

New Mexico History Timeline; 1912-2012 Statehood Centennial Steering Committee

1912

- On January 6, President William Howard Taft signs New Mexico's statehood bill, making New Mexico the 47th state in the Union
- New Mexico's first state governor, William C. McDonald, is inaugurated
- New Mexico's first congressmen and senators are sworn into office in Washington, D.C
- "Lola" Chavez de Armijo, State Librarian since 1909, wins gender discrimination suit before New Mexico Supreme Court, thereafter allowing women to hold appointed office
- Santa Fe begins on path as "the city different" as the Palace of the Governors is renovated and Edgar L. Hewett holds an exhibition on the "New-Old Santa Fe
- Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, styled after the Alhambra in Granada, Spain, is dedicated in Santa Fe

1913

- U. S. Supreme Court rules that Congress has authority over Pueblos similar to that for other tribes and can prohibit the introduction of liquor into "Indian Country";
- New Mexico adopts general design of Territorial Seal as its official state seal;
- first issue of *El Palacio* magazine (first museum magazine in the U. S.) is issued;
- the Society for the Preservation of Spanish Antiquities is incorporated under the leadership of former Governor L. Bradford Prince
- fifteen separate railroads are operating in New Mexico

1915

- Taos Society of Artists is formed
- first New Mexico chapter of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded

1916

- Pancho Villa's Mexican revolutionaries conduct raid on Columbus, New Mexico, later pursued into Mexico by General "Blackjack" Pershing and his U. S. Army troops, including some from the New Mexico National Guard
- Bandelier National Monument is named after anthropologist Adolph F. A. Bandelier
- Elephant Butte Dam, the second largest irrigation dam in the world, opens

1917

- Art Gallery of the Museum of New Mexico opens (later the Museum of Fine Art, now the New Mexico Museum of Art)
- Nina Otero-Warren is elected to be Superintendent of Public Schools in Santa Fe, making her the youngest Superintendent in the State
- "O Fair New Mexico," by Elizabeth Garrett, is adopted as state song

- New Mexico National Guard is activated for service in France as U. S. enters World War I

1918

- Influenza hits New Mexico, as many as 5,000 may have died, Josephine Cox Anderson, the “Angel of Pecos,” leads nursing care effort in Carlsbad, not losing a single patient
- Maria Montoya Martinez and husband Julian Martinez of San Ildefonso produce their first successful black-on-black pot
- the Los Alamos Ranch School is founded by Ashley Pond
- USS Battleship New Mexico is christened

1919

- Santa Fe Fiesta is revived under the leadership of Edgar Hewett and the School of American Research/Museum of New Mexico
- Mabel Dodge Stern (later Lujan), wealthy banking heiress, moves to Taos and attracts many artists and writer, including D. H. Lawrence, to join her “salons”

1920

- New Mexico becomes one of the last states to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, giving women voting rights

1921

- Oil is discovered in northwest New Mexico
- Albert Fall, U. S. Senator from New Mexico, is appointed as U. S. Interior Secretary by President Harding
- Santa Fe’s *Los Cinco Pintores* holds their first exhibit (at the Museum of Art in Santa Fe)
- Meta L. Christy graduates as the first woman and first African-American osteopath, later establishing a lifelong practice in Las Vegas, New Mexico

1922

- First Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial is held at Gallup
- first Indian Market show in Santa Fe is held as Southwest Indian Fair under auspices of School of American Research/Museum of New Mexico
- first New Mexico radio station, KOB, begins transmitting
- Soledad Chacon is elected as New Mexico Secretary of State and Isabel Eckles as Superintendent of Public Instruction, becoming the first women to hold statewide office in New Mexico
- Harriet Belle Amsden Sammons becomes the first woman bank president (First National in Farmington) in New Mexico;
- the Colorado River Compact allocates 7.5 million acre-feet of water from the upper basin states of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico

- All Indian Pueblo Council begins official operation and soon testifies in Congress against the (New Mexico Senator Holm) Bursum bill, which would have legitimized land claims of non-Indians on Pueblo lands but is defeated
- teenager J. Robert Oppenheimer visits New Mexico for the first time

1923

- Fred Harvey's El Navajo Hotel, designed by Mary Colter, opens in Gallup
- first issue of *New Mexico Highway Journal* (later *New Mexico Magazine*) is published

1924

- Gila Wilderness is established in southwest New Mexico with more than 550,000 acres
- Pueblos Lands Act recognizing Pueblo land rights is passed by U. S. Congress

1925

- Spanish Colonial Arts Society is founded in Santa Fe by Mary Austin and Frank Applegate;
- Zia symbol flag design is adopted as new state flag
- "Indian Detours" operating out of La Fonda in Santa Fe are established as a tourist service by the Fred Harvey and Santa Fe Railroad companies

1926

- Route 66, the "Mother Road," is designated as Chicago-to-Los Angeles route, goes through Santa Fe;
- Fred Harvey Company leases La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe, hires Mary Colter and John Gaw Meem to redo it
- Spanish Colonial Arts Society organizes first Spanish Market
- Zozobra is created by artist Will Shuster for the Santa Fe Fiesta

1927

- Willa Cather's *Death Comes to the Archbishop* is published

1928

- Oil is discovered at Hobbs, setting off a boom in the New Mexico "Oil Patch"
- John Philip Sousa publishes the "New Mexico March"

1929

- Transcontinental Air Transport plane crashes on Mt. Taylor
- Georgia O'Keeffe visits New Mexico for first time
- Blackwater Draw near Clovis is recognized as important early human occupation site, later becomes "type site" for the "Clovis" culture, long regarded as the oldest in the Americas

1930

- Carlsbad Caverns made National Park

- Robert Goddard arrives at Roswell, begins pioneering rocket experiments
- Clyde Tombaugh of New Mexico State University discovers the “planet” Pluto (in 2006 reclassified as a “dwarf planet”)

1931

- Laboratory of Anthropology opens on what is now “Museum Hill” in Santa Fe

1932

- Pojoaque Pueblo and its culture are revitalized by 14 tribal members, including Feliciano Tapia Viarrial, a leader and matriarch in the Pueblo for many decades following
- Dorothy Dunn establishes “The Studio” at Santa Fe Indian School, teaching many who subsequently became well-known artists

1933

- New Deal art and public works programs begin
- White Sands National Monument is established
- Bottomless Lake State Park, first state park built with the help of the Civilian Conservation Corps

1935

- Robert Goddard launches first powered vehicle to exceed speed of sound
- U. S. Senator-elect Bronson Cutting dies in airplane crash, opponent Dennis Chavez appointed to seat
- New Mexico becomes known as the “Land of Enchantment”
- Congressional legislation establishes Indian Arts and Crafts Board
- artifacts, erroneously believed to be about 25,000 years old, are found in Sandia Cave

1938

- Paving of Route 66 from Chicago to LA is completed, new road from Santa Rosa to Albuquerque bypasses Santa Fe
- first New Mexico State Fair opens in new location in Albuquerque after being shut down since 1917
- Patrociño Barela, wood sculptor from Taos, is hired by the Federal Art Project and shortly after his works are shown at the Museum of Fine Art in Santa Fe

1939

- U. S. Congress passes the Hatch Act prohibiting federal employees from engaging in partisan political activities; Act is named after Senator Carl Hatch of New Mexico

1940

- Georgia O’Keeffe purchases home at Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu

- Coronado State Monument, New Mexico's first, is dedicated as part of the 400th Anniversary of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado's entry into New Mexico

1941

- Concha Ortiz y Pino de Kleven, first elected to the New Mexico legislature in 1936, becomes House Democratic Majority Whip, first woman to hold such position in the U. S.
- Agnes Morley Cleaveland publishes *No Life for a Lady* about her life growing up on a ranch near Datil
- Albuquerque Army Air Base renamed Kirtland Field

1942

- N.M. National Guardsmen captured at Bataan in the Philippines, about half of the 1800 New Mexicans die before end of the war in 1945
- Holloman Air Force Base established near Alamogordo and Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis
- Navajo members of the 382nd Platoon, U. S. Marine Corps, establish secret code, become known as "Code Talkers"
- USS Santa Fe (CL-60), a Cleveland class light cruiser, is launched

1943

- Manhattan Project site on "the Hill" at Los Alamos is established
- 109 East Palace in Santa Fe and its administrator, Dorothy McKibbin, welcome Manhattan Project newcomers to New Mexico
- Santa Fe Japanese internment camp is established
- José P. Martinez, a Taos native who dies fighting in the Aleutian Islands, is the first Hispanic Medal of Honor recipient in World War II
- New Mexico gets a second U. S. Congressional Seat, filled by Antonio M. Fernández (other Congressman is Clinton Anderson)

1945

- First nuclear explosive device ("atomic bomb") detonated at Trinity
- nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, lead to first official reports of secret activities on "the Hill"
- White Sands Proving Ground (later White Sands Missile Range) established
- about 100 German rocket engineers and scientists arrive at Fort Bliss, the beginning of U. S. Army rocket programs at White Sand
- New Mexican Bill Mauldin wins Pulitzer Prize for his World War II cartoons and reporting
- "Z" Division, located at Kirtland Field and part of the Manhattan Project, becomes known as Sandia Base

1946

- Georgia Lusk becomes first New Mexico woman to be elected to U. S. Congress;
- USS New Mexico is decommissioned

1947

- Roswell unidentified flying object (“UFO”) incident occurs, debris found on Foster Ranch near Corona attributed later by authorities to a secret weather balloon program
- Laboratory of Anthropology in Santa Fe merges with Museum of New Mexico
- Dr. Clayton S. White helps to establish Lovelace Medical Center in Albuquerque
- Ruth Hall, amateur paleontologist, discovers dinosaur fossils at Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu, New Mexico

1948

- Pueblo people win the right to vote after suit against state of New Mexico, inspired by war veteran Miguel Trujillo from Isleta
- KOB-TV becomes the first television station between the Mississippi and the West Coast

1949

- Georgia O’Keeffe moves to Abiquiu
- the Chaparral Bird (Roadrunner) is named the New Mexico State Bird
- a V-2 WAC-Corporal fired at White Sands, New Mexico becomes the 1st rocket into outer space and reaches 400 km

1950

- Town of Hot Springs changes its name to Truth or Consequences after popular television series
- uranium is discovered near Grants by Paddy Martinez
- bear cub later named Smokey is rescued after being badly burned in a fire in the Lincoln National Forest

1951

- U. S. Air Force B-36 crashes near Kirtland Air Force Base, killing 23 crewmen

1952

- Blake’s Lotaburger in Albuquerque becomes one of first restaurants to add green chile to cheeseburgers

1953

- Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe is opened, after major donations of funds and collections by Florence Dibell Bartlett
- Hiroshi Miyamura, a native of Gallup, receives Medal of Honor for action in Korea in 1951

1954

- *Salt of the Earth*, a film version of the 1951 strike against a zinc mining company in Grant County, is released
- Fabiola Cabeza de Baca Gilbert’s book, *We Fed Them Cactus*, is published

- John Donald Robb, composer and Dean of the College of Fine Arts at UNM, publishes *Folk Songs of New Mexico*

1955

- Taos Ski Valley opens, founded by Ernie and Rhoda Blake

1956

- New State Penitentiary opens south of Santa Fe
- Buddy Holly makes his first recording at Norman Petty Studio in Clovis

1957

- Los Alamos, still owned by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, opens its gates to the public
- Santa Fe Opera opens, founded by John Crosby
- school segregation is outlawed by New Mexico statute but few schools were affected as few were segregated

1958

- Famed movie producer Mike Todd and three others die in the crash of his plane, the “Lucky Liz”, in Zuni Mountains

1959

- The “State Records Center” is established in Santa Fe, taking over the archival responsibilities previously held by the Historical Society of New Mexico
- running back Don Perkins becomes University of New Mexico’s second football All-American

1960

- First sections of Interstate 40 in New Mexico completed (Quay County)

1961

- Atomic Energy Commission’s Project Gnome carries out first underground nuclear detonation in salt dome near Carlsbad with objective of peaceful applications

1962

- Institute for American Indian Arts is established at the campus of the Santa Fe Indian School
- Teresa Hernández serves her first “Frito Pie” at Woolworth’s in Santa Fe

1963

- *La Alianza* is incorporated by Reies Tijerina to focus on Hispanic land-grant rights under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

1964

- First Navajos, Monroe Jymm and James Atcitty, are elected to state legislature

1965

- Gubernatorial terms changed from two years to four years, Governor and Lt. Governor to be elected as a combined party team;
- Rio Grande Gorge Bridge is completed

1966

- New State capitol, the “Roundhouse,” is dedicated;
- *La Alianza* proclaims the “Republic of San Joaquin de Rio Chama” and occupies Echo Amphitheater in the Carson National Forest;
- University Arena (the “Pit”) opens at University of New Mexico in Albuquerque;
- the 2.7 mile Sandia Peak Tramway, longest in the world at the time, opens in Albuquerque, New Mexico

1967

- Tierra Amarilla Courthouse is attacked by group led by Reies Tijerina to free *La Alianza* prisoners
- first Film Commission in U. S. is created in New Mexico
- first album by Alberto Nelson Sanchez (aka Al Hurricane, the “Godfather of New Mexico Music)” is released
- Daniel Fernandez, a native of Albuquerque, receives posthumous Medal of Honor for action in Vietnam in 1966
- New Buffalo, first “hippie commune” in New Mexico is founded near Taos

1969

- New Mexico Constitution Review Committee meets, adopts changes later to be rejected by voters
- Manuel Luján, Jr. is the first Hispanic Republican in the U. S. House of Representatives
- Lenton Malry becomes first African-American state representative
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish introduces oryx into the Tularosa Basin, intending them to be hunted for sport
- N. Scott Momaday is awarded Pulitzer Prize for *House Made of Dawn*

1970

- President Nixon signs Congressional legislation returning Blue Lake and 48,000 acres of surrounding land to Taos Pueblo
- the historic Alvarado Hotel in Albuquerque is razed
- “The Blessing Way,” first of 18 Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee mystery novels taking place on the Navajo Reservation is published by Tony Hillerman

1971

- “Asi es Nuevo Mexico”, by Amadeo Lucero, is adopted as official state Spanish language song
- Amtrak rail passenger service begins in New Mexico after taking over from the ATSF and Southern Pacific

1972

- Rudolfo Anaya publishes *Bless Me, Ultima*

1973

- Albuquerque International Balloon Festival begins
- Governor Bruce King creates the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women

1974

- The first antenna of the Very Large Array west of Socorro is put into place
- NuMex “Big Jim” green chile developed at New Mexico State University is introduced, becomes immediately popular

1975

- Bill Gates and Paul Allen establish first “Micro-Soft” office in Albuquerque to work with Bill Roberts and his Altair computer, later register name “Microsoft” with the New Mexico Secretary of State
- Mescaleros’ Inn of the Mountain Gods resort opens near Ruidoso

1976

- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center opens in Albuquerque, operated by the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico
- International Space Hall of Fame opens in Alamogordo, later to be the New Mexico Museum of Space History

1977

- John Pinto, trained as a Navajo code-talker, takes seat as a New Mexico State Senator, a post in which he still serves

1978

- Nancy López from Roswell wins the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tournament
- the Hispanic Cultural Center Act creates the National Hispanic Cultural Center, which opens in Albuquerque in 2000

1979

- Albuquerque Museum completes a new facility near Old Town Plaza

1980

- N. M. penitentiary riot takes place as inmates take guards hostage, 33 inmates die
- fossilized bones of perhaps the longest dinosaur yet found, *Seismosaurus* (Earth Shaker), are found south of San Ysidro
- New Mexican Tony Sandoval wins the U. S. Olympic Marathon trials, but U. S. boycotts the following Moscow Olympics

1981

- Interstate 40 is completed in New Mexico
- Jemez runner Al Waquie sets record in Pike's Peak marathon, one of his many mountain running victories

1982

- Space shuttle Columbia lands at White Sands Space Harbor

1983

- New Mexico gets a third U. S. Congressional seat, filled by Bill Richardson (other two are Manuel Luján, Jr., and Joe Skeen)
- North Carolina State and coach Jim Valvano win the NCAA basketball championship game in the Pit (University Arena) in Albuquerque

1984

- Mary Coon Walters becomes the first woman New Mexico Supreme Court Justice
- the Santa Fe Institute is founded as a nonprofit research and education center specializing in the interdisciplinary study of complex systems

1986

- New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science is founded in Albuquerque
- Lechugilla Cave, a few miles from Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, is discovered, it is the 5th largest cave in the world and the deepest in the continental US

1987

- Georgia O'Keeffe dies at age 98 in Santa Fe
- Museum of Indian Arts and Culture opens in Santa Fe, incorporating the Laboratory of Anthropology as a unit of the Museum of New Mexico

1988

- Farm and Ranch Museum opens in Las Cruces, later becomes the Bruce King New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Center
- the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, N.M. is completed. It received its 1st shipment of nuclear waste in 1999

1989

- "Land of Enchantment" by Michael Martin Murphy is adopted as official state ballad

1990

- "Dave's Dream", an award-winning lowrider 1969 Ford LTD from Chimayo, is acquired by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History

1992

- The International UFO Museum and Research Center opens in Roswell, New Mexico

- USS Santa Fe (SSN-763), a Los Angeles class attack submarine, is launched

1993

- First Hantavirus outbreak known in U. S. occurs in the Four Corners area

1995

- Governor Gary Johnson signs gaming compacts with eleven Tribes, and casinos begin operating
- the Taos Talking Pictures Festival begins operation
- “New Mexico - Mi Lindo Nuevo Mexico” by Pablo Mares is adopted as official state bilingual song

1996

- Ted Turner purchases the 588,000-acre Vermejo Park Ranch from Pennzoil Corporation
- “Red or Green?” is adopted as the official state question
- Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe is acquired by the Burlington Northern Railway, forming the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company

1997

- Georgia O’Keeffe Museum opens in Santa Fe
- Sandia Laboratories ASCI Red is rated as world’s fastest supercomputer, a position it held until 2000

1998

- Ed Romero of Albuquerque is appointed U. S. Ambassador to Spain
- New Mexico celebrates cuartocentenario, 400th anniversary of the first Spanish settlement at San Gabriel del Yunque,

1999

- Don Imus, national radio show host, opens a 4,000-acre ranch in northern New Mexico to help sick children experience cowboy life
- WIPP near Carlsbad opens and receives its first shipment of radioactive waste

2000

- Cerro Grande fire leaves thousands homeless in Los Alamos, more than 400 homes are destroyed
- Valles Caldera National Preserve is established in Jemez Mountains
- UNM All-American Brian Urlacher is drafted by the Chicago Bears

2001

- Revenue sharing agreement with eleven gaming Tribes settled

- Zuni Hotshots assist with rescue efforts at the World Trade Center site in New York following tragic attack on September 11; Alfred Marchant from Alamogordo dies in the second plane crashing into the “Twin Towers”
- Piñon trees begin dying in Arizona and New Mexico due to drought

2004

- Influential New Mexico Representatives J. Paul Taylor and Max Coll retire after a combined 49 years of service;
- first International Folk Art Festival takes place in Santa Fe
- Black Eagle Drum Group from Jemez wins Grammy Award for Best Native American Music Album

2005

- St. Francis Cathedral in Santa Fe is elevated to Basilica status
- San Juan Pueblo officially changes name back to Ohkay Owinghe, “Place of the Strong People”
- R.C. Gorman, Navajo artist, dies in Albuquerque, NM
- State of New Mexico and Virgin Galactic, the British company created by entrepreneur Richard Branson to send tourists into space, announce an agreement to build a spaceport

2006

- Esther Martinez (P’oe Tsawa), an educator and storyteller from Ohkay Owinghe, is named a National Heritage Fellow, but tragically dies at the age of 94 in an auto accident on her way home from the Washington ceremony
- Luis Jimenez, world renowned artist, is killed in his Hondo, New Mexico studio, while hoisting pieces of a massive mustang sculpture (now at Denver International Airport) for final assembly
- New Mexico Rail Runner Express service begins between Albuquerque and Belen

2007

- New Mexico Rail Runner Express service begins to Santa Fe
- Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico, officially joins the race for the Democratic presidential nomination

2008

- Engineers at Los Alamos National Laboratory and IBM Corp. unveil the world's fastest supercomputer, named Roadrunner

2009

- Death penalty is abolished in New Mexico
- New Mexico trainer Bennie Woolley Jr., and Mine That Bird win the Kentucky Derby;
- former New Mexico Gov. Bruce King (85) dies
- the New Mexico History Museum, contiguous with the Palace of the Governors, opens

2010

- Susana Martinez is elected as the first woman governor of New Mexico and the first Hispanic woman governor in the U. S.
- USS New Mexico (SSN-779), a Virginia-class attack submarine, is christened;