHHA office. Corrections can also be filled out on the web (www.nmia.com/shha) or e-mailed to the office at shha@nmia.com.

In order to correct many of the communication problems that we have had for years and to better serve our residents, SHHA has established an office in Sandia Heights. This new office is state-of-the-art, equipped with new computers, fax machine, copier and multiple phone lines. The office is staffed with two people during the hours of 12 noon to 4PM, Monday thru Friday. James Anderson is the Office Administrator and Lisa Jacobsen is the Administrative Assistant for the Architectural Control and Covenant Support Committees. If you call the office during regular hours, you will speak to a person! A huge "thank you" goes to Rick Nelson whose tireless effort made it all happen.

We invite all residents to meet James and Lisa, board members, and tour our facility at the Open House on Saturday December 9th, 10AM - 2PM.

Do you have a favorite "Sandia Heights" photo? We'd like to create a "gallery" at the office, featuring photos of local flavor. If you have a photo you'd like to contribute, please drop it off at the office during regular office hours Noon - 4PM, Monday thru Friday.

A membership campaign will be next on our agenda. We want to encourage non-members to consider joining the effort that is being put forth to improve Sandia Heights.

All articles of interest will be considered for the Grit. Deadline for the next Grit is January 5th

THE GRIT

is published bimonthly as the
official newsletter of the
SANDIA HEIGHTS

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 20021
Albuquerque, NM
87154-0021

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Fax: 505-856-8544

e-mail: shha@nmia.com

Web Page:

<http://www.nmia.com/shha>

GRIT EDITOR

Communications Committee
Melanie Christman, Chair

PRODUCTION

Rick Nelson

NEW OFFICE

Located at:

2B San Rafael, NE
Sandia Heights,
Albuquerque, NM
Now Open

Hours 12 noon to 4PM
Monday through Friday



New Members are always Welcome

**Come join your neighbors
help make Sandia Heights
even better than it is!**

Dues are \$ 5.00 per month

To join contact us by:

Phone: 505-797-7793

Fax: 505-856-8544

e-mail: shha@nmia.com

or call

Sandia Service: 505-857-8924

ACC Committee Report

L.A. Bannowsky, Committee Chair

As we move toward winter and the Holidays, the seasonal slowdown in projects for review by your Architectural Control Committee has still not evidenced itself. The Committee is averaging four applications weekly, primarily for remodeling of, or additions to, existing homes. Designing and planning these projects in accordance with the restrictive covenants of Sandia Heights is the type of proactive effort which helps to maintain the unique character of our neighborhood. The desire to participate actively in the protection of our area by voluntarily adhering to the restrictive covenants of our individual units and utilizing the application and review process is gratifying. This cooperative approach is also a major factor in maintaining and even enhancing property values.

Lisa Jacobsen has just started as our new Administrative Assistant, supporting the Architectural Control Committee and the Covenant Support Committee, and is rapidly learning our processes and procedures. She will be in our new office between noon and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Lisa is available during those hours to answer your questions, provide application forms, and provide any other necessary assistance relative to Architectural Control or Covenant Support. Welcome Lisa!



Covenant Support Committee

Susan Carlow, Committee Chair

With the more frequent publication of our SHHA newsletter, the Grit, we have the opportunity to feature and discuss isolated issues within the covenants, often forgotten, or totally unknown to residents. In this Grit I would like to highlight the subject of the "unused vehicle."

The Covenant Support Committee has received an increasing number of calls regarding abandoned or unused vehicles parked on streets and in public parking areas in some of our neighborhoods. Although, the subject of the "unused vehicle" does not appear in all Sandia Heights covenants, it does predominately in the newly developed areas and always in the garden home and town home units. The covenants in these units state that, "No unused automobiles or vehicles of any kind except as herein above provided shall be stored or parked on any lot except in a closed garage. An "unused vehicle" shall be defined as any vehicle which has not been driven under its own power for a period of 30 consecutive days or longer. In the event any unused vehicle remains parked on any tract or lot within the property boundaries, the Grantor shall have the right to remove the same after 48 hours notice to the owner thereof, the expenses to be charged against the owner thereof, and such charges shall become a lien upon the recording of a notice of lien and shall be enforceable."

The presence of unused automobiles in neighborhoods where lots are small and roads are cramped creates an environment that is inconsistent with the intention of the original developers and the beauty of the natural setting. If you have vehicles, that are unused, or not currently registered, it is your responsibility to remove them from the street or the lot on which they are parked. Adherence by all residents to the covenants and county regulations is paramount in assuring that Sandia Heights remains an attractive place to live, and that we do not suffer from the blight of abandoned and unused vehicles scattered through our neighborhoods. For unused vehicles or not currently registered vehicles in the street call, the County Sheriff at 768-4160. For unused vehicles on a lot call, the SHHA office at 797-7793.



About More Access to Forest Service Lands and Trails in Sandia Heights: Editors note: Some

residents have indicated interest in having more access to Forest Service Land and Walking Trails in Sandia Heights. Now and in the future the Grit will be addressing this issue and publishing comments from residents. We urge all residents to voice their opinion on this important issue.

Kathy and I, as residents, have been quite interested in trail access because of our proximity to the trailhead on Cedar Hill. Since "No Parking" signs were posted at the top of Cedar Hill, without any opportunity for neighborhood discussion, and there are a few cars that now park on Pinon Hill Pl., although not yet obtrusive, we believe that it is wise for us and other residents of Sandia Heights to be part of any further decisions regarding trail access or networking of circles and streets in Sandia Heights.

I have attended a couple of meeting of the parks and trail access committee (not sure of the exact name), which have been informative. I have been told that there are those who want to restrict further discussion or consideration regarding access to forest or trails through Sandia Heights. While Kathy and I are opposed to a series of trails and access routes throughout Sandia Heights to provide access to the National Forest and especially to provide "easier" accessibility" between existing roads in Sandia Heights, we are also opposed to the any organized effort to stifle discussion on this very important issue. We, as residents of Sandia Heights, are not the owners or caretakers of the parks or the trails through the wilderness area. Access of one sort or another will be maintained and perhaps expanded. That being the case, we should be prepared with an informed opinion on the type of access that should be available. Frankly, I believe that public parking at the tram and Elena Gallegos is sufficient and that access to other areas by way of existing roads and "consensual easements" is sufficient.

We should be aware of any unobtrusive, if there are any, and other proposals there might be for additional access. We can do this intelligently only by being informed. The Board should, if it has not already done so, schedule a special meeting to hear the proposal or presentation of the Resource Group. Primary emphasis should be given to this matter at the meeting and above all, notice of the meeting should be well publicized. At this point I am very skeptical and an opponent of trail networking or additional trail access through Sandia Heights but, I must admit, an uninformed skeptic.

Dennis Falk



**Executive Committee reply to the input from
Dennis Falk regarding Access and Trails**

Dear Dennis:

I want to thank you, for myself and all of the SHHA Board, for taking your time to express your feeling about trails.

Please be assured that there is no organized or any other type of effort to stifle discussion of trails or any other subject. There has been Board action taken to clarify the SHHA position on trails and access. A motion was inadvertently passed that could be taken to mean that the SHHA Board of Directors supported trails and access. This motion was premature in that there has been no request for input from residents of Sandia Heights; therefore there was a rescision of that motion.

The Board of directors is mandated to support the views and desires of the majority of residents of Sandia Heights, not the special interest desires of any individual or group. The only way this can be done is by seeking input from residents before the Board can take a fair and just position on any major issue. To the best of our knowledge the advocates of access and trails have not contacted even the people that would be most affected, those who would have to give up part of their land for right of ways, or have the problem of parked cars as you mentioned. Therefore, your points concerning discussion and well advertised meetings are well taken.

The advocates of access and trails were, at this most recent Board meeting, invited to write an article for the next Grit, scheduled to be out prior to December 1st. It is our hope that they will take full advantage of this offer. Those in opposition have the same right to place an article in the Grit.

Again thanks for your interest.

Rick Nelson
Treasurer, SHHA

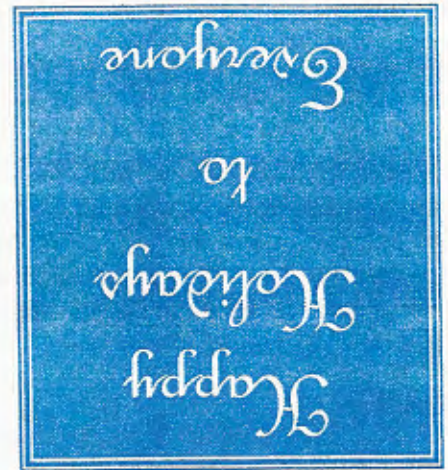




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Remember the Holiday Open House, at the Office, December 9th - 10 till 2

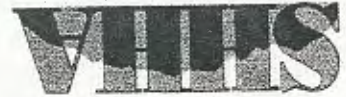
John & Viola Miller
548 Black Bear Road NE
Albuquerque NM 87122



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THE TRAIL BACK

by: Wally Cooper, Sandia Heights

I finally found that old path up the hill. It was now a narrow paved road. I drove slowly, hoping to see some recognizable feature. Where was our little farmhouse? I imagined in my mind's eye the small three-room house. I pictured the old wood stove in the kitchen, and even smelled the pot of boiling coffee and baking bread, sending their aromas through the house. My dear grandmother was there, jostling about doing her routine duties.

I blinked and looked carefully about. There were no signs of this humble home. Over there was a quite luxurious home, and another near by. Nothing looked familiar.

Then something, for some reason, caught my attention. Nothing specific, just a small grassy area amongst the brambles. I came to a stop. That spot held my attention. Just why did this grassy spot demand my attention? I stepped out of the car and made my way toward the grassy area. Then I stopped cold!

In this grassy area - that tree. It couldn't be! There was a very tall, old tree, and the surroundings seemed very familiar. I placed my hands on the aged bark and peered into the top branches. Were my senses playing tricks? Could this be that supple, little sapling

that more than 70 years ago I whirled around and hanged gaily from its outstretched, young limbs?

I closed my eyes to bring back memories of my childhood fun times. "Well, who have we here?" I was stunned to hear words coming from nowhere. "I have grown tall, reaching for the sky, trying to see as far as I could. I have seen some warming summers and harsh winters since we shared our younger days." All this couldn't be so, but I wanted it to. "And about you, laddie?"

"I have had happy days and sorrowful days," I whispered back. "I have reached for high expectations and far places."

"We had some very good times together. I miss those days. My dear friend, I wish you all the best from here on. Stand tall, laddie."

I opened my eyes again, and strained to see the very top branches of my old friend. A butterfly flitted toward me, hesitated for just a moment, and disappeared into the distance. As if to say, "this is life; it comes and it fades away."

I walked to my car, turned and looked up into the furthest reaches of this dear old friend's foliage. Its leaves rustled in the wind, waving a good-bye. The Trip Back, in this unforeseen way, was ever so rewarding. Our lives had become one, starting far in the past. We were really still one. We will remain so... and on