

# I never knew that!

## .....CORRALES CHRONICLES

Did you know that the first artist to move to Corrales came to New Mexico originally to seek his fortune by prospecting for gold? He worked near Laguna and, fortunately for us, did not find gold but fell in love with New Mexico instead. **Willard Andrews** was the prospector who put his shovel aside and spent his career successfully celebrating New Mexico and its people with his paintings.

Andrews was born in Colorado in 1898, educated at University of California–Berkeley, and later worked as an illustrator in California. He left California to prospect in New Mexico, but soon moved into Albuquerque and got a job at Ward Hick Advertising Agency where he worked for the rest of his life. His illustrations of New Mexico life appear on many tourism publications and he also painted murals for the Hilton Hotel. Several of his paintings are in the New Mexico State Capitol Collection.

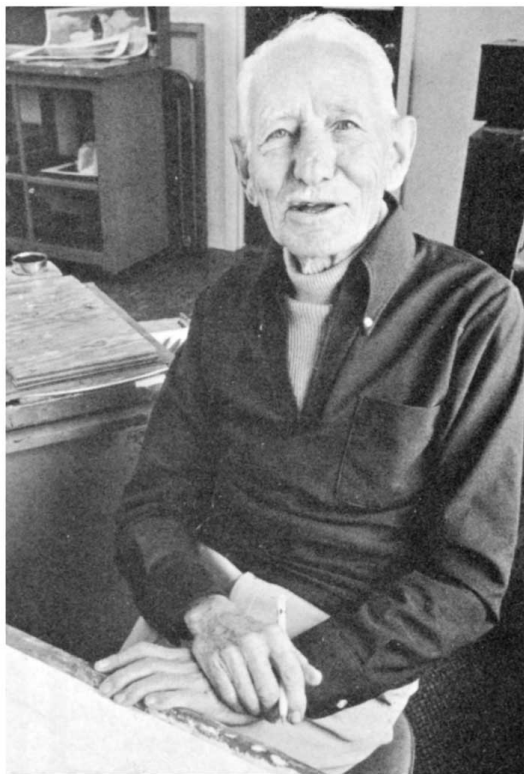
His last home was in Corrales where he died in 1989. In 1949 he had built a cement block house by the Corrales Drain Ditch on what was

later called Andrews Lane. The house still stands, although much expanded. Sue Campbell was a neighbor of Andrews (“everyone called him Andy”). She described him as “dapper” and “very meticulous” about his house. She recalled

that he was generous with his time and helped Sue with her irrigating, sharing his ditch board. He also built a tree house for Joe and Grey Howell who lived at the end of the lane. In 1975 Andrews was ready to participate in a Corrales art center proposed by David Dale, but unfortunately it never became reality.

His paintings—almost all of New Mexico scenes and people—are available to see and purchase at a number of galleries on the internet. Many of his illustrations for the New Mexico Tourism Department can be seen at [nmplates.com/TourismPublications.htm](http://nmplates.com/TourismPublications.htm).

*Information provided by Corrales Historical Society (CHS) Archives Committee. New members are always welcome.*



*Willard Andrews. Photograph from New Mexico Magazine, July 1982*

