

Life in New Mexico During the 1920s



Life on the East Coast



Life was moving along rapid pace on the east coast of the United States.

Population in 1920

New York	10.3 million
New Mexico	360,000



The Great Depression on the East Coast



- ☞ New York was the capital of finance for the U.S.
- ☞ Since New York had the most powerful banking industry, this especially affected New York and its surrounding states.



Cont.



☞ Nearly 200,000 New Yorkers were kicked from their apartments as they could not pay rent. Nearly 64 percent of construction workers were laid off in New York.



Natives



☞ Natives in New Mexico are fighting to hold on to their own culture, but by the 1920s are finding that harder to do. With increased pressure to place their children into Indian Boarding Schools, many children are growing up away from their families.



Native Boarding Schools



Spanish/Mexican



By the 1920s, the Spanish had been living in New Mexico for approximately 300 years. Once the aggressors that had tried to push their culture onto others, they now found themselves in a position of having to fight to maintain it.



Anglos/ Americans



As Americans/Anglos came in from the east, conflict would result. Both Natives and Spanish had been using sheep as a primary source of food. The sheep's wool was also used for clothing, rugs and blankets.



Cattle vs. Sheep



During the late 1800s many of the Anglos would see New Mexico's eastern plains as a good place to raise cattle. As they brought in their cattle, it would slowly force the sheep herders off of the land.



Changing times



Although New Mexico has a unique culture, it was undergoing changes just as the people were on the east coast. Some fashion would be adopted and more cars would make their way into the southwest.



New Deal Efforts in NM



- Various sectors of the economy were targeted with specific programs including ones aimed at reviving arts and crafts production, bolstering small scale agriculture and stock raising as well as gainfully employing the states youth.



Taos Art Colony



The Taos Society of Artists:

Rear: Walter Ufer, W. Herbert Dunton, Victor Higgins, Kenneth Adams
Center: Joseph H. Sharp, E. Martin Hennings, E.I. Couse, Oscar E. Berninghaus
Front: Bert Phillips, Ernest Blumenshein
Photo courtesy of Robert Parsons





RUIDOSO, N. MEX.



