

SALT MISSIONS TRAIL

WALK in the silent footsteps of the ancient Anasazi and Mogollon cultures, and discover the Salt Missions Trail. Trace the prehistoric trade routes through the ruins of Pueblo villages and the awe-inspiring mission churches of Abo, Gran Quivira and Quarai. Call them "Las Salinas", as the Spaniards did, for the lakes where Indians once mined their salt.

FOLLOW the mountains through the old Spanish Land Grant towns, deeded to loyal families for all time. Play in the National Forest and Wilderness-picnic or camp; hike, bike, fish, or ride. Smell the pine-studded forests, where fiery red maple and shimmering aspen meet brilliant blue skies. Hear the birds, the wind, the silence.

EXPLORE the land where pinto bean was king, her deserted depots and ghostly railbeds. Marvel at the eclectic folk art fantasy of Pop Shaffer. Experience New Mexico's beauty through the eyes of her artists and craftsmen.

GET YOUR KICKS...



TRAVEL the country's most famous highway, America's Main Street. Count the links in the chain that tied the east to the west: Cline's Corners, Moriarty, Edgewood, Tijeras, Albuquerque. Taste the past -- sweet pinons in fall, handmade tortillas, slow-cooked pintos and fresh-picked apples in mouthwatering pie.

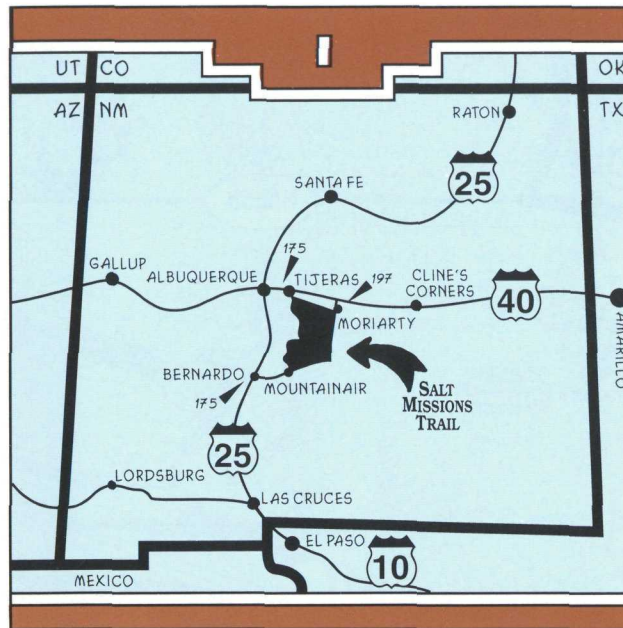
ENJOY the best New Mexico has to offer -- on the Salt Missions Trail!



For further information about sites along the trail, contact:

ESTANCIA PUBLIC LIBRARY: 1001 Highland, Estancia, 87016 • 384-2708
 MORIARTY PUBLIC LIBRARY: 201 Broadway, Moriarty, 87035 • 832-4406
 MOUNTAINAIR PUBLIC LIBRARY: 107 N. Roosevelt Ave. 87036 • 847-2321
 EDGEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY: East Route 66, Edgewood 87015 • 281-0138

Special thanks to Jo Moore, Wade Douglas, Georgia Overlander & Robin Spring for their invaluable assistance.



TO THE SALT MISSIONS TRAIL...

From Albuquerque/Gallup: Take I-40 East to Exit #175 (Tijeras)
From Tucumcari/Amarillo: Take I-40 West to Exit # 197 (Moriarty)
From Las Cruces/El Paso: Take I-25 North to Exit # 175 (Bernardo), then US 60 East to Abo Ruins (30 mi.), or Mountainair (39 mi.).
From Santa Fe: Take I-25 South to Exit #278A, then South on NM 14 (Turquoise Trail) to Tijeras.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact any of the information centers listed below.

- EDGEWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
P.O. Box 2228, Edgewood, NM 87015 • 505/281-9814
- ESTANCIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
P.O. Box 48, Estancia, NM 87016 • 505/384-2372
- MORIARTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
P.O. Box 96, Moriarty, NM 87035 • 505/832-4087
- MOUNTAINAIR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
P.O. Box 10, Mountainair, NM 87036 • 505/847-2888
- SALINAS PUEBLO MISSIONS NAT'L MONUMENT
Visitor Center - US 60 in Mountainair (1 block west of NM 55)
P.O. Box 498, Mountainair, NM 87036 • 505/847-2585
- SANDIA RANGER STATION • CIBOLA NAT'L FOREST
Visitor Center - NM 337 in Tijeras (1 mi. south of I-40)
11776 Hwy. 337, Tijeras, NM 87059 • 505/281-3304
- MOUNTAINAIR RANGER STATION • CIBOLA NAT'L FOREST
District Office - (West side of town, 2 blks. N. of US 60)
P.O. Box E, Mountainair, NM 87036 • 505/847-2990
- MANZANO STATE PARK
Route 2 Box 52, Mountainair, NM 87036 • 505/847-2820

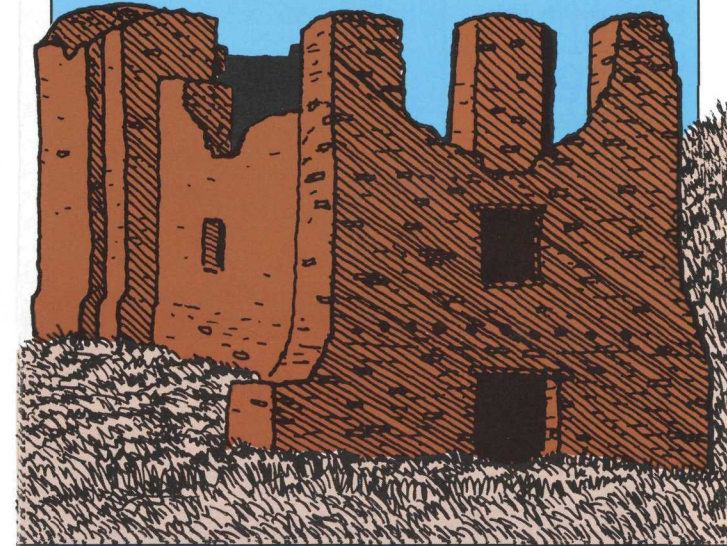


NEW MEXICO
 AMERICA'S LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

ANCIENT PUEBLOS • 360 YEAR OLD MISSIONS



SALT MISSIONS TRAIL



VISITOR INFORMATION

I-40 • CENTRAL NEW MEXICO • I-25

**MORIARTY • ESTANCIA
 MOUNTAINAIR**

TIJERAS • EDGEWOOD

SALINAS PUEBLO MISSIONS NAT'L MONUMENT
 CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST

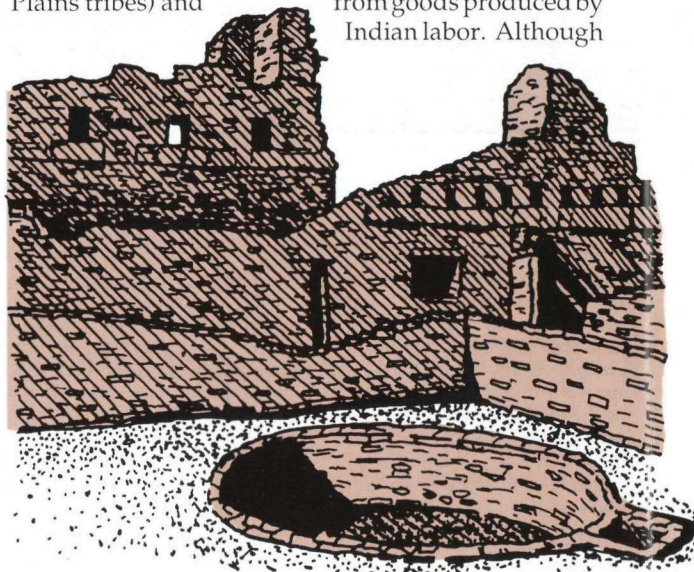


SALINAS PUEBLO MISSIONS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The roots of the Salinas Pueblos trace back 7,000 years to two ancient southwestern cultures that overlapped in the Salinas Valley. Until the tenth century, the Mogollon culture was dominant. Inhabitants lived in pit houses and later in adobe-plastered pole dwellings. By the late 1100's, Anasazi cultural influence was apparent, in the contiguous stone and adobe homes.

Between 1100 and 1500, the area became one of the most populous Pueblo trade centers, located astride major trade routes. Perhaps 10,000 people inhabited the area by the 1600's. They traded valuable salt from the Las Salinas Valley; and maize, pinon nuts, beans, squash & cotton goods from the Rio Grande Villages, for buffalo meat, hides, flints & shells from the plains to the east.

In 1598 Juan de Onate accepted formal submission to the Spanish King from the area's Indians. He called the valley's salt "one of New Mexico's four riches", but the other three never materialized. Relations with the Indians soured when soldiers attempted to collect tribute to the Crown; however Philip II, charged by the Pope with Christianizing the natives, maintained the colony. With insufficient natural riches, the governors relied on profits from the sale of slaves (from raids on Plains tribes) and from goods produced by Indian labor. Although



the Franciscans tried to lighten the burden on the Indians, they too, placed heavy demands on the pueblos to support the missions.

The Spanish colonization, epidemics of European diseases, strong influences from the Zuni, and deteriorating relations with the Apaches, radically altered pueblo life. Drought and widespread famine in the 1660's and 1670's killed 450 people at Gran Quivira alone. By the late 1670's the Salinas villages were deserted. The pueblos and their missions seem to have been abandoned very suddenly, causing them to be known as the "cities that died of fear".

QUARAI, the smallest of the three monuments, dates back to about 1300 AD. Its early Indian dwellers were farmers and traders. The village consisted of compact apartment complexes built around kivas. Between 1626 and 1628, Fray Juan Gutierrez arrived and began the conversion of this pueblo's 600 inhabitants in earnest. The church of La Purisima Concepcion de Cuarar (now Quarai), was built by pueblo women and children around 1630.

At the village of Punta del Agua ("point of water", for its natural spring) a road leads a mile west to Quarai. The mission ruins, with red sandstone walls five feet thick and forty feet high, are the most beautiful in the monument -- a breathtaking view amidst cottonwoods and the Manzano Mountain Wilderness.

ABO, located on a pass opening into the Rio Grande Valley, was a major trading center. Mogollon pithouse builders congregated in Abo around 1150 AD; their gray paste pottery dominated until it was replaced, around 1350, by the glazed painted pottery of the Anasazi. The colorful Abo ruins are on US 60, 9 miles west of Mountainair.

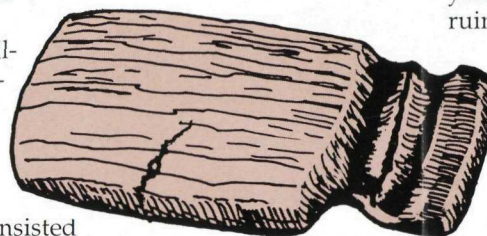
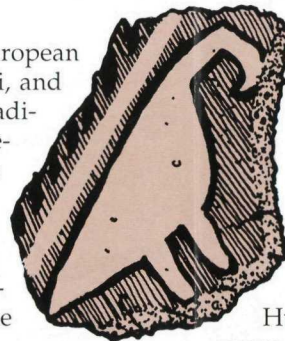
Larger than Quarai, with about 800 inhabitants, this ruin also dates back to the 1300's. Fray Francisco Fonte arriving in the 1620's, built a small church, then began work in the surrounding pueblos: Tenabo, Tabira and Las Humanas. Fray Francisco de Acevedo, arriving in 1629, enlarged the church of San Gregorio de Abo to reflect its importance as missionary headquarters. The church (completed in 1651) employs buttresses, making it one of the few surviving examples of medieval architecture in the U.S.

GRAN QUIVIRA, the Pueblo de las Humanas, was an important trade center for many years. It is the most extensive pueblo and mission ruins in the monument. The early pueblos (1200-1400 AD) were concentric circles with excellent masonry and mortarwork. The later pueblo (1550-1670) was built on the top of earlier rooms; its rockwork and masonry are decidedly inferior.

Fray Letrado, the first resident priest, stayed but two years in this pueblo of 1,500, establishing the Chapel of San Isidro. The next resident missionary, Fray Diego de Santander, did not arrive until 1659, so Gran Quivira was not under as much direct Spanish control as Abo and Quarai. His church, the mission of San Buenaventura, was never completed. The sprawling gray limestone ruins are 26 miles south of Mountainair on NM 55.

Exploring these magnificent pueblo ruins and impressive mission churches of stone that have stood abandoned for more than three centuries will be the highlight of your tour. These sites are administered as three separate units of the Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument.

THE MONUMENT HEADQUARTERS, on US 60 in Mountainair, serves as the information center, museum, and bookstore. Staffed visitors' centers at all three ruins sites have trail maps, books, displays, restrooms (some handicapped facilities), and picnic areas; open daily, except Christmas and New Years.



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SANDIA CREST
Each year, half a million people drive to the 10,687' crest on Sandia Crest National Scenic Byway, off NM 14. Another 250,000 take Sandia Tramway (world's longest single span) up from Albuquerque. Sandia Peak Ski Area, in the Nat'l Forest on the east side, usually runs Dec. - Mar.; scenic chairlifts from July 4 - Labor Day.

ALBUQUERQUE
Founded in 1706 by don Francisco de Cuervo y Valdes and colonists under Spain's King Felipe V, the city was named for the Duke of Albuquerque. Early settlers clustered their small adobe homes around a plaza and their church, San Felipe de Neri, still standing at the hub of "Old Town".

TIJERAS
The Tijeras passage, between the Sandia and Manzano Mountains, was the Anasazi gateway to the Rio Grande Valley. There is a buried Indian pueblo with 80 rooms and a large kiva behind the Tijeras Ranger Station; it was occupied from about 1300-1450 AD. The station has interpretive displays and tours of the ruins. There are restaurants, convenience stores & campgrounds in & around Tijeras.

CIBOLA NAT'L FOREST SANDIA DISTRICT
Area facilities, off NM 337, include a 200-unit reservation campground at Cedro Peak; Oak Flat and Deadman reservation picnic grounds; & Pine Flat rest stop. Sandia District also manages picnic areas on Sandia Crest National Scenic Byway, & a visitors' center atop the Crest. Maps, info at the Ranger Station, south of Tijeras.

SPANISH LAND GRANTS
The old Spanish land grant villages of Chilili, Tajique, and Manzano. 17th century Indian pueblos & mission churches at Chilili and Tajique have vanished without a trace. Also gone are stone towers (torreons) that once stood in Torreon & Manzano to protect settlers from attacks by Plains Indians. The Tajique Institute of Fine Arts features monthly exhibits.

MANZANO STATE PARK
Manzano Lake and Manzano State Park offer trout fishing and camping. The park has a group shelter, a playground, horsebacker's gate, trailer dump facilities & 48 picnic/camping sites, some with electrical (incl. one handicapped site). One of the oldest apple orchards in the United States overlooks Manzano Lake. "Manzano" means apple in Spanish.

MOUNTAINAIR
Founded in 1903 by three Kansas men in anticipation of the "Belen Cut-off", its boom began after the shortcut's completion in 1908. Homesteaders planted beans and the town became "The Pinto Bean Capital of the World"--cleaning, storing & shipping the valley's beans. The bean era ended in the drought of the 50's; ranching is now the mainstay. Climate, mountain views & recreational opportunities attract people year-round. Local & P.R.C.A. rodeo Mar.-Sept.

SHAFER HOTEL & RANCHO BONITO
One block south of US 60, at NM 55, the Shaffer is a hotel and restaurant once again. Built in 1923 by Pop Shaffer as lodging over his hardware & implement store, Pop's eclectic hotel and Rancho Bonito (1 mi. S on NM 55) are on the National Register of Historic Places, representing New Mexico's largest collection of American Folk Art Environmentalist work.

TURQUOISE TRAIL
Winds along the Sandias' east side, thru Cedar Crest and three revived ghost towns. The first gold rush, west of the Mississippi was at Golden. Cerrillos once had 21 saloons & 4 hotels for the miners who took gold, silver, lead, zinc & turquoise from the surrounding hills. Madrid, once a coal mining town, is now a haven for artists, crafts persons and thirsty travelers seeking an old-fashioned soda fountain.

EDGEWOOD
The 1937 re-routing of Route 66 (to east-west here) caused the growth of towns like Edgewood. Historic 66 is 1/4 mile south of I-40. Business along 66, I-40 and NM 344 include: restaurants, a 100-unit RV park, local crafts, and a museum with an extraordinary military helmet collection. There are riding stables on Old 66 west of town.

MORIARTY
Established in 1887; named for an original homesteader. Settlers were dryland farmers; today you see pivot irrigation rigs and alfalfa, feed corn, wheat, pinto beans, pumpkins, and other crops. The New Mexico Central depot was completed in 1903; traces of the old railroad remain. Moriarty has a museum, 212 motel rooms, 10 restaurants, 2 truck stops, bowling, bingo & dancing. New Mexico Soaring Club bases here & "Brothers 3" (Sherlock Holmes Society) meets annually (Nov).

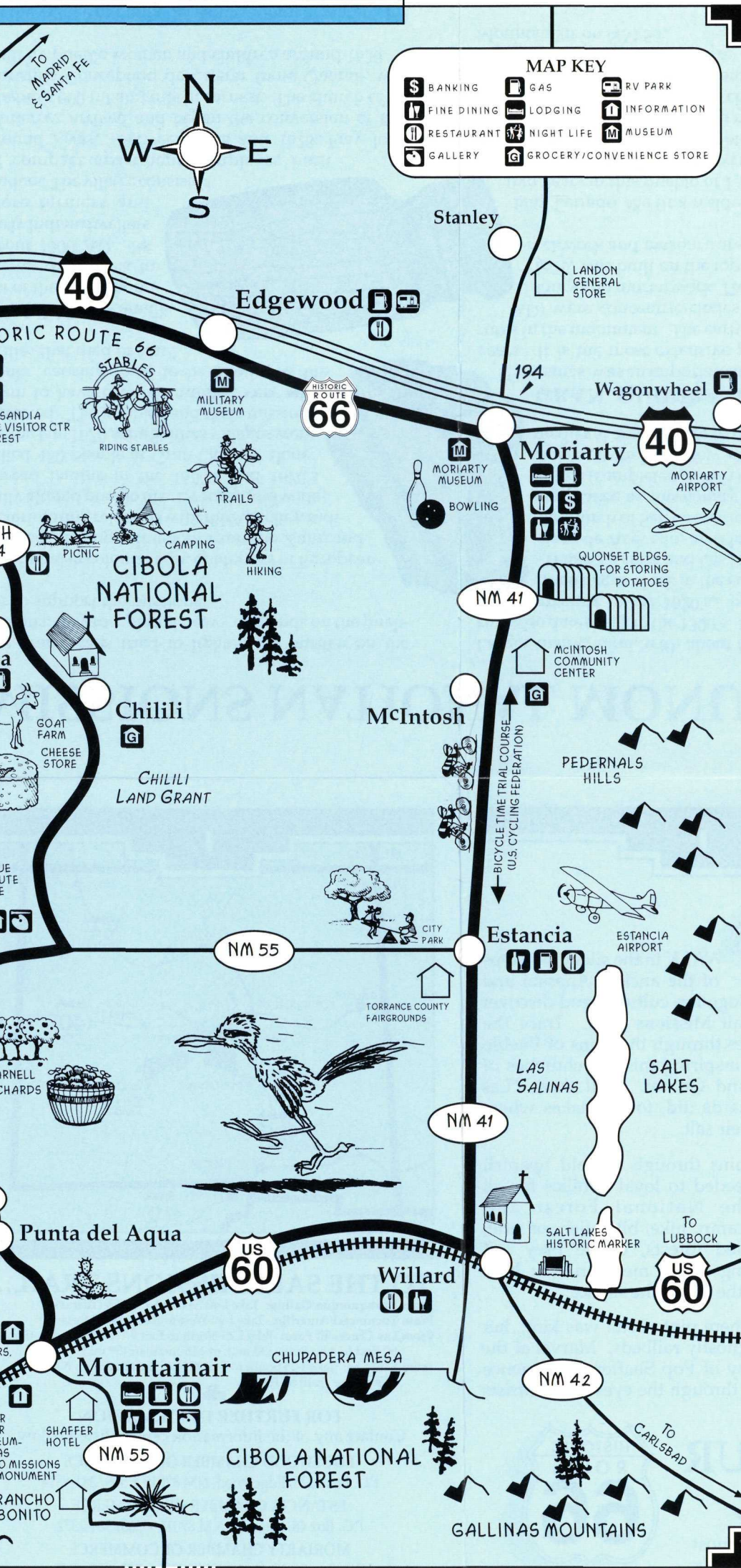
STANLEY
Little remains of the once-thriving farming community, but Landon Store -- one of the last general stores, complete with antiques, old bottles and kitchen implements. Owner Dan Sowles buys & sells antique barbed wire and has a collection at the Smithsonian Institute. (Closed Sun.)

WAGONWHEEL
Originally a stop for covered wagons, this is still a traveler's oasis. Wagonwheel Texaco has received letters from across the country, praising their honesty and professionalism.

CLINE'S CORNERS
Built at the crossroads of Old Route 66 and US 285, Cline's Corners is now a focal point for I-40. Food, gas, and a huge gift shop serve 250,000 travelers yearly.

MCINTOSH
Named for a Scottish sheep rancher, an 1880's settler, this was once a bustling railroad community. Check out the McIntosh Grocery, on the old highway east of NM 41. The United States Cycling Federation time trials course on 41 is considered the nation's fastest. Starting 3 miles south of Moriarty, the 20 km turnaround is near McIntosh; the 40 km near Estancia.

ESTANCIA
Laid out in 1902, when the railroad between Santa Fe & Willard was being built, it means "resting place" in Spanish. A natural spring that provided travelers with water for centuries was tapped for railroad shops and steam engines. The cottonwoods that shade the streets and parks draw water from the same source. Torrance County Fairgrounds hosts rodeos & the County Fair (Aug.).



GRAN QUIVIRA RUINS
The most extensive pueblo and mission ruins in the monument, 26 miles south of Mountainair on NM 55. The visitors' center has artifacts on display, & a 40 min. film on the excavation.

CIBOLA NAT'L FOREST MOUNTAINAIR DISTRICT
There are six developed campgrounds this side of the Manzanos, and 100 miles of hiking and horseback trails. Fourth of July Canyon is known for fall color and cross country skiing; Red Canyon for its mountain bike trails. Hawkwatch International uses spectacular Capilla Peak to view hawk & eagle migrations. Maps, info on wildlife, fishing, etc. at the District Office, 2 blks. N. of US 60 on the west edge of Mountainair.

THE RAILROAD
The tracks were built in 1908 as part of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe's "Belen Cut-off", to shorten the trans-continental route. In the first part of the century, surrounding fields were pinto bean farms.