

Annual Report 2019



In this Annual Report, we want to present the work of LUSA and Legerete USA as a 501.c.3 non-profit organization created for the US promotion and preservation of the historic, cultural and technical equestrian heritage that is Philippe Karl's Ecole de Legerete.

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The Ecole de Légèreté-What is it?

The Ecole de Légèreté is an educational organization founded by Philippe Karl in 2004 to pass on his philosophy and methods. His school preserves the rich techniques, culture and history of academic and artistic dressage of France while incorporating scientific advances in equine biomechanics and ethology. The school's life blood is the extensive experience, education, artistry, passion, and teaching insight of its founder.

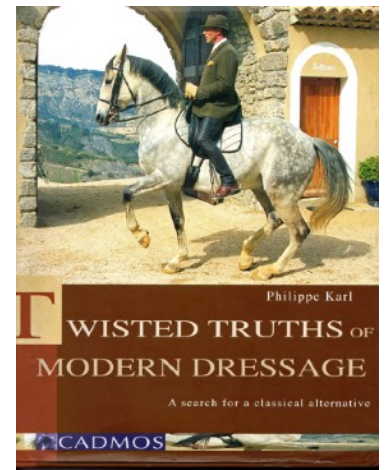
In 2013, the first two Teachers' Courses were held in Pennsylvania and New Mexico officially bringing the Ecole de Légèreté to the US for the first time. Two locations have become three: Pennsylvania, California and Idaho. There are three Teachers' Courses held each year, 4 days in duration to educate the Teachers in Training toward licensure.

The course in Pennsylvania is full with reserve riders, the course in Idaho (the newest location to open) has 4 openings for Teachers in Training, and the California location is nearly full with several looking to ride for Mr Ravoux in the spring of 2020. The US Teachers' Courses are all taught by Master Instructor Bertrand Ravoux of France. After earning their license, teachers continue their education by riding with Mr Ravoux in Teachers' Courses as Advanced Riders.



The US Master Instructor-Bertrand Ravoux

Bertrand Ravoux, selected by Philippe Karl as one of 5 Master Instructors, chosen and equipped to further the reach of the school by educating the next generation of Licensed Instructors. Mr Ravoux was in the very first group to receive licenses from Mr Karl and has worked closely with Mr Karl for many years. He currently instructs Teachers Courses in Italy, France, Switzerland, and the US. He has been with the school in the USA since the very beginning and continues to teach with rigor and excellence.



Current US Locations and Participants



Name	Course	Entered Course	Exam elements passed/Licensed
Brenda Crist	PA	2013	Ped, Lunge/In Hand, Ridden
Abby Adelberg	PA	2013	Lunge/In Hand
Lauren Sands	PA	2018	
Fawn Anderson	PA	2013	Longe/In Hand
Marcy Baer	PA	2013	
Missy Hughes	PA	2013	
Lexi Myers	PA	2013	Theory, Lunge/In Hand, Pedagogy
Max Goodman	PA	unknown at time of report	Lunge/In Hand
Eileen Clark	PA	unknown at time of report	
Julien Beaugnon	PA	2020	
Kit West	CA	2013	Pegagogy
Julie McCloskey	CA	2019	
James Riedeman	CA	2013	Licensed Foundation Level
Craig Patterson	CA	2015	Ped, Theory
Abby Kogler	CA	2018	
Amy Allen	ID	2019	
Erin Sharts	ID	2019	
Linda Kaye H-Jones	ID	2013	Licensed Level One

As you can see, people enter the course at different times for a myriad of reasons. The groups with people at different advancement levels have the advantage of the newer members watching the older do more advanced work and the older members get excellent review watching the newer members advance.

The dedication to the method in the US is astonishing! These Teachers in Training study, teach, practice their Légèreté work to gain mastery and do it all while maintaining the full responsibilities already in their lives. The ultimate night school! Some have to travel as much as 2 days (nearly 1000 miles/1610 km) with their horse to get to each training session with Mr Ravoux. A few have even traveled 3 days (1400 miles/ 2253 km) deeming this education that valuable. The dedication and hard work of these riders is applauded greatly as mastery of this information, philosophy and technique is the only deeply authentic and quality way to pass it on!

Each teacher in training must ride in 9 sessions with Mr Ravoux before presenting any part of their first exam. The Foundation Level exam contains 4 parts: 1. Show the required elements on the lunge and in-hand (with a bit). 2. Teach a student new to you, correctly diagnosing the most crucial elements, and, assuring comprehension of what was taught, can continue on their own. 3. Give a 45 minute lecture on a topic from the methodology of Légèreté with 30 minutes preparation time. 4. Present the horse used in the program taking them through a rigorous set of elements correctly, quietly, with accuracy and relaxation. This is a very difficult program but very rewarding! The above participants are working their way toward competency in the immense amount of material required to educate horse and rider according to the methods and philosophy of the school.

US Licensed Instructors

Currently our two licensed instructors in the US are James Riedeman, Foundation Licensed, of New Mexico and Linda Kaye Hollingsworth-Jones, Licensed Level 1, of Idaho. Linda taught 17 clinics from January through November in El Paso, TX, Salem, OR, Olympia, WA, Spokane, WA, West Milton, OH. and at home. She will be adding Paso Robles, CA and Somerset, WI in 2020. James has been teaching both at home, in Albuquerque and at Carolyn McCoy's facility in Alto, NM. James will be adding clinics in Michigan and Texas in 2020. Their traveling and quality teaching is exposing more and more people to the benefits of the Légèreté philosophy and program! The evidence of their good work can be seen in the feedback of the students they teach which has been included in the Appendix of this report. One of the beautiful things about this program is how it multiplies in positive effect with each teacher that becomes licensed and each horse that benefits from the clear, kind and progressive work.



Policy and Procedures

In 2019, LUSA began the detailed process of laying out policy and procedure to organize the three locations into a comprehensive and smooth running organization. This now includes procedural information for organizers, teachers in training, and licensed instructors to clearly show the expectations concerning their roles within the school. Because it has been codified in writing everyone can work according to the same playbook. It's proving to be very helpful and has led to clear direction and much less confusion.

Financial Report

The financial role of LUSA is to:

- Gather the tuition fees from the three locations for the teaching tours to wire to Mr Ravoux his tuition fees and reimburse his travel expenses for each tour.
- Procure and fund Mr Ravoux's work VISA and related fees.

- Prepare and fund Mr Ravoux's US tax returns.
- Fund Mr Ravoux's medical, liability and workers compensation equivalent insurance during his tours.
- Help, when possible, fund promotional avenues for LUSA at horse fairs and other events.

LUSA, Promotion, and Growth

The central point of information and promotion is the website www.legerete-usa.com and their YouTube channel under Legerete USA. The website has the names and contact information of all teachers and teachers in training in the US program, news stories, and a calendar of events that is updated regularly. In addition to this are two Facebook Pages Legerete USA and PK USA; also good sources for current information and web articles about the program.

Further promotional information that has been created are brochures, banners, and flyers. LUSA is slowly growing their promotional arsenal with quality tools and materials to be used to broaden the reach of the school. Encouraging and (when possible) helping with funding of open houses at barns, demonstrations at horse fairs/expos, and articles in local and regional magazines, are other ways LUSA is supporting those who are promoting the Ecole de Légèreté in the US.

In the category of growth, a trial clinic was taught by Mr Ravoux in Somerset WI at the farm of Kari and Rick Schmitt in October. It was very well run, well received and the Schmitts will continue to hold open clinics at their facility with the plan to build up to a Teachers' Course location.

Organizers and Volunteers

LUSA could not function without the amazing people who devote their time, talents, knowledge and energy to the needs of Légèreté in the USA! Our current officers are President Kit West, Vice President Linda Kaye Hollingsworth-Jones and Secretary Brenda Crist. These ladies have put countless hours into the many tasks that keep a non-profit organization running. In 2020 we will be looking to adding a treasurer and investigating the development of a Board of Directors.

The other unsung heroes of LUSA are the Organizers of the Teachers' Course Clinics and every person who volunteers to help keep them running smoothly! Organizers arrange for facilities, oversee or set up everything that is needed during the clinic (tables, chairs, canopies, sound system, heaters, jumps) arranging for lunches, dinners, transportation/housing of Mr Ravoux, photography/videography, advertising the courses to draw and maintain the interest among auditors, staying abreast of various contracts, receiving tuition, seeing to the condition of the arena and tribune area, plus all the little details of playing host, either at your own facility or a rental. It's a big job with no paycheck other than offering the opportunity for people to have access to this wonderful method!

Since 2013, Brenda Crist has been the organizer of the Pennsylvania group and has done a wonderful job! She has turned the reins over to the extremely capable Abby Adelberg who will continue organizing the Pennsylvania group starting in 2020. It's known that everyone pitches in at this location! Abby Adelberg takes photos, helps with absolutely anything that needs done. Jutta Wakefield works with the farm to arrange for Coggins, vaccines etc and puts signs on the stalls welcoming everyone, and sees to the catering. She also brought a bunch of her jumps to the farm so they could offer jumping lessons. Vicki Shoap learned to use the camera and makes sure photos are taken at each clinic and the camera is accounted for. Max Goodman is an EDL evangelist and brings lots of people to the clinics, she takes photos and compiles clinic videos. Amber Guest has also been taking photos. Susan Stone, Dorothy Laincz Jutta Wakefield, Greg Wakefield, Michelle Hoover, Vicki Shoap and Kara Rickenbach have shuttled Mr Ravoux around quite a bit (airport and to and from the hotel). Amy and Grant at Doubling Gap bend over backwards to accommodate all our needs and give us a price that enables us to afford to keep the clinic going. In the earlier days of the clinic Dorothy Laincz would deal with all the various catering arrangements we tried. Michelle Hoover is always on standby and will bring her mare at a moment's notice if we need a last minute guest rider.

The California group has been run by Kit West and held at her lovely facility, 12 Oaks Equine in Murietta, California. She gets help from Rita Greir with videos, set up and food, Karin Patterson who takes beautiful photos and creates the slide shows, Dawn Reimer, John and Pamela Rankin for all kinds of help, Nadia Mazzani, Jane Penrod, Monica Williams with various help and bookkeeping! The California group is full of riders and auditors always willing to lend a hand at meals, set up, manning the video camera, and helping in any way they can.

Linda Kaye Hollingsworth-Jones co-organized the Idaho Teachers' Course with Amanda Horton at her facility, Willow Grove, in Emmett, Idaho. This site is a bit remote so they had amazing help with meals,

transportation, snacks, and other hospitality responsibilities from Toni Bucciero, Erin Sharts, Ginger Frederick, Amy Allen and Laurie Horton. The intrepid interns of Willow Grove also did it all: Elli van der Linde and Amelia Bailey. The Idaho riders and auditors were a great group and everyone is always willing to pitch in to help including manning the video recorder and taking pictures! Couldn't happen without every single volunteer!

2020 will be an exciting year filled with learning, growing and positive changes! Stay tuned!

APPENDIX

Feedback from Linda Kaye Hollingsworth-Jones' students:

My journey to Linda started 21 years ago with the death of our first child in 1995. Tyler died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome at 9 weeks old. As a way to cope with my grief, I volunteered at DeBoer Friesians in Southern California for 2 years. The experience solidified my childhood dream of owning a horse. Becoming a mother to 4 children postponed the dream until 2015. I purchased Zeus at two weeks of age, because I wanted a horse that didn't come with a lot of baggage from destructive training methods. I knew that finding the right trainer might be difficult since I was so new to the world of horses. I was wrong. Deb Hutchings introduced me to Linda and after watching her work with several horses over four 3-day clinics, I knew that Deb had made a very wise suggestion. I had no idea at the time that Linda had trained over 250 horses in her 37 year career! After 6 months in training, Linda emailed to let me know that Zeus was ready to ride. I nervously came to Idaho for 3 days to get reacquainted with my boy. He was a completely different horse! My fear that he wouldn't recognize me was put aside after 3 minutes. Linda is the 4th riding instructor to come into my life, and it didn't take long for me to see what makes her a truly unique and special instructor—like no other. My first lesson was an introduction to the ground work manners he had learned. My second through sixth lessons fulfilled over 20 years of anticipation. Riding Zeus felt like home. During those 6 hours over 3 days, it became blindingly obvious why Linda is a superior trainer/ instructor when compared with my past instructors. Often times, problems that are occurring under saddle need to be resolved with ground education first. This relies on her extensive education with colt starting and building respect and rapport on the ground. Not many people have taken the time and effort to acquire the skills to be a "horse trainer" as well as a "riding instructor". I have learned something very important over my 5 decades on this planet: Just because someone is "great at" something, it doesn't necessarily make them great at "teaching" that something. For example: there is a reason why it requires a Bachelors degree in math from a university to teach elementary school math. One must have a vast wealth of knowledge to know how to approach teaching from several different angles. To me, Linda has the equivalent of 2 university degrees; one in "horse" education which she seamlessly combines with the other—"rider" education. My previous riding instructors spent most of their time focusing on me—the rider; hand positions, leg positions, posting on the right diagonal, etc. With Linda, the education became less about "me" and the focus turned to, "how do I help Zeus?" Ecole de Legerete skills that seemed so advanced with my previous instructors—and "so hard"—happened almost effortlessly; Flechit droit, full flexion on a volte with neck extension after, counter bend turns, counter bend serpentines, counter shoulder-in on the wall, shoulder- in on a volte, shoulder-in on the wall, and travers on the wall, etc. Skills that I couldn't do over the previous year were accomplished in 4 hours. It was almost too much for my brain to comprehend. Zeus had the knowledge and understanding. Like Linda, he was patient, kind, willing, and relaxed. I just needed to learn how to help him. Instead of being a passive rider—along for the ride at walk, trot, and canter—I became an active rider assisting gymnastic exercises to help build balance, strength, and flexibility. My focus shifted from my riding skills to Zeus's education. By doing so, I became the rider he needed. I am so excited to continue learning from Linda and building a loving, unbreakable bond with my horse. But what's even more exciting is that Linda has opened my heart to helping all of the horses who come into my life. Everything I do will be "for the better of the horse". From my observations as a mom and a successful business woman, I'm hoping that Linda will be given the opportunity, finances, and resources to continue her education with Mr. Ravoux and Mr. Karl. It's extremely difficult to put in the time to be a progressive student while trying to make a living and put food on the table and in the hay feeders. It's even more difficult when your students (and salary) are spread across our huge country which requires expensive plane trips, transportation, room and board. Her mission seems almost unsurmountable. I can see Linda's insatiable drive to learn more and bring Ecole de Legerete to compassionate horse lovers across the United States. I can only pray that she receives the necessary support to succeed. We need Linda. Ana Seidel, Olympia, WA

As the first licensed EDL instructor in the USA, Linda Kaye Hollingsworth-Jones is serving a vital role in how the school is understood, valued, and practiced by several of the trainee instructors and open riders at all levels, as well as the general public. She has a comprehensive understanding of the method of Légèreté, combined with a genuine and deep passion for it. That combination makes her an excellent teacher, spokesperson, and advocate for Légèreté in the USA.

What makes Linda such an effective teacher and representative of EDL, in my opinion, is her years of experience training all different types of horses in all different disciplines. Linda understands where riders in the US are coming from. She understands what people and horses have been taught (often incorrectly) in hunters, jumpers, dressage, driving, and Western riding of all types. She can explain the differences between other riding methods and Légèreté, and make it clear why Légèreté is a better approach for the horse. I have personally witnessed her work with a horse that had been trained at the stable of a top FEI rider, and clearly demonstrate how, in that method, the horse was on the forehand and leaning on the shoulder. She gave clear examples in real time of how the horse moved differently with the FEI approach, and the Légèreté method. She then presented simple but effective exercises that the rider could do to help the horse learn to carry itself in better balance. It is one thing to be able to explain the difference between other methods and Légèreté, and another thing to be able to show it—on any horse at any time, AND give the rider the tools to change.

Linda brings the same level of energy and passion to every horse and rider pair she meets. I've watched her teach beginner riders to top riders, young horses and schoolmasters. I've watched her teach eight hours a day, three days in a row after flying across the country from another clinic where she taught the same. There is no doubt that she is dedicated to spreading the principles of Légèreté as far as she can. She has a sense of humor and her enthusiasm is contagious. She is a real gift to Légèreté in the USA. I don't know what we'd do without her. I know that she will be instrumental in helping more riders become licensed in the Ecole de Légèreté here in the US

Meg Mackendick, Ohio

I have had an opportunity to be the beneficiary of instruction in School of Légèreté USA as a student of Linda Kaye Hollingsworth-Jones. I would like to share my impression of Linda as a disciple of the teachings of Philippe Karl to whomever it may concern. First, I have to ask myself why would Philippe Karl trust and appoint anyone to carry on his method, without allowing any bastardization of that method, in the USA. I know the answer, actually...it is only when an individual has demonstrated a clear understanding of the method, can teach it, can demonstrate it, and thereby earn his trust.

What are the qualities of an excellent teacher and why would someone like Philippe Karl, who clearly has a unique, kind, and powerful insight into the training of horse and rider in the discipline of dressage, develop trust? I believe those qualities are:

- Thorough understanding of the subject matter resulting from hours of intensive study of the works of the master
- Commitment to gaining personal experience of the subject matter in a wide variety of applications
- Commitment to personal excellence which requires hours and hours of experience and the mindset that allows one not to fear making mistakes but to build on mistakes
- A lack of ego and a humbleness which opens the mind and the heart to innovative ideas
- An unwaivering commitment to the details of the master's program without deviation from the principles of such

Linda is an excellent teacher because she embodies each one of these traits. In addition, she brings hours and hours of teaching time logged with a wide variety of experience, aptitude, and physicality of both riders and horses. She has demonstrated countless times, an awareness of problems which block a rider from gaining success in the method. She never hesitates to go back to the basics when she thinks it is required. She is definitely solution oriented. In addition, she has personally worked with, and ridden, a wide variety of horses, both varying in aptitude and temperament. Through her experience and aptitude she breaks down each principle to unique and learnable steps for the horse and rider, skillfully developing a foundation and building blocks which result in success. When teaching a new principle, and there is apparent block for either the horse, or the rider, she does not go outside the principles of the teachings of the School of Légèreté, but rather figures out a different way of communicating the task to both horse and rider with the end goal of never losing sight of the method. This consistency of teaching, rather than the mixing up of methods, creates the best road to success. I have ridden with countless instructors who take pieces of training programs and blend them into a unique program for themselves. This does not work and creates confusion on both the rider and the horse. Linda exemplifies organization for each lesson. Each lesson first begins, with a series of checks of both horse and rider. If there is something incorrect, a focus is paid on fixing it before moving forward. If something is correct, there is no dwelling on the "fun" of doing it over and over, but rather taking the horse and rider to the next step. Linda is quite creative and works hard to keep the lesson moving forward, challenging, but on the other hand, if there is not success, the rider may spend an entire lesson working on a seemingly "trivial" aspect of the program. Linda also has an amazing knowledge of the biomechanics of both the horse and the human and spends time to correct any issues which result in roadblocks to balance of both horse and rider. She has amazing patience! She always comes prepared! She definitely brings humor to her teaching which is a real tension breaker.

I am very appreciative of the effort of Philippe Karl and his staff to provide certification of instructors of the School in the USA. This is a gift to potential students because it provides a stamp of approval not easily achieved and guarantees the continuation of the School of Légèreté USA.

Carol R. Quinter

I am so thankful that I've had Linda as my guide and supporter throughout this journey in the school of Legerete. Her insightful input regarding myself and my students has been invaluable. She fosters an atmosphere of positive progression even with the most basic students, and difficult horses. The advancement of the students in the clinics we have here with Linda been profound. The combination of her exceptional intellect, and massive horse training experience is unmatched. Her promotion of the EDL has been integral in the recognition of this method here in the USA. I feel that there is no better individual to be leading the school here.

Alexandra Myers, West Milton, OH

Riding with Linda Hollingsworth- Jones is always a great experience. Her ability to watch a horse go, and then identify exactly what the horse is doing in it's body and how to help it go better is spot on. I love how she has a systematic approach and set of exercises ready to help a horse with a tendency to be crooked (like mine) find straightness and balance.

This knowledge, combined with her background of foundational horsemanship and horse training makes her such a well rounded instructor and rider, and someone that I really want to learn from.

I have ridden with Linda 5 times now with my Friesian cross, getting started with the Legerete program. She has helped me feel where he is crooked and told me exactly what to do about it. His gaits have improved dramatically, with more energy and more freely forward. He and I both have a better understanding of contact and rein aids.

I am totally hooked on the program and love Linda and her upbeat and fun teaching style. She creates a perfect learning environment with her positivity and clear passion for what she does. She always leaves students wanting more.

Laura Funderberg, Ohio

Feedback from James Riedeman's students

I have trained with James for over ten years, from before he entered the PK program through the present, and I have had a horse in training at his place for the past year. (I'm the one who gave him the PK book *The Twisted Truths of Modern Dressage* which had been recommended to me by another trainer in the vaulting world. Very very happy that happened!)

James has always been amazing with horses, so clearly connected to their every movement and mood. But with the PK program that has been amplified. When he first read the book, he said it was what he had been looking for his whole life. James and the Ecole de Légèreté were meant for one another.

What he has done for me is to turn a relatively green mare with anger issues into a lovely horse I can feel comfortable riding, as he teaches her first and then me, step by step in the PK method. We still have lots to learn, but she and I would both pretty much follow him anywhere. There are very few people in this world as gifted as James is in communicating with horses and his complete embracing of and commitment to the PK method make him a potentially powerful ambassador for the Ecole, and the improvement of dressage training throughout the US, to benefit the horses and the riders.

Hope that gives you something to use! And hopefully I can take some time off from my business and attend a clinic sometime in the near future and meet you. I enjoy your FB posts.

Take care, Ann

I went to a clinic James put on in Alto, New Mexico a few weeks ago. I have attended several of your clinics and loved both your teaching and the method of Légèreté, which is why I went to James's Clinic. He resides much closer to El Paso and, thus, would be far easier to access for Légèreté instruction.

I was very impressed with his patience, his knowledge and his teaching ability. I thoroughly enjoyed his clinic and am in the process of trying to set up another clinic for him here in El Paso next year. I rode both my horses in his clinic. These are both good horses but are at different stages of their training lives. His instruction was targeted at both the ages of the horses and their stage of training.

I hope this helps your report.

Thanks for introducing me to Légèreté. —>Laura Murphy

My name is Susan Dossett and I had the pleasure of having 2 lessons with James in Alto, NM back last summer. He was the kindest and nicest person I have ever met, not only to me, but also to my horse! Also, in just 2 lessons, I saw great changes in my horse—things I had been working on for years with little success! Looking forward to working with him again! Thank you!

James has been my teacher, and mentor for seven years, even before the first clinic for Ecole de Légèreté. Through this journey, he has been consistently committed to teaching and sharing his learning experiences. My horse and I have forever been changed by his guidance. His quiet, reflective manner and clear instructions transformed my horse, who is now a happy, willing, and enthusiastic learner. The underlying beauty is this process continues, and the excitement is still there. I am forever grateful to him.

Jane Penrod

"It has been a real pleasure taking lessons from James. His years of study have made him a talented and sophisticated diagnostician - he's able to see my horse and me for where we are in the here and now and, importantly, what we need to do in order to make improvements. He breaks down difficult concepts into clear, methodological steps, and every time I ride with him both my horse and myself are the better for it. We have improved during each session and have clarity in what we need to do at home to continue our progress. James does all of his instructing with a clear, calm, steady and respectful demeanor, and it's obvious to me that he loves his work and takes it all very seriously."

Sincerely,

Terry Flanagan, Santa Fe, NM

July 2018, I met James at the Légèreté clinic in California. James was testing for his license. He was riding a horse he had not ridden before through Bertrand's teaching and evaluating. I was impressed at James' quiet way, his immediate connection with horses, his ease with people, affability, humor. I was very excited to learn he resided near Albuquerque and decided to ask him if he would consider doing a clinic for us in Alto. This he did and the students raved.

Myself, I was so excited at the clarity of his teaching, his ability to completely answer any questions with the whyfores, that I sent my horse to James for 90 days of training. When I got my horse back from James, the difference was astounding. As an 11-yr old, ex-barrel horse, it has not been easy to relieve him of some of his habits, especially speed. Also, as James says, he is a worrier. My horse is now calm, thinking, balanced, and even starting to come back to me for canter/walk transitions. I have learned more than I ever imagined was possible to learn through Légèreté theory.

We scheduled two clinics the following year with solid attendance. James was capable of, within the same clinic, teaching older, experienced riders, of any discipline, AND working with a 15 year-old, green rider who lacked confidence but left beaming. He taught a mid-life retired veterinarian who cannot stop talking about James. The two of them were hilarious together during the clinic as they hit each other's stride on the "humor" bar.

I am glued to James' explanations and demonstrations and seduced by his passion about all this.

Caroline McCoy, Alto, NM