

TARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY @ NAVAJO LAKE

1992-2002

In the beginning....

Life changed in many ways in the small, rural farming communities of Tiffany, Allison, Rosa and Arboles when the Navajo Reservoir was built in the 1960's.

Although change came to the area, a very rich history remains. The Dominguez-Escalante Expedition of 1776 crossed the San Juan River at Carracas and passed through the Arboles vicinity as it proceeded westward. (Interested residents have researched and determined that the crossing must have been at what is now Milton Lane about 300 feet north of the Arboles Store.)

Following a similar route, the Spanish Trail also crossed the river at Carracas. According to historians, the Spanish Trail followed the banks of the San Juan, crossing the Piedra River near present day Arboles before heading west. The Navajo Reservoir has now covered portions of the Spanish Trail. This Trail is significant to the settlement of the Southwest as it provided a route from Santa Fe to Los Angeles that was used from 1829 through 1848 for travellers as well as commercial traders.

A rich Indian history is to be found in the TARA area. Hispanics also brought their diverse culture and early missions.

The railroad played a vital role in the history of the community. The building of the reservoir left unique and often sad histories as many families were displaced in the process.

So, it was with thirty years of perspective, in 1992, that a group of residents decided to form an organization to preserve this rich history, to help to restore a sense of community recognizing the diversity of the growing population, and to help meld the past with the present.

Following is a brief history of how TARA was born, nourished and took on a life of its own---a Tenth Anniversary record.

1992-2002

1992

In August 1992 a group of interested residents gathered at the Visitor's Center at the State Park to formally organize. In attendance were Kathy St.Germain, Marian Goodknight, Bill Appenzeller, Tabby and Barbara Taborelli, June and Lloyd Hubbard and members of the State Park Ranger Station.

The original goal was to preserve an area of the Navajo State Park (one acre) which included the original railroad water tower, two railroad ballast cars and the section house for conversion to a Historical Village and Museum.

The first decision was to adopt a name which would be all inclusive and help to define the purpose. Various suggestions were proposed but finally, thanks to Bill Appenzeller, the acronym TARA was agreed upon, signifying the towns of Tiffany, Allison, Rosa and Arboles which were the four communities directly affected by the Navajo Reservoir. At a later date, when the organization became incorporated, the official name became "TARA Historical Society @ Navajo Lake".

Officers elected were: President, Kathy St.Germain, Secretary, Marian Goodknight, and Treasurer, Barbara Taborelli.

An application to the Colorado Initiatives Program was already underway by Kathy St.Germain through the Piedra Park Metropolitan Improvement District. This application included four significant points:

1. the tri-cultural population of the area
2. the unique displacement of homes and families due to the reservoir
3. the archeological findings in the area
4. coordination of planning with the Navajo State Park and the Bureau of Reclamation

The proposal was based on TARA having the use of the one acre historic site at the State Park.

Ultimately the grant which would have provided funding for historical development of the property was not approved. It was considered to have merit but it was felt it would not have provided long term financial impact on the community,

Following this rejection, it was agreed to draft a proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation for leasing the property to the newly created Historical Society. In response to this proposal, it was noted that commitment of the facilities at this time was not possible as the State contract at the park was to expire in October 1993. Congressional action to raise the limit that the Bureau of

Reclamation can put into any one project, as well as the amount of the State appropriation for this and four other parks on the Western Slope, are all matters to be addressed before October 1993. There was no possibility for a long term contract at this time. Maybe next year?

Community Involvement

With the consent of the State Park Management for temporary use of the Section House, a community work day was held. Local residents were invited to come, bring a chair and a shovel. A chili dinner was served and the organization of the Historical Society was presented along with its plans for developing the property. An artist's sketch of the property done by Jane Boling was available as well as the Colorado Initiatives Application.

About 50 residents attended and before the lunch was served the two ballast cars were emptied and cleaned, the first step in the plans for the Historical Village development.

Ken Charles of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs was kept advised and was very supportive of the plans.

Financial Status:

It was known that fund-raising was going to be an important step in the planning.

Income for the first year was \$122.00 from the sale of bumper stickers, the cost of which was a donation.

1993

Business meetings were held regularly with emphasis on the promotion of TARA objectives as well sources of income.

Community Involvement

Meetings were held at the Section House where residents were updated on planning for the Historical Village and their input was solicited.

At the first meeting, Jon Schler, University of Colorado Architectural Consultant from the Department of Local Government presented ideas and suggestions for use in identifying the direction, goals and future activities of TARA. (Summary of the meeting is an attachment at the end of this history.)

At the second meeting, Jon and Ken Charles were present. Jon provided architectural drawings of three proposals for the TARA Village. The drawings included meeting rooms, museum and recreational facilities and are on file in the Archives.

Both meetings were well attended with much community input.

At this time the State Park was making grant applications for (1) an amphitheatre from which TARA would benefit (2) nature walks and plaques and (3) \$500 seed money for TARA. (This was never granted). Nathan Wilder, Grant Manager for the Southern Utes agreed to provide signs for TARA if the proposed Scenic Highway to Dulce was completed. There was much interest in the Highway at this time.

To further the community involvement concept included in TARA's Statement of Purpose, the first annual Highway clean-up was held. Two miles of State Highway 151 were assigned to TARA.

Fund Raising Proposals

Membership dues - Three choices of membership were agreed upon: Annual individual \$5.00

Annual business 15.00

Lifetime 50.00

This proposal was tabled pending further development of the organization.

Annual Arts and Crafts Show or similar annual event was suggested.

Sale of T-Shirts and sweat-shirts with TARA logo was agreed upon and plans will proceed.

Special Projects

After extensive clean up of the Section House was completed TARA opened a thrift shop featuring clothing, books, collectibles and more. The Section House was ideal for this venture, allowing for attractive displays for the many donated items.

Norman Lansing, local noted Indian artist agreed to design a logo

for TARA representative of the history of the area water tower from the

past railroad days, a boat on the water depicting the new Navajo Reservoir with mountains in the background, the Sun symbol representing ethnic diversity and in the foreground, the Colorado State Flower, the Columbine.

Organizational Progress

Early in this year members put together their collective thoughts and ideas and produced a Statement of Purpose for TARA.

1. To preserve and promote the culture and history of this unique multi-ethnic TARA community
2. To establish a dynamic facility in order to gather and share ideas and information
3. To create a sense of community for all residents in the TARA area

Next it was agree to pursue a 501-C-3 designation. This is an IRS classification awarded to non-profit organizations who are primarily supported by gifts, grants and contributions from the public.

June 1993- IRS assigned Employee Identification #84-12333-56

Financial Statement 1992 (TARA organizational date August 1992)

Income	\$122.00	Sale of bumper stickers
--------	----------	-------------------------

Expense	-0-	Cost of bumper stickers was donated
---------	-----	-------------------------------------

Financial Statement 1993

Opening Balance \$122.00

Income	\$425.18	Bumper stickers 8v Thrift Shop
--------	----------	--------------------------------

Expenses	-0-
----------	-----

Total \$425.18

Closing Balance	\$547.18
-----------------	----------

1994

Monthly business meetings provided reports on the various projects now underway. Attendance increased significantly as interest developed in pursuing TARA goals and more volunteers were recruited.

Community Involvement

Volunteers cleaned the State Highway. Possibly cleaning twice during the summer should be considered. Two Highway Department signs posted along Highway 151 recognized the TARA commitment.

The first newsletter was produced by Kathy St.Germain. (On disc at the Ignacio Library) Fifty copies were mailed to local residents. This provided news of projects underway and future events being planned with community participation invited.

Fund-raising

The suggestion for an annual Arts and Crafts Show developed into the TARA Treasure Trail.

This invited participation by groups and individuals extending from Allison to Arboles along Highway 151 - a two day event. Booths included Arts and Crafts, Jewelry, Antiques, Kachina Dolls, homemade breads and pies, traditional Hispanic foods as well as Flea Markets.

Posters, signs and balloons along the highway announced the event. Business sponsorships were solicited and their support contributed to the financial success of the venture.

T-Shirt Project - The logo designed by Norman Lansing was used on the back of the garment with the small TARA emblem on the front. The initial order was received and it was soon evident that this was going to be a popular item and would at the same time increase TARA's visibility in the community.

Thrift Shop at the Section House had to be closed after the first summer as the State Park needed the building for living quarters for Park personnel.

Planning for the future

A suggestion was made to pursue possible affiliation with the Pagosa Historical Society. The feeling prevailed that TARA should develop its own organization more specifically before taking this step.

Members were asked to be on the alert for early pictures and photos of the area, perhaps to be donated to TARA or to be copied and returned.

Putting together an historical quilt was considered a possibility at some later date.

Information on progress for the use of the Section House was not forthcoming, so the Consultant's plans were put on hold.

Historical Development

Sandra Hawk, a student at Colorado College, visited in connection with her research for her thesis "A Study of Displaced Communities, Rosa, New Mexico and Arboles, Colorado". She recorded oral histories of a number of residents. She had interviews with State and Federal officials associated with the reservoir project and was provided extensive materials and pictures.

When the thesis was completed, she presented a copy to TARA, as well as all the research material she had collected.

This has all been catalogued and will be on display in the future library

Financial Status 1994	\$981.61	\$547.18
-----------------------	----------	----------

Opening Balance

Income

T Shirts	\$235.00
----------	----------

Treas. Trail	646.61
--------------	--------

Donation	100.00
----------	--------

Total

Expenses

T Shirts	\$540.00
----------	----------

Administr.	40.27
------------	-------

Treas. Trail	114.00
--------------	--------

Total	\$694.27
-------	----------

Net	\$287.34
-----	----------

Closing Balance	\$834.52
-----------------	----------

1995

It was apparent at this time that the Section House Project was not to be. Business meetings reflected an interest in investigating other possible locations for a park and recreation areas.

Consideration was given to exploring the availability of two areas- one near the EMT building in Allison for adults and young people on property owned by the School District. Another for children (location to be determined). It was suggested that the County be approached to build and maintain the recreational facilities as the cost of insurance would be prohibitive for TARA at this time.

Another suggestion was to consult with the State Park on what in the way of recreational facilities was to be expanded there. It was reported that this was part of the master plan. It was suggested that individuals write the Regional Manager suggesting volley ball courts, all purpose field for soccer and baseball and any other such activities. With this information TARA decided to put the matter of local parks on hold.

Community Involvement

The first Fourth of July Parade was sponsored by TARA. A remarkable variety of entrants participated, including classic cars, horses and many different floats.

There were 35 entries with a hundred or more spectators along the route. Uncle Sam and his partner dressed in the appropriate costumes led the parade - Uncle Sam on stilts!

Hot dogs and beverages followed in the yard at the Arboles Store. It was agreed that this should now be an annual event.

Highway clean-up continued and the second Newsletter was published - fifty copies mailed.

Fund-raising

The Second Annual Treasure Trail was held. Beautiful hand-tied banners were made to place on each booth.

La Plata Electric provided a bucket for kid's rides. Smokey Bear was present and miniature golf was available.

In addition, arts and crafts, food and drinks, baked goods and flea markets were in abundance.

A highway sign was purchased, allowing upcoming events to be advertised in a timely manner. Newspaper advertising served to remind folks of this now annual event.

T-Shirts were on sale at each of TARA functions and remained a popular item. The T-Shirts came in a variety of colors and in all sizes.

Historical Development

An honorary Advisory Board was established. James Walker, Carmen Gallegos and Martha Quintana were invited to serve and all accepted. Their personal lives and experiences during the years of change contribute much to present understanding of the period.

It was agreed to investigate the possibility that the Section House and Water Tower be designated Historical Structures. It was ultimately determined that they were not old enough.

Financial Status	1995
------------------	------

Opening Balance	\$834.52
-----------------	----------

Income

Interest	\$11.12
----------	---------

T-Shirts	76.00
----------	-------

Treas. Trail	865.23
--------------	--------

July 4	46.00
--------	-------

Total	\$998.35
-------	----------

Expenses

Treas. Trail	\$202.00
--------------	----------

Advertising	39.75
-------------	-------

Total	\$241.75
-------	----------

Net \$756.60

Closing Balance	\$1591.12
-----------------	-----------

1996

Section House Status - A review of progress on the use of the Section House was requested. The Bureau of Reclamation had been asked for a five year commitment for TARA use. It was reported that the septic tank had collapsed, the building would have to have a new roof, and it would need to be modified for handicapped accessibility.

The feasibility of relocating the building had been suggested but of course this would not have included the ballast cars or the water tank or other buildings. TARA was beginning to believe the best course of action was to try to locate other property to purchase on which TARA could develop the community meeting space, the historic exhibition area, and the park and playground.

Community Involvement

The second Annual July 4 Parade was a great success. It was planned to be followed by a pot-luck lunch in a large tent set up on Milton Lane. This did not work out due to the extreme heat and the lag time between the end of the parade and the lunch hour. Few people stayed for the luncheon.

The newsletter was published detailing the various activities, the fund raising efforts and future plans. 240 copies were mailed.

Highway cleanup continued with 10 volunteers participating.

Fund-raising

The third Annual Treasure Trail was bigger and better than ever with good participation by vendors, sponsors and volunteers. It was decided that a one day event was preferable to the original weekend as first set up.

The sale of T-Shirts was an ongoing source of revenue.

Historical Progress

Work was started on gathering oral histories. A form was developed for interviewing. This included the signing of a consent form by the resident to allow the history to be used by TARA to depict the early history of the area.

Fort Lewis College was helpful in getting the process underway and generously loaned materials and equipment.

Planning for the future

During this year, 1996, members came to realize that the dreams of 1992 and 1993 were going to change course. However, it was recognized that all the community input, as well as professional assistance TARA had received from the University of Colorado consultants had helped to focus on Community needs, the direction in which TARA was heading, and the financial and time restraints which must enter into the planning. It would be necessary to develop the ultimate objectives in stages.

It was at this time that focus on starting a community library was suggested. This seemed a do-able project, while fund-raising and further planning continued.

Financial Status 1996

Opening Balance	\$1591.12	Income
-----------------	-----------	--------

Interest	\$33.76
----------	---------

Treas. Trail	1038.25
--------------	---------

T-Shirts	491.00
----------	--------

July 4	116.75
--------	--------

Total	\$1679.76
-------	-----------

Expenses

T-Shirts	\$595.91
----------	----------

Newsletter	134.00
------------	--------

Treas. Trail	51.90
--------------	-------

July 4	14.36
--------	-------

Total	\$796.17
-------	----------

Net	\$883.59
-----	----------

Closing Balance	\$2474.71
-----------------	-----------

1997

The year started with several items on the agenda, This included continuation of already established programs and the planning for more.

Community Involvement

The third Annual July 4 Parade continued to be an event eagerly looked forward to by the community. Each year the number and variety of entrants increased as did those who lined the streets to watch.

Highway clean-up continued as members recruited family and friends to help with this civic duty.

The newsletter reported on all activities and announced those being planned. Volunteers were recruited and welcomed.

Fund-raising

A major fund-raising project for this year was the development of the TARA cookbook entitled "History in the Baking". All residents were invited to submit their favorite recipes. About 300 recipes were collected including those submitted by the young folks.

All members were involved in the collection, sorting and editing under the guidance of Rose Helms who kept the project moving and did a great job. Illustrations of local landmarks were by local artist Jane Boling.

The Annual Treasure Trail was another major source of income. With yearly variations in activities and events it continued to provide a social and economic benefit to the community.

Special Projects

As interest in the library was increasing, residents started to bring books. The generosity of the community was overwhelming. Storage space was provided at the old schoolhouse, kindness of Steve and Ida Theys. This later provided a space where sorting and cataloging could get started.

At the same time TARA continued the search for property. The Taborelli's offered to sell 3 lots (1 1/2 acres) on Milton Lane. This seemed to be a good location and provided a useable spot for the playground and park. It would also be suitable for building at a later date.

The first step was to approach Archuleta County for funding to purchase the property for these purposes.

A proposal was put together with drawings showing the playground and park as well as the proposed multi-purpose building. This was submitted to the County Commissioners.

Organizational Progress

6-6-97 By-laws for TARA Certified

7-7-97 Articles of Incorporation filed with Secretary of State

9-26-97 Federal Income Tax Exemption applied for

10-17-97 Notification by the IRS: Advance Ruling Period was July 7, 1997

to December 31, 2001. In the meantime TARA would be treated

as a 509(a)(1). This category provides basically the same tax-

exempt benefits as a 501(c)(3). It is used during the Advance

Ruling Period.

Financial Status 1997

Opening Balance \$2474.71 Income

Interest \$57.45

Treas. Trail 1572.40

Cook Books 50.00

July 4 132.44

T-Shirts 252.00

Total \$2064.29

Expenses

Administration \$606.40*

T-Shirts 96.30

July 4 42.80

Advertising 35.23

Total \$780.73

Net \$1283.56

Closing Balance \$3758.27

*Legal fees, Checks, IRS, Box Rent, etc.

1998

The proposal for land purchase was approved by the County. This was not a grant but an allocation of "excess funds" which were available that year. The County purchased the land from the Taborellis for \$20,000. (Lots 2, 3, and 8

Replat Tract 4 Subdivision 2A)

In August the deed was received, naming TARA as the sole owner of the property with the stipulation that if it ever ceased to be used as a Park and related activities, ownership would revert to the County. TARA had a survey

done for the record.

A conceptual plan of the 1 8; 1/2 acres was drawn up. Upon receipt of the deed, TARA was ready to review a proposal to purchase a 12' x 20' building about 70 years old, formerly used as a bunk house at the Lucchini Ranch on

Highway 151.

This would serve as a temporary structure and could be used as a library, eventually to be replaced with a permanent building for community gatherings, historical exhibits and library.

It seemed the presentday preservation of this historical building fit well with TARA's Statement of Purpose.

The building was purchased for \$2000 which included moving to the TARA site

Community Involvement

July 4 annual July 4th Parade

Highway clean-up

Newsletter

Fund-raising

TARA Treasure Trail

The TARA Cookbooks arrived and all were busy promoting them and making them available at the various businesses. Great cooperation from all. This was indeed a successful venture and suggestions were made for a similar but different companion issue at a later date.

October 11, 1998 Dedication of the property took place. It would now be called the TARA Center whose address was 333 Milton Lane. As noted earlier this is very close to where the Domingues Escalante Expedition passed in 1770.

This was a community event to proclaim TARA's vision and goals for the future development of the Center. Site plans were available describing the general layout. Refreshments were served to a sizeable group of interested community

residents,

Organizational Progress

June 30, 1998 Exemption from County Property Tax was approved October 1998 Insurance was taken out on the property

October 8, 1998 The TARA Building Fund was set up with the purchase of a \$10,000 Certificate of Deposit. (Funds were donated to TARA from the land sale.)

Financial Status 1998

Opening Balance	\$3758.27	Income
-----------------	-----------	--------

Interest	\$184.84
----------	----------

Cook Books	2974.50
------------	---------

Treas. Trail	2160.91
--------------	---------

T- Shirts	434.00
-----------	--------

July 4	198.65
--------	--------

Donation	10,000.00
----------	-----------

Total	\$15952.90
-------	------------

Expenses

TARA Ctr.	\$2793.20*
-----------	------------

Newsletter	108.20
------------	--------

Cook Books	1429.90
------------	---------

T-Shirts	710.80
----------	--------

Advertising	97.88
-------------	-------

Administration	83.75
----------------	-------

Investment \$10,000.00

Total \$15223.73

Net \$729.17

Closing Balance \$4487.44 Check. Acct

\$10000.00 Invest. Acct

*Building Purchase, Survey and Insurance

1999

TARA Center

A detailed site plan was developed positioning the park, the playground, the community center and parking.

Navajo State Park donated eight picnic tables and grills which were set up in the picnic area.

Playground equipment was purchased and installed by volunteers.

With the purchase of the temporary structure, work began in earnest. There was now going to be a home for the Community Library. Most of the restoration was done by volunteers. This started with the actual moving of the building. Pictures detailing this undertaking are available in the library.

To meet the building requirements of the County, foundation and tie-downs had to be approved. Work in the attic on ceiling beams and stabilizers was done according to specifications and County approval was granted.

The electrical work was donated by Bill Reed and Piedra Park Metropolitan Improvement District forgave the cost of the water meter.

Interior work such as ceiling painting and wall sealing had to be done. Another major restoration was windows and doors. Bob Dungan volunteered to do this carpentry and did a great job of installing the old historic windows in new frames and sills. It was just about finished when Bob, working alone, lost his footing, fell from the ladder and broke his arm. This was an unfortunate and sad ending to his generous contribution to this project.

With the completion of the structural work, progress on the interior moved forward. Shelving was purchased and put in place.

Dennis Schell designed and produced a stone sign TARA for mounting on the building. Sincere thanks went to all volunteers who helped with the various aspects of converting the old "bunkhouse" to a user friendly community library. A special thanks went to the young people in the area. When called upon for help they were always there for jobs such as maintaining the wooden playground equipment, helping with the auction, detail work in restoring the "bunkhouse" and whatever else was needed.

Community Involvement

The annual July 4 Parade included a TARA float for Veterans which was quite effective and would be a continuing feature. Local veterans enthusiastically participated. Flags and bunting made an attractive and patriotic addition.

This year the parade ended at the TARA Community Center. Mount Allison Volunteer Fire Department sold hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks as a fund-raiser for their operations.

Fireworks in the evening were sponsored by the San Juan Marina.

A Safe Halloween was added to the activities program and was held in conjunction with the Mount Allison Grange at the Grange Hall. Games, haunted house, apple bobbing, beanbag toss, cake walk and costume judging entertained young and old alike. An assortment of chiles, tortillas, hot chocolate and spiced cider served as a finale. It was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The TARA Newsletter was published and mailed.

Highway clean-up continued. It seemed to get easier every year since it is done on a regular schedule.

Fund-raising

The sale of cookbooks was completed- 324 books sold with a net income of \$2275

The sale of calendars which had been added as another source of income was less successful. Perhaps this was too soon after the book sale.

On September 11, an Arts and Crafts Fair and an Auction were held. This was a first time event and was quite a success. Larry Ashcraft was the auctioneer under a large rented tent and provided a good sale and a lot of entertainment.

Other items of note

A TARA banner was designed and produced for use at the various activities.

A tape recorder was purchased to be used in the oral history project,

TARA applied for a Raffle License. This was denied because an organization must be incorporated for five years before being eligible to apply. TARA would be eligible in June 2002.

Special projects to be studied

A proposal was introduced to provide a half-court basketball court at the Center. This will be considered. The young people were asked for input.

It was suggested that a time capsule be prepared ready to be placed when the permanent structure has groundbreaking ceremonies. Also a suggestion to sell commemorative tiles as a fund-raiser for the building fund was proposed.

Organizational progress

Biennial Report to the State Corporation Commission was submitted through Bud Smith, TARA Attorney

Another \$10,000 Certificate of Deposit was purchased for the Building Fund. (Funds were donated to TARA from the land sale.)

Thank You! A volunteer dinner and social event was held at the Lone Wolf Restaurant at the end of the summer to express thanks to all those who have worked to make the season's programs a success.

Financial Status 1999

Opening Balance	\$4487.44
-----------------	-----------

Income

Interest	\$82.47
----------	---------

Cookbooks	261.00
-----------	--------

Treas. Trail	2040.00
--------------	---------

T-Shirts	146.00
----------	--------

Auction/Crafts	1867.50
----------------	---------

Safe Halloween	149.00
----------------	--------

Calendars	44.00
-----------	-------

Other	530.37
-------	--------

Donation	10,000.00
----------	-----------

Total	\$15120.34
-------	------------

Expenses

Administration	\$100.00
----------------	----------

TARA Center	3404.27
-------------	---------

Newsletter	121.00
------------	--------

Poster & Banner 271.92

Advertising 187.60

T-Shirts 564.00

Calendars 318.00

Auction (Tent) 100.00

Op. Exp. 456.90 (Water 6 mos. Elect. 3 Mos., Ins.)

Library 193.85

Investment \$10,000.00

Total \$15717.54

Net \$-597.20

Closing Balance \$3890.24 Check. Acct,

\$20,000.00 Invest. Acct.

plus interest

2000

The Library

With the installation of the bookcases, cataloging and shelving progressed rapidly. Several typewriters were in use while other volunteers were sorting and filling the shelves. Assisting in this effort was a young couple from Florida, Susan and Charles Hatfield, who were spending the summer at Pinon Park Campgrounds. Both had extensive backgrounds in the field of books and libraries, and gave generously of their time and expertise.

Furnishings for the library were begged, borrowed and purchased. A three shelf library cart, along with various office materials were donated by the Upper San Juan Library. A free standing card file, a small desk, several chairs and a table along with a couple of rugs were provided by TARA volunteers and friends.

Throughout the period of organizing and preparation several dedicated volunteers put in many hours. Special thanks go to Jeannie Mueller, Rose Helms, Darlene Morgan, Ginny Lamb, Ida Theys and Barbara Taborelli who continue to staff the library on a regular rotation.

Open House on September 16 marked the official opening of the TARA Community Library. Approximately 1500 books were on the shelves, covering fiction, non-fiction, childrens and young adults, southwestern fiction and history, biographies and more.

Hours were established: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. A questionnaire was developed to help in assessing the needs of the patrons.

A full page feature item, with pictures appeared in the Durango Herald which, in addition to announcing the opening, provided a bit of history of the building and the area.

Community Involvement

An Easter Egg Hunt was held for the first time About 50 youngsters participated. A coloring contest and a pinata were enjoyed by all. Baked products and books were on sale and breakfast burritos with drinks rounded out the morning. This was TARA's way of saying Thank You to the community-a time to give back a little!

The sixth annual Independence Day Parade was held in conjunction with the State Park, San Juan Sailing Club and Friends of Navajo State Park. The parade ended at the TARA Center where hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks and, for the first time 3.2 beer was sold. The first annual Boat Parade in the evening was impressive. Fireworks were sponsored by the San Juan Marina.

The newsletter was proving to be a valuable tool for communicating with the TARA community and friends. It was agreed to include local advertising in future issues.

Fundraising

A Boat and Car Wash was held during the summer at the State Park with the young people providing the labor. Proceeds from the event (\$237.00) to go to the proposed basketball court.

The cost estimate for a one half court, materials and labor was about \$5000. TARA was told it is not eligible for a County grant.

The annual Treasure Trail was well attended with lots of booths, donations, food and books for sale. A Silent Auction was included which proved to be highly successful.

A suggestion was made that consideration be given to developing an 18 month seasonal photographic calendar, reproducing local scenes and points of interest in the TARA area. This was thought to be a readily saleable item to

residents as well as summer visitors.

Historical Development

An antique seed broadcaster was donated by Dennis and Melody Finn. It was made by Willard Seibel out of vintage 1930 Model T Ford parts. It was hoped that a collection of antiques of this type will be accumulated to enhance the appearance of the TARA Center and further preserve the historic legacy of the area.

One of the sad moments for TARA volunteers was to see the old Section House demolished. Early dreams never did materialize but were replaced with progress of which TARA can be very proud.

Financial Status	2000
------------------	------

Opening Balance	\$3890.24
-----------------	-----------

Income

Interest	\$111.47
----------	----------

Cookbooks	266.00
-----------	--------

Treas. Trail	1298.70
--------------	---------

T-Shirts	133.00
----------	--------

Auction	600.00
---------	--------

July 4	1011.65
--------	---------

Donations	918.45 (Library)
-----------	------------------

Calendars 244.00

Easter 138.50

Car Wash 237.00

Memorials 45.00

Total \$5003.77

Expenses

Op. Exp. (Building) Newsletter

Supplies (Library) Administration July 4 T- Shirts Auction Car Wash Supplies TARA Center Other

Total \$486.00 Water & Electricity

145.44

700.56

83.00

360.12

313.20

68.75

60.00

1568.65 Storage shed, Insurance etc. 15.00

\$3800.72

Net \$1203.05

Closing Balance \$5093.29 Check. Acct.

\$20000.00 Invest. Acct plus Interest

2001

Community Involvement

The year started with the now annual Easter Egg Hunt. The youngsters seemed to welcome a change of pace after the winter season. It was a nice springlike day and was well attended.

Another popular event sponsored by TARA was the Independence Day celebration with the parade , the barbecue and entertainment for the younger set. McDowell's teeter float as well as Noriega's kiddie train provided lots of fun. David Snyder provided music during the barbecue. Burgers, brauts and 3.2 beer were on sale with other beverages available for all.

TARA's Veteran's float with Uncle Sam was one of the highlights. Twenty-five floats were entered.

A Safe Hallowe'en was held at the TARA Center with a big bonfire. Because of the many disease damaged trees in the area, TARA felt that providing the fire and inviting residents to bring their tree cuttings to burn was a SAFE Hallowe'en and responsible environmental improvement combined. The Mount Allison Fire Department was on hand for the controlled burn and joined in the festivities.

Chili, cider, hot chocolate, marshmallows and Stovers Candies were provided. Attendance was great, the fire was beautiful. Donations were accepted to be sent to the American Red Cross Program for September 11 Disaster Relief.

Two newsletters, Spring and Fall, were published. A questionnaire was included in the September issue which described the various ongoing projects as well as plans for the future, and a request for feed-back. The number of responses was disappointing. Maybe next time?

Fundraising

The many dedicated volunteers continued to work on all these projects with visions of a permanent structure in the not-too-distant future

The annual Treasure Trail has become an anticipated event for many in the community. It is not only an excellent fundraiser but it provides a means of recycling in a sense. Most people have accumulated items they no longer need or want. By donating them to the flea market, these items become valuable to purchasers who can use them. Among the valuable items which have been donated for sale include:

Paintings Lap Top Computer Furniture

Automobiles Player Piano Electronic Organ

This year, one of the features of the Treasure Trail was the Silent Auction where the young friends of TARA auctioned themselves as laborers to do chores for local residents. Money collected from this bidding was dedicated to the proposed basketball court. (\$175.00) Many other items were also included in the auction which is a lot of fun and profitable.

A second flea market was held in September to finish selling the donations from the earlier sale.

A Women's Fitness and Health Retreat was held in conjunction with Mercy Orthopedic and Sports Medical Department. This was a day long event held at They's Old Schoolhouse. Speakers, nature walks, and other related activities were on the agenda. It was one of the most successful fundraisers to date and at the same time provided a valuable community service.

A new fundraiser was the sale of Russell Stovers Candy tins. At a very reasonable cost to TARA they were sold as kid's treats for parties, school events and just to eat.

The Grant Committee (Kathy, Ida and Barbara) prepared information needed by a professional grant writer to get started this year on an application. It was later determined that a professional grant writer would not be used for the present and that the committee would submit the application.

Library Progress

Signs were purchased by TARA and installed by County Road Division on two county roads leading to the library. A sign was also attached to the building.

An American flag now waves on the library building during hours of operation. A copier was donated to the library for community use.

New windows and screen doors were purchased and installed. The original windows have been stored for possible future use and for their historical value.

During the summer months library visitors were invited to participate in a drawing to be held in October. All those with library cards were included. On October 27 eight prizes were awarded to some lucky card holders.

The library received an unexpected surprise when 3400 books were delivered from the Friends of Penrose Colorado Library. This was indeed appreciated. As space allowed, books were re-catalogued and shelved. The remainder were sorted, screened, reboxed and placed in storage until needed.

Because of lack of heat (the building has no insulation) the Library was regretfully closed from Thanksgiving until Spring. The home bound book service continued.

Oral Histories

Representatives from TARA attended the bi-annual Allison, Arboles and Tiffany reunion in Durango in September. This is a group of long time residents of the TARA area who have stayed in touch through the years and meet to socialize and recall days gone by.

It was a pleasure to visit with these folks (about 75 in attendance) and hear their stories. From this visit a new list of potential interviewees developed and several histories have already been recorded. Their recollections will provide living history of the TARA community.

Two of the folks who attended were Guy and Elizabeth Gilbert who provided a wealth of information about the TARA area as it used to be, including maps and other memorabilia. Guy Gilbert taught in the "Old Schoolhouse" now owned by Theys and which is used regularly for TARA meetings. The building was one of the several buildings from Old Arboles which were moved to present day Arboles when the lake went in. It was an historic moment when Guy visited the restored school building and recalled those earlier days.

Organizational Progress

Application for State Tax Exemption Certificate was applied for and received.

Periodic Report to the Secretary of State was completed by Bud Smith, TARA's Registered Agent.

December 31, 2001 TARA's IRS Advance Ruling Period ended. Notification will follow as to the permanent status.

Financial Progress

The following financial statement reports cash diverted from the checking account to purchase a \$5000 CD (3 months)

This brings to \$25,000 (plus interest) presently in the building fund.

This is a source of matching funds when one of the grant applications to be applied for is approved.

Thank You!

For the second year TARA organized a dinner and social event for the volunteers who have worked so hard for the benefit of TARA. This year it was held at Martha Ts Restaurant.

Financial Status 2001

Opening Balance	\$5093.29	Income
-----------------	-----------	--------

Interest	\$76.71
Memorials	103.00
Donations	360.00
Easter Egg Hunt	229.87
T-Shirt Sales	97.00
Ladies Fitness	900.00
Candy Sales	147.85
Treasure Trail	3698.63
Book Sale	6.80
Independ. Day	761.00
Hallowe'en	140.00
Total	\$6520.86

Expenditures

Operating	\$1080.20
Tax Filings	35.00
Newsletter	430.01
Easter Egg Hunt	187.59
Treasure Trail	191.31
Independ. Day	515.18
Library	232.55
Ladies Fitness	95.00
Candy	80.00
Donation	140.00 (Red Cross 9/11) Screens and Doors 491.23
Total	\$3478.07
Net	\$3042.79
Balance	\$8136.08

Certificate of Deposit Purchased \$5000.00

Closing Balance \$3136.08

2002

And so began the 10th year of TARA Historical Society @ Navajo Lake

Community Involvement

The customary Easter Egg Hunt was held on March 30. A beautiful day! About 45 youngsters came to search for eggs and enjoy the festivities. Older folks and parents also participated. Prizes and refreshments rounded out the program.

The Independence Day Parade had several different aspects this year. First there was the fire danger. Colorado had experienced its worst-ever drought with accompanying wildfires. The closest to Arboles and Allison was the Durango-Bayfield area, particularly Vallecito Lake and Resort. The disaster affected all residents and dampened the anticipation of usual summer activities. Severe fire restrictions were in effect.

The TARA board felt it important that trying to maintain normal activities as much as possible was in the best interests of the community, especially for the children.

The Tent! TARA was given a 40' x 60' tent by the Baptist Church. It had served them well before their new church was constructed. Tent raising was on June 22 to be ready for the holiday. Twenty volunteers assisted in the project. Due to the extreme heat that the area had been experiencing, the tent was a welcome relief. Another donation of two misters contributed to further cooling. This allowed folks to enjoy the barbecue and socialize after the heat of the parade.

The parade included a variety of floats and other entries. Abe Lincoln (John Diehl) surprised folks with a rare visit. He and his wife rode on the Veteran's float. Five fire trucks from Mt. Allison Fire Department brought up the rear and received a rousing applause from residents along the route.

Sadly, there were no fireworks due to the strict fire ban.

tfarailltakitimit

October Fest was celebrated on September 28. (It is often too cold in this area to wait until October.)

In past years this has been held in various neighborhoods but with community growth it had become too large for a private residence, so TARA volunteered to sponsor it under the tent. All residents and friends were invited - pot luck with TARA providing table service and beverages. It was a lively social gathering and set a precedent for future years.

Safe Hallowe'en was planned for October 30. Since the fire restrictions had been lifted, residents were looking forward to having the big bonfire again. Mt. Allison Fire Department was consulted and agreed to supervise the burn. Local residents were invited to bring tree cuttings to a designated area in the park. With the continuing beetle infestation and so many dead trees, burning was the best solution. Once again chili and all the fixings were to be served and a pumpkin carving contest was to be held.

Alas! Mother Nature intervened and the rains came.. .and the mud. The Hallowe'en Party had to be cancelled. However, at this point all residents were extremely grateful for the rain.

A summer newsletter was published with a new feature. For the first time advertising space was sold. This seemed a good way to promote local businesses and the price of the ads helped to defray mailing costs. (500 were mailed)

The newsletter provides one more way of connecting with local residents as well as friends and summer visitors. A case in point - after the mailing went out, one recipient now living in Hawaii, wrote a letter of thanks for learning about the organization and expressed his interest in what was being done. He included information about his family and their early life in the TARA area. An oral history by mail!

Special Projects

As an ultimate fund raiser but also a valuable contribution to the historical commitment of TARA, it was decided to undertake the publication of a book about life in the TARA area. There are a number of local writers in the area as well as some who might like to write but have never had the opportunity. Residents, including the young people were encouraged to contribute stories and pictures of living in rural America.

A TARA brochure was designed and printed telling the story of TARA - its objectives, its present needs and its future development plans.

An outside security light for the park was installed in the area near the tent and playground which allows evening use of the park.

Fund-raising

The annual Treasure Trail was held August 24 to coincide with TARA's 10th Anniversary Celebration. Once again residents sold their treasures, starting in Tiffany and continuing to the Arboles area. The various locations were identified with flags and signs along the highway. Maps were available for

help in following the "trail". Additional sales booths, including a Silent Auction, were set up around and under the tent.

In the evening a buffet dinner with drinks and music rounded out the celebration. The Silent Auction was closed and final bidders announced.

Drawing for door prizes was held and winners of the poker run and bean counting were also awarded prizes. A very busy day!

A raffle License for TARA was approved by the State in July and tickets went on sale at the August 24th celebration. All prizes were donated by friends of TARA. The drawing was held on October 30 in the library at the TARA Center. In applying for the license it is necessary to specify what the funds will be used

for and this must be reported as the money is used. TARA's designation of the funds was for improvements in the park and playground.

A new venture was the City Market Fund Raising Program. This involves signing up residents who agree to use their City Market card whenever they shop at the store. Ultimately, a percentage of these purchases is credited to

TARA and each quarter a distribution is made. This is a program made available to all non-profit organizations.

Notes of Interest

The Pagosa SUN published a feature article about TARA in recognition of its 10th anniversary, describing its origin, its continued growth and its plans for the future. The Sun had earlier this year done a series of historical articles

about residents and life in the TARA area in earlier times. These articles have been preserved in TARA scrapbooks.

TARA accepted an invitation to join the Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce.

It was agreed that this would help to increase public awareness of TARA and also certain benefits would be derived from this association.

Library News

The second year of the library was rewarding. The community continued their generous donations of books. Library patronage was gradually increasing. A selection of videos and a few large print books were now available. Residents were encouraged to take out extra books for winter reading, for the library, of

necessity must be closed during the cold weather. Homebound book program continued.

Historical Development

Gathering of oral histories and transcribing them is an on-going project. Residents were given greater insight into TARA's reason for being by a very unwelcome situation. Due to the severe drought, Navajo Lake was at its all time low. The remains of old Arboles could be visited and photographed. The foundations of various buildings could be identified. All the rich farm land which was inundated by the reservoir and now exposed by the drought presented an historical snapshot of what used to be.

More Historical Moments

Another chapter in history was unfolding for the TARA community. The Mt. Allison Fire Department served the area well for many years. With the population increase and the building of new homes in the area, this became of increasing concern to the residents as well as to the firemen.

After months of planning, negotiating, public meetings and voting, the Mt. Allison Fire Department was accepted as an inclusion to the Los Pinos Fire District in Ignacio.

This was a landmark decision as it addressed the problems of the area in regard to facilities, equipment and funding. A mill levy for operation and development would be on the ballot for the coming year.

Then for some bad news and some good news. 2002 as has been noted was

another year of the beetle. Infestation continued and trees died by the

hundreds. As soon as the fire ban was lifted residents were encouraged to cut

and burn diseased trees. In the Fall this developed into a community project. The State Park Management in conjunction with the Candelaria family agreed to have one or more community burns on the Candelaria property which abuts the State Park. Access would be through the State Park. TARA supported this effort and assisted in getting the information to all residents.

In this same year Navajo State Park celebrated its multi-million dollar major renovation. It was a massive undertaking but the results are spectacular. The community and the state can be proud of this accomplishment. Even with the lake at its low level, people visited, camped, admired and anxiously looked forward to its return to normal capacity.

Thus ended the first 10 years in the life of TARA. Enthusiastic volunteers continue to work and plan for the years ahead with emphasis on the historic purpose of TARA as well as the sense of community shared by all.

Collection and storage of relics, bits of history, photographs and personal recollections must proceed as plans for the Community Center, Library and Museum move forward.

Financial Status 2002

Opening Balance \$3136.08

Income

Interest \$41.58

Treas. Tr. 2855.55

Independ. Day 1210.75

T-Shirts 25.00

Easter Egg Hunt 334.05

Newsletter Adv. 170.00

City Mkt. Proj. 125.00

Raffle 476.15

Total \$5238.08

Expenditures

Operating Exp. \$1171.00

Admin. Exp 192.50

Newsletter 343.25

Easter Egg Hunt 192.70

Treas. Trail 596.69

Independ. Day 488.52

Library 51.26

Raffle 63.93

TARA Ctr. Impr. 447.38

Donation 100.00 (Fire Dept)

Flyers & disc 171.00

T-Shirts 299.28

October Fest 9.70

Vol. Dinner 20.00

Total \$4147.21

Net \$1090.87

Closing Balance \$4226.95

Ck. Acct \$3750.80

Savings 476.15

Certificate of Deposit Status 12-31-02 \$10,000 Pres. Value
\$12,076.66

#3129 Issued 10-6-98 12 mos.

#3153 " 1-5-99 6 mos 10,000 " 11,753.00

#3920 " 8-21-01 3 mos. 5,000 11 5,177.52

25.000 \$29,007.18

TOPICS DISCUSSED AND INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM MEETING 5/13/92: Proposed SCENIC BYWAYS connects into this site. OPPOSITION to the bypass by Paaosa Springs,

although Tribes want it for their casinos. There is also the factor of what the bypass will do to the wildlife in the area and should be considered.

This SITE is to be a HISTORICAL VILLAGE with emphasis on the RAILROAD and RESERVOIR.

A place for OUTDOOR DISPLAYS, Large group PICNICS, and ARTISAN SHOWS.

Utilities exist on site. Possible adding another train piece or pieces, such as a locomotive.

It is to have a STATIC EXHIBITION CENTER for displays of the Railroad, People and culture of the area, and the Construction of the Reservoir. The Exhibition Center wants to double as a COMMUNITY CENTER for 50 to 60 people, maybe 3 times a month. (With the renovation of the Visitor Center there will also be meeting space available for 50 to 60 people.) The exhibits will be a display of PHOTOS and ORAL HISTORY. Using the help of the COLORADO HISTORIC , SOCIETY and asking help from ti-J-PAGOSA JUNCTION to make these photos. The bar has photos of the railroad. Group needs to apply for GRANTS and look into having student internships to record the oral history. Possible done through VIDEO. To do this there needs to be a list of "Old Timers"

from all parties, T.A.R.A. and the Tribes. Suggestion of a possible reunion of these folks and have T.A.R.A. host the reunion on this site.

EXHIBIT CENTER needs immediate MAINTENANCE and SECURITY as well as aid long term upkeep of site and of goods. Interest in a vault for this purpose was expressed.

Group wants a way to make REVENUE. Need to come up with money making projects, such as an ANNUAL CRAFT SHOW, MEMBERSHIP FEES as part of support for this project and use of the site. HISTORIC VILLAGE could become a LIVING QUARTER for an ARTIST IN RESIDENCE or such, i.e. an Archaeologist, Writer, Railroad buffs, or possible use for Seasonal employees. These Residences

could provide workshops and generate some revenue. Might need work space in Exhibit/Comm. Center for these workshops.

Research needed as to USE of existing building and/ or REPLACING the building with an adobe structure for the exhibit center. Proposed idea to have a WORKSHOP to do the adobe construction of the new building.

T.A.R.A. wants to add a GAZEBO to the site for Weddings, Concerts, Family reunion picnics, etc.

A

proposal was put forth to work with U.C.D. to have students design and build the Gazebo with the community providing housing and materials.

Group interested in an AMPHITHEATER on this site for 50 to 60 people (could be larger) for evening shows of music, citizen speakers, etc. Acoustics were a concern. There is an amphitheater "next door," at the visitor center which is waiting for improvement funds.

Need to include all groups of the T.A.R.A. towns as well as the SOUTHERN UTES, APACHE and the JICARILLO, in decisions and the displays.

Member expressed interest in REGULAR and ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS, on doing a FLYER, developing a NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, working on getting the site DESIGNATED as part of the HISTORIC SOCIETY REGISTRY

There is considerable archaeological history around the reservoir. T.A.R.A. wants to de-emphasize this and EMPHASIZE more RECENT HISTORY.

Submitted by Assistant to Jon Schler.