New Mexico's Best Energy Value
Southwest Regional Office Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Southwest Regional Office building of the National Park Service is on a site of just over eight acres at a bend in Old Santa Fe Trail.

The Spanish Pueblo Revival-style building is an adobe structure of 24,000 square feet, built with an irregular plan around a central patio.

The layout and room configurations are romantically reminiscent of a mission compound. The architecturally dominant section of the building is two stories in height and houses the impressive entrance, the lobby, and the upstairs offices. The remainder of the building is one story.

The foundation of the main building is stone. The battered adobe walls vary from 3 to 5 feet thick and are finished with cement stucco. The flat roof is edged with parapets and drained with canales that extend out from the exterior walls. The roof is supported by vigas (peeled-log roof beams) and hewn-squared beams. Floors in the lobby, conference room and portal are flagstone. Posts supporting the roofs above the portal are peeled logs capped with decorative corbels and hewn lintels.

The main entrance into the building has double doors flanked by massive buttresses, again mimicking Southwestern mission structures. The doors each have 12 inset panels, sandblasted and marked with saws to appear as if they had been constructed with primitive tools.

This attention to fine detail is evident throughout the structure. A large hewn lintel spans the opening above the door, leading into the lobby. Important features of the lobby include the impressive hewn beams of the ceiling; the hammered-tin chandeliers that light the cool, dark space; the hand-carved furniture of Spanish-Pueblo Revival design; and the lighted painting of Stephen Mather (first director of the National Park Service) that hangs in the lobby. The lobby is a most impressive entrance. The conference room and the offices are less imposing spaces. The high ceilings of the conference room, again embellished with tin chandeliers, receive natural light through the French doors. The pale finish of the massive hand-carved furniture contributes to this lighter feeling. The doors open to a portal and a small patio. Upstairs is the office of the Regional Director, the architectural details — exposed vigas, corner fireplace, 2-foot window sills and decorative details including Navajo rugs and furniture — give the room its feeling of importance.

Other amenities incorporated into the building’s design contribute to its appeal. The patios, for instance, are roofless rooms that exemplify the indoor-outdoor quality of this style of architecture. The focal point of the central patio, for example, is a small pool (complete with carp). The pool, along with the planters are all edged with bancos (built-in benches).

The entire building is richly textured with moveable and built-in decorative elements: hand-built furniture and hammer-and-tin fixtures of Spanish-Pueblo Revival design. The furniture and light fixtures were designed by architect Cecil Doty to complement his architectural design of the building. The furniture is of mortise-and-tenon construction with spindles carved in spiral designs. Major pieces are the conference room tables and chairs, which Doty patterned after some drawings of early New Mexican furniture in the Palace of the Governors. The hammer-and-pierced tin lights are all electrified and vary in size from large chandeliers in the main lobby to small one-bulb lanterns in the portal.
The Right Time and The Right People By John E. Cook

The footings were already being dug, yet the Washington office had not yet approved the building plans.

Due to budget restrictions, any contracts or materials costing more than $1,000 required Washington approval. The furnace somehow came in at $999. (The connections were contracted separately from the fixtures.)

It was 1938. The Old Santa Fe Trail building was under construction. The CCC camp budget ceiling of $25,000 had long been expended, yet the timbers for vigas were still needed. The Hyde Park CCC group working on the ski lodge and river rip-rapping hauled some extra logs one day. Mysteriously, the logs found their way to 1100 Old Santa Fe Trail.

It was that kind of time. It was that kind of people. It was that kind of building. In those days, there was a will to make commitments; there was a willingness to take risks. There was Herb Maier. There was Cecil Doty. There was Connie Wirth. They came together, these three, in different meetings, gab sessions, phone calls, arguments, disputes, discussions, compromises, agreements and combination of dreams. Out of this pot boiler of men came three, in different meetings, gab sessions, phone calls, arguments, disputes, discussions, compromises, agreements and combination of dreams. Out of this pot boiler of men came three, in different meetings, gab sessions, phone calls, arguments, disputes, discussions, compromises, agreements and combination of dreams.

Perhaps he knew even then, that the description would stand up not just for the West but for the entire United States. Who can figure Herb Maier hiring Cecil Doty, a little-known architect, as a clerk for $1,140 a year just to get him on the payroll? Did he already sense the unflappable Doty would someday construct a trail of signature buildings across the western panorama?

It was a big decision in the 1930’s to move the whole regional office from Oklahoma to New Mexico, and our records don’t tell us why relocation was necessary. What we can observe is that a dogfight ensued about which city in New Mexico was going to inherit the green and gray, Santa Fe or Albuquerque! We know nearly all the Oklahoma City bunch voted for Albuquerque. Herb Maier and Harvey Cornell stood their ground for Santa Fe.

In retrospect, one employee was heard to say, it was a “good thing. If we had gone to Albuquerque, we wouldn’t have had anywhere to go. Now we can always go down to Albuquerque.”

In reading the books of memory written by many of the early NPS movers and shakers, it really does seem the agency was able to attract individuals of outstanding talent, people of vision who would establish a theme of visual quality seldom, if ever, equalled in or out of government.

I feel privileged to have known some of these men: Tom Vint, Lyle Bennett, Ken Sounden, Connie Wirth, William Mott, Cecil Doty and many others. I still keep in touch with Doty at his Walnut Creek, Calif., home — but what 1, and millions of unknowing park visitors, most appreciate about Doty are his lasting contributions to the visual quality of our national parks. One need only visit such crown jewels as Montezuma Castle National Monument, Walnut Canyon National Monument, Wupatki National Monument, El Morro National Monument, Chiricahua National Monument, Deetl Valley National Monument, Zion National Park and Olympic National Park.

In my case, having attended grammar school in a Doty building in Grand Canyon National Park in the 1940’s, I especially can relate to the architect’s contributions. He designed the Visitor Center and visitor centers in each of these places that exist today; many already have been registered as historical landmarks. Doty stressed “the emphasizing of local materials, and environmental harmony” and today we reside in the Southwest Regional headquarters building of the National Park Service, a structure Doty was most proud of.

Interestingly enough, there had been no real discussion regarding the pueblo style of the building. Doty and Maier were both of the same mind; in fact, Doty had not yet been to Santa Fe when he did the preliminary drawings in his Oklahoma City office. Later, in July 1937, Doty and a young draftsman, Dick Thompson, completed the architectural designs out of their rooms at the El Fidel Hotel.

The completed building received international renown, but Doty gave Herb Maier full credit for its existence. In an exclusive 1985 interview he said, “... that building could not have existed under any other regional director except Herb Maier. It couldn’t have happened at any other time. Six months earlier and it was too soon. A year later and it was too complicated, and it would never have gotten off the ground.

It had to happen at that time under Herb Maier ... or it would never have been built.” History is like that.
Golden Anniversary Staff
Southwest Regional Office Staff — National Park Service

Congratulations

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James Ridenour Named 13th NPS Director

On April 17, 1989, Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan appointed James M. Ridenour to be the Director of the National Park Service. A native of Indiana, Ridenour becomes the 13th National Park Service Director since its creation in 1916.

Ridenour will be responsible for 354 National Park System sites ranging from Acadia National Park in Maine to War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam.

Ridenour comes from the staff of Purdue University. The 47-year-old Hoosier Republican spent 8 years as Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Ridenour lost that job when the Democrats won the gubernatorial seat last November.

"Jim Ridenour has demonstrated superior management skills in very ably carrying out the many and diverse responsibilities required of the Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources," Lujan said. "I am delighted that we will have not only his management skills but his commitment to protecting the environment available to us as we move to meet the challenges of the next century."

In Indiana Ridenour managed the state system of parks, forest, reservoirs and fish and wildlife areas. He was also responsible for state museums and memorials, historic resources, coal mine reclamation and protection of Indiana's soil, forests, water and wildlife.

Ridenour called his appointment by Secretary Manuel Lujan to lead the National Park Service, "an honor and a privilege." "I do not expect to make major changes in the way our National Park System is managed. 'Fine-tuning' might be the phrase that most appropriately describes the role I see for myself as director," he added.

Ridenour has strong praise for previous directors — including his predecessor, William Penn Mott, Jr. Ridenour said the Directors "have upheld the record of outstanding leadership and commitment to the American public, to our nation's heritage, and to the men and women of the National Park Service. I am proud to take my place among that distinguished list of leaders."

Before taking the Indiana position in 1981, Ridenour was Director of Administration for the Great Lakes Chemical Corp. From 1975 to 1978 he was Director of State Services for the Council of State Governments.

Ridenour was born in Wabash, Indiana and holds bachelor's and masters degrees in Parks and Recreation from Indiana University. He also earned a masters degree in public administration from the University of Colorado. He and his wife, Ann, have two children.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTORS

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Period of Service</th>
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<td>05/16/17 to 01/08/29</td>
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<td>Horace M. Albright</td>
<td>01/12/29 to 08/09/33</td>
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<td>Arno B. Cammerer</td>
<td>08/10/33 to 08/09/40</td>
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<td>Newton Drury</td>
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<td>Arthur B. Demaray</td>
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<td>Conrad L. Wirth</td>
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<td>George B. Hartzog, Jr.</td>
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<td>Ronald H. Walker</td>
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<td>Gary F. Everhardt</td>
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<td>William J. Whalen</td>
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<td>William Penn Mott, Jr.</td>
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<td>James M. Ridenour</td>
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Santa Fe artist Steven Richard Boone has completed an oil on canvas of the Southwest Regional Office.

Commissioned by the National Park Service, Boone's 30x54 painting will be unveiled during Golden Anniversary ceremonies June 30.

Steven Boone was born in Chicago, Ill., on May 13, 1952. He spent his youth growing up in Washington, D.C., where he began to draw and paint. Even at an early age, Boone displayed his artistic talents, winning several awards in city-sponsored high school art competitions. In 1970 he began study at New Mexico State University as a fine art major.

In 1973 he transferred to Maryland Institute, College of Art in Baltimore, where he studied all the art disciplines and graduated with a degree in painting in 1976.

The bold, open spaces and magnificent clear light again drew Boone back to northern New Mexico. After a brief stint in Taos, Boone moved to Santa Fe, where he now lives with his wife and two daughters, working full-time as an artist.

Subjects for painting abound around Santa Fe recalls Boone. "Old adobe houses with tin roofs, rutted dirt roads, brilliant azure skies and majestic mountains dotted with pinon and aspen trees provide rich colors and unique forms to catch an artist's eye," commented Boone. Boone characterized his art as: "Painting requires my total effort. I find I experience a full range of emotions as I paint, from the time I set up the untouched white canvas in front of me to the time the piece is 'finished,' I go from despair to triumph. The satisfaction I feel is being in the process."

The public is invited to attend the June 30 unveiling, which starts at 7 p.m. The painting is part of the National Park Service's Golden Anniversary commemoration, June 27-July 1.

Posters of Boone's work will be available for purchase and signing by the artist.
Official

Anniversary Program

50TH ANNIVERSARY
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1100 OLD SANTA FE TRAIL
JULY 1, 1989
2:00 P.M.

Posting of Colors - New Mexico National Guard

National Anthem - Daniel Murphy
National Park Service, Division of Interpretation

Welcome - Melody Webb
Chair, Golden Anniversary Committee

Master of Ceremonies - John E. Cook
Regional Director
Southwest Region

Invocation - Reverend Leo E. Lucero
Vicar General
Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Remarks - U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator Pete Domenici
U.S. Representative Bill Richardson
Mildred Blanche, Regional Director,
National Conference of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni

Special Remarks - James Ridenour
Director
National Park Service

Recognition of Honored Guests - John E. Cook

Keynote Address - Robin W. Winks
Randolph W. Townsend Professor of History
and Master of Berkeley College
Yale University
Benediction

Retiring of Colors - New Mexico National Guard
Reception immediately following ceremony
Rob W. Winks, this year’s keynote speaker, is the Randolph W. Townsend Professor of History and Master of Berkeley College at Yale University.

He has taught there since 1957. Professor Winks has been Chairman of African Studies, Southwest Asian Studies and Canadian Studies at Yale, and has served on a wide variety of university committees concerned with decision making.

He holds his bachelor’s degree with high honors, from the University of Colorado, master’s degrees from Colorado, Yale, and the University of New Zealand, and his Ph.D., with Distinction, from the Johns Hopkins University. He has been awarded honorary degrees by the universities of Nebraska and Colorado, is a full Fellow of the Explorers’ Club, and has twice been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. He is a recipient of the Edgar Award.

Professor Winks has traveled and lectured widely abroad, in more than 100 countries, often for the U.S. Information Agency and the Department of State. He has helped negotiate a variety of educational exchange agreements, and he served as Cultural Attaché to the American Embassy in London.

He remains a member of the American Foreign Service Association and of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers. His principal substantive interests are race relations, the use and diffusion of power, decolonization and world stability and conservation.

He was author of Eric Sever-ied’s Between the Wars, has written frequently for television here and in Britain, and has appeared often on talk shows, most recently on Good Morning America.

He has written 16 books on a variety of subjects, his most recent book — published in the United States and in a British edition — Cloak & Gown: Scholars in the Secret War, is a best seller. He has led a number of seminars for a variety of corporate, academic, and governmental groups, including the U.S. Information Agency, Yale’s School of Organization and Management, and the National Park Service.
I like a challenge, and that’s what this was. Getting this building back in the hands of the Park Service was a bureaucratic challenge of working through many different offices to come to a conclusion.” John Cook, 53, director of the National Park Service’s Southwest Region, has been meeting challenges head on since his late teens when he starred as a rodeo rider. “Sometimes it was literally head on,” he laughs, poking fun at himself as he pulled out an old yellowed newspaper. “CALIFORNIA BULL BEATS ARIZONA COWBOY” said the headline. “You couldn’t tell from the photograph that it was me, but there I was standing on my head, and this Brahma Bull that had thrown me is out there stomping.”

Thirty years ago the tobacco-chewing, 6-foot-2 bull rider cut a swath on the Southwestern rodeo circuit. Now a high-powered Park Service executive based in Santa Fe, he oversees 38 national parks in six states and almost a thousand employees.

The adobe office at 1100 old Santa Fe Trail that has been declared a National Park in its own right is where Cook rides herd on a local staff of 187 specialists in biology, history, archaeology and architecture. His mandate covers 38 parks in Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas.

A bit heavier and grayer than in his rodeo days, Cook goes to the office in cowboy books and bolo ties, the Western gentleman’s working attire.

His management style is firm but friendly. “I like to generate enthusiasm. I like to have people sitting on the edge of the chair. We have very few timid souls here,” he grins.

Cook was born in Williams, Ariz., the “country of red rock and blue sky” close to Grand Canyon National Park where his father worked. “Mule skinner” was the job description for his first post with the Park Service at Saguaro National Monument in Arizona. For a few years he mixed seasonal NPS jobs with stints as ranch hand and rodeo cowboy.

Nowadays, he walks with a hint of stiffness, testimony to the stainless steel rods in his leg from rodeo days. “I kept tearing up one leg and one shoulder. But I had fun. And it paid. I paid for my college education myself.” He earned enough for classes at Northern Arizona University, where years later he received the Distinguished Citizen Award.

He rose rapidly through the Park Service bureaucracy at Chaco Canyon Navajo National Monument, Yellowstone and Canyon de Chelly.

Now the father of two grown children, he lamented that, “Neither one of our youngsters ever had the opportunity to leave home. Our lifestyle has been such that home has left them.”

He talks passionately about projects going on in his region. “Tending to the parks is much like being a grandparent — you always talk about the one that’s on your knee.”

Although he says it’s unlikely there’ll be any large acquisitions of land in the Southwest for the Park Service, many smaller areas are being negotiated for inclusion and protection, such as sections of El Malpais near Grants, N.M.

One of this continuing interests, he says, is the Ridley turtle project at Padre Island National Seashore, where the ancient breeding grounds of the turtle are being protected; for the first time in years the turtles are returning to their natal beaches to lay eggs.

Although Washington has looked him over and beckoned, Cook is happy staying in Santa Fe.

“Right now I’ve got the best job in the Park Service,” he insists.
The stock market crash October 1929 triggered the greatest economic depression the world had seen.

In response to the crisis, President Franklin Roosevelt established a number of relief agencies. By the end of his first 28 days, on March 31, 1932, Roosevelt signed legislation for emergency conservation work, later known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The workload was divided among several entities. The Department of Labor handled the recruitment of unemployed men between 17 and 25. The U.S. Army supervised the CCC camps, as well as transported and conditioned the new enrollees. The U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service provided work projects, including forest fire suppression, reforestation, road and trail building, landscaping and construction of recreational structures.

To achieve his promise of 250,000 men in camps by August 1933, Roosevelt personally chose labor activist Robert Fechner to head the CCC. Though he collided often with recently established agency heads, Roosevelt supported him in his efforts to consolidate and centralize the CCC until Fechner died in 1940. Enrollment included four categories. Most of the recruitment centered on unemployed youths, but blacks, American Indians and veterans of World War I also joined the CCC. The National Park Service greeted the CCC program with enthusiasm. By July 1, 1933, 34,000 youths were enrolled in 1972 camps in 35 states. Using NPS designs and technical expertise, much of the CCC work went into developing new state parks. Heading up the state parks program of the CCC was Conrad L. Wirth.

Chief Planner of the National Park Service, Wirth was a big, bluff and shrewd administrator. Although a landscape architect, he was dedicated to the park ethic. His programs dwarfed those of his peer, the Chief Forester, whose responsibilities he eventually absorbed. With master plans and development designs for a six-year period, the National Park Service and Conrad Wirth put the CCC boys immediately to work.

In 1937, under the oversight of Conrad Wirth, CCC Co. 833 (SP-1), based in Santa Fe, began construction on the only regional office headquarters specifically designed and built for the National Park Service. Company 833 had approximately 200 enrollees, whose camp was commanded by Lt. Clarence Martin. Superintendent James R. Dooley directed the work projects, including the construction of the Southwest Regional Office Building.
The patio of the Southwest Regional Office

The Southwest Regional Office Building: Why It Is Important

The National Park Service Southwest Regional Office Building is the largest known adobe building and one of the largest secular adobe buildings in the United States. The building is a masterpiece of Spanish-Pueblo Revival architecture, ranking among the best examples in the Southwest. The building illustrates the National Park Service design principles set forth in the 1930s—use of on-site or locally available materials, harmony with the surrounding landscape, strong ties to local architectural traditions, and the appearance of having been constructed by native craftsmen using primitive tools. This design ethic, which its practitioners called “rustic architecture” is evident in the site plan, architectural plan, furnishings, and fixtures.

Although the building's primary significance is architectural, three other aspects of regional significance are worth noting. First, the building is a keystone in the administrative history of the National Park Service. The expansion and reorganization of the system in the 1930s brought about the need for a central office in the Southwest and triggered its construction. The structure is the only building constructed by the National Park Service for a regional office—all other regional office spaces have been leased. The building is still used for the purpose for which it was designed.

Second, the building holds an outstanding art collection in addition to the furnishings and fixtures constructed as part of the work program. The collection, primarily acquired through emergency relief funds, includes significant examples of Pueblo pottery, Navajo rugs, and oil paintings and etching by members of Santa Fe's art colony of the 1930s.

Third, the building stands as a monument (and still a source of civic pride) to the hundreds of local young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) who cut and shaped the timbers, formed the thousands of adobe bricks, and erected the building, and to the skilled workers of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) who put in the mechanical systems and contributed other aspects of the finished product.
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“The Southwest Regional Office Building: The People Who Built It”

(1) Herbert Maier, second from left, was instrumental in providing the working model, known as “rustic architecture,” for structures in national parks. Although Historical Architect Cecil Doty designed the Regional office, the building clearly bore the imprint of Maier. Also shown are Charles Gable (far left), Tom Boles (second from right), and Hugh Miller (on right). This view is taken inside the patio in 1939, George Grant photographer.
Anniversary Salutations

Mr. John Cook
Regional Director
Southwest Regional Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 728, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dear Friends and Employees:

It is an honor and a pleasure to join with you in commemorating the Golden Anniversary of the National Park Service Southwest Regional office. We pay tribute to the dedication and hard work of Park Service employees, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and community citizens who have made this such a memorable event.

The theme of the Golden Anniversary — \"Bridging Cultures Through Wood and Earth\" — demonstrates the strength and quality of the people who designed this magnificent structure of those basic materials and, of the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps who constructed the building.

For a half century now, the men and women of the National Park Service have worked inside the massive walls of the Southwest Regional Office, carrying out the core missions of the National Park Service — to preserve and conserve our Nation's most significant cultural and natural resources. The Southwest Regional Office building is one of the nation's outstanding cultural resources. It's distinctive, Spanish-Pueblo Revival architecture has earned prestigious acclaim as a National Historic Landmark.

The Southwest Regional Office is certainly symbolic of \"Bridging Cultures Through Wood and Earth.\" It reflects the federal, state, and private sector partnership formed in 1937 to turn an idea of a Regional Office in Santa Fe into reality. Today, this spirit of partnership still exists as the National Park Service, veterans of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and Santa Fe residents have melded to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of the Southwest Regional Office.

James M. Ridenour
Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Park Service Office being in residence at its present location at 1100 Old Santa Fe Trail.

This building and the Park Service, recently recognized by the New Mexico State Legislature for achievement in cultural and historic preservation, is an asset to the immediate environs as well as to the City of Santa Fe. The adobe structure is not just an edifice, housing offices with employees, but a source of civic pride because of the significant architectural characteristics it exhibits.

I wish you a most successful commemoration ceremony, but even more than that, continued service of at least 50 years more at 1100 Old Santa Fe Trail!

Pete V. Domenici
United States Senator

Congratulations on the wonderful job you have accomplished in maintaining the Southwest Regional Office of the National Park Service for the past 50 years. This building is truly an outstanding example of traditional Spanish Pueblo Revival architecture.

The Park Service is to be commended for preserving the original design of the project which was originally built by local young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Again, congratulations on this very special occasion.

Sincerely,
Bill Richardson
Member of Congress

Thank you for your thoughtful invitation to participate in the commemoration of the first 50 years that the National Park Service has occupied its Southwest Regional Office Building on Old Santa Fe Trail. I am delighted that I will be able to join you on that occasion, and I share your view that the history, age, and architecture of the building merit special recognition. While not the most visible or accessible of Santa Fe's structures, it is certainly one of those most faithful to traditional southwest style. That it serves those who manage and protect our magnificent park adds to its luster. I am glad that the building is in caring hands, and I wish you many more decades of appreciative occupancy.

Sincerely
Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator