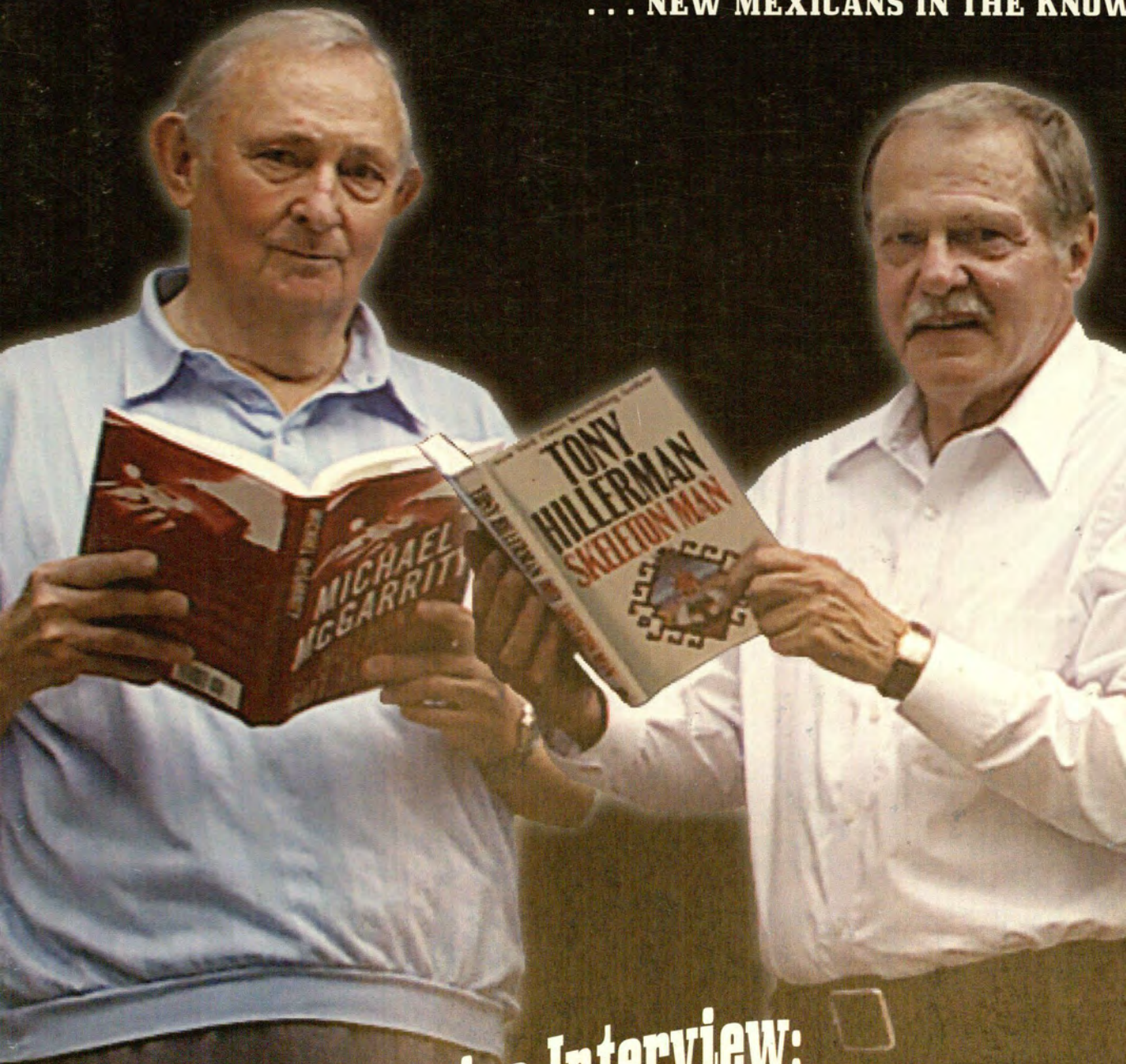


# ROSHI

NEW MEXICO  
... NEW MEXICANS IN THE KNOW



**Exclusive Interview:**

Pg. 56 "Chasing the Dream"

Tony Hillerman and Michael McGarrity

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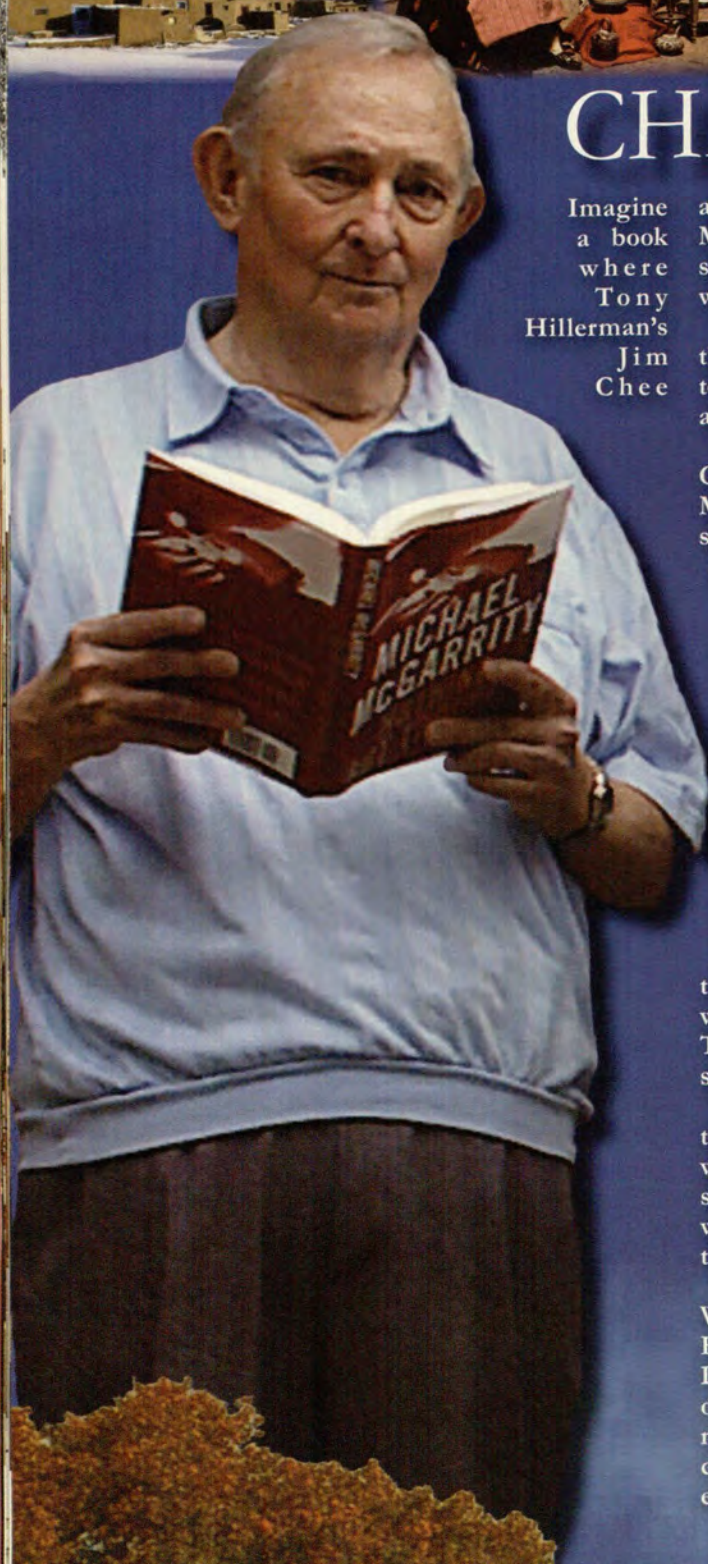
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# CHASING THE DREAM:



Imagine a book where Tony Hillerman's Jim Chee

and Joe Leaphorn team up with Michael McGarrity's Kevin Kerney to solve a southwestern mystery. What a read that would be!

Unfortunately, the two authors don't see that happening but they have teamed up to give the next generation of New Mexico authors a head start on their careers.

At the 2005 Tony Hillerman Writers Conference ([www.sfworkshops.com](http://www.sfworkshops.com).) McGarrity proposed the creation of a scholarship to "honor Tony for all the great things he's done for students, writers, and the people in New Mexico."

Hillerman was approached with the idea and gave it tentative approval.

The College of Santa Fe was chosen as the school because Hillerman and McGarrity both taught there.

When it came time to formalize the scholarship, Hillerman insisted that it be named after both himself and McGarrity. When McGarrity asked him "why?" Hillerman said, "I like your work."

"I was touched and honored to be thought of so highly by Tony that he would like my name associated with it. That really blew me away." McGarrity said in this interview.

Hillerman responded, "I didn't want to be in there by myself and I knew it was Michael's idea. It struck me as only sensible to get both of us on it. Really I wouldn't want to do it without McGarrity taking half the blame."

The Hillerman-McGarrity Creative Writing Scholarship at the College of Santa Fe will name the first two recipients in December of this year. The scholarship is open to any student interested in writing no matter the genre - fiction, screenplay, creative non-fiction, and poetry are equally acceptable. The whole point,

McGarrity says, "is to support and encourage the next generation

of writers. We didn't want to put too many restrictions on it. It will be based on talent, not grade point averages. The recipients, all New Mexicans, will also demonstrate financial need."

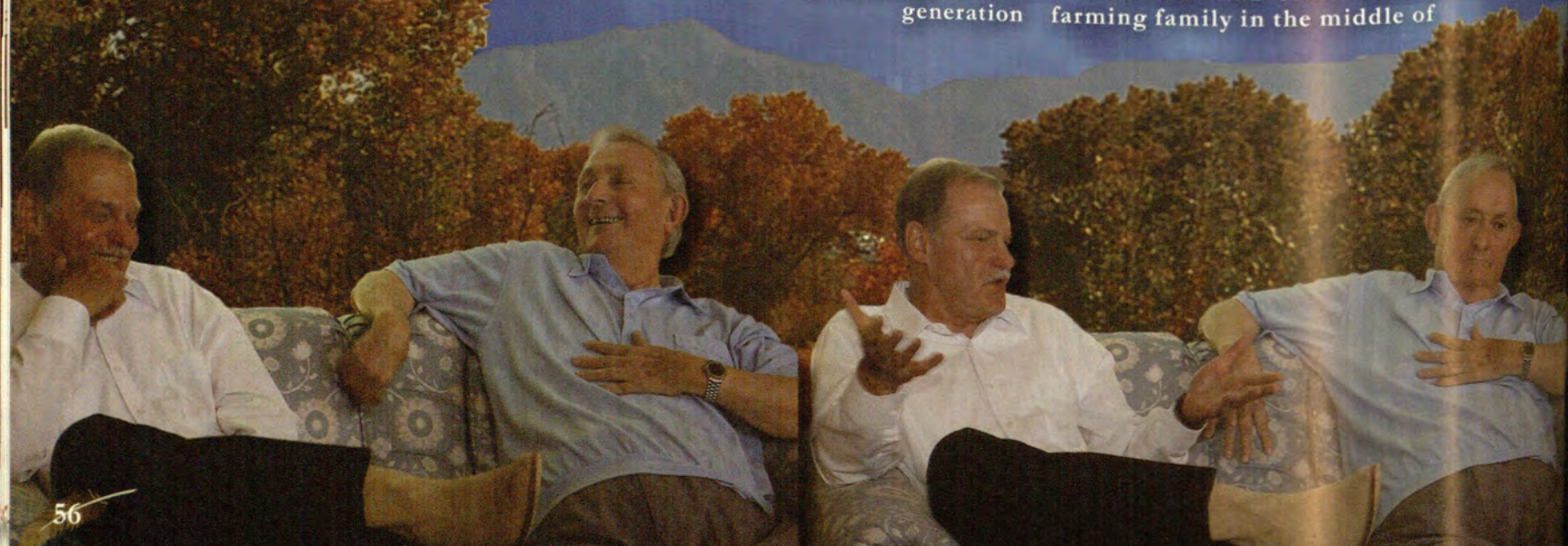
The scholarship will be awarded from a permanent endowment with a projected initial goal of \$100,000. "The scholarship is a natural extension of doing good for your community," McGarrity notes. "We all support those things we believe in. Why not support the next generation of writers? We're going to need them. Writers can do a heck of a job in making people alert to what's happening in the world."

Teachers at the college will make the selections and read the applicant writing samples. Interested writers should contact the Student Financial Services at the College of Santa Fe for information on the application process. (800) 456-2673 or (505) 473-6454, <http://www.csf.edu/csf/prospective/finaid.html>, E-mail: [sfs@cfs.edu](mailto:sfs@cfs.edu).

The fund-raising campaign for the permanent endowment will kick off this fall. Donations should be sent to Ms. Marcia Sullivan, Assistant Vice President, College of Santa Fe, 1600 St. Michael's Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505. Please clearly mark your donation for the Hillerman-McGarrity Scholarship fund.

There was a strong friendship and respect evident between the two men as they sat side by side in Hillerman's Albuquerque home. They met at the University of New Mexico when Hillerman was a special assistant to Tom Popejoy and student McGarrity was working for the Daily Lobo. Hillerman, missing his journalist days, would drop by in the evenings and talk with the young writers as they finished up the next day's issue.

Hillerman had come from a farming family in the middle of



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## Tony Hillerman and Michael McGarrity Support Young Writers

Oklahoma's Indian Territory where he had his first exposure to the Native American culture that would give his novels their unique strength. "I never thought in terms of a cultural 'us versus them'. They were just people to me. The real 'us' versus 'them' division was between those who rode the bus to school and those who lived in town. We wore the coveralls and heavy shoes. The town boys wore low cut shoes. But no one thought about being poor. This was the depression and we were all poor."

He began college at New Mexico State University when he was seventeen. Wanting to be "anything but a farmer" he settled on Electrical Engineering. Enough money had been saved for his first semester tuition and a place to live "half a mattress in a boarding house for fifteen dollars a month" – and he worked as a dishwasher and at cleaning out irrigation ditches for the money to live on. He enjoyed school and found it easy to make A's and was especially good in English.

World War II interrupted and sent him overseas where he wrote letters to his widowed mother who saved them all. When he was seriously injured, the local newspaper wrote him up as a hero and published many of the letters. Upon his return home, the reporter who had written his story told him that, judging by his letters, he should become a writer. "A lot of those letters were fiction," he says now with a smile but the suggestion was enough to get him started in journalism school. By the time he left his journalism career, Hillerman estimates he had written more than four million words before he ever thought of writing a novel.

McGarrity grew up in southern New Mexico of the same good, solid, hard-working stock. Family came first and

perseverance was the norm. He worked his way through the University of New Mexico unloading freight cars from midnight to eight in the morning. Then he'd walk from the rail yards (he couldn't afford a car) shower and head to class.

"UNM had only around 7000 students then and was like a small city of its own in the middle of Albuquerque. I liked it back then," he remembers.

He earned a Ford Foundation Scholarship but jeopardized it because he couldn't stay awake in class. The long nights of physical labor were taking their toll. One of his professor's recognized his predicament and he and McGarrity came up with the idea of Michael's wife, Mimi, attending class in his stead to take notes so he could write the papers required. The only stipulation was that Mimi would have to also participate in class giving a whole new meaning to getting her P.H.T. ("putting hubby through") degree.

In his junior year, "looking for an easy class", he enrolled in a creative writing course. The night before an assignment was due, he'd dash it off, making consistent high grades. "What a great way to make a living," was his thought but it would be many years before he could make it come true.

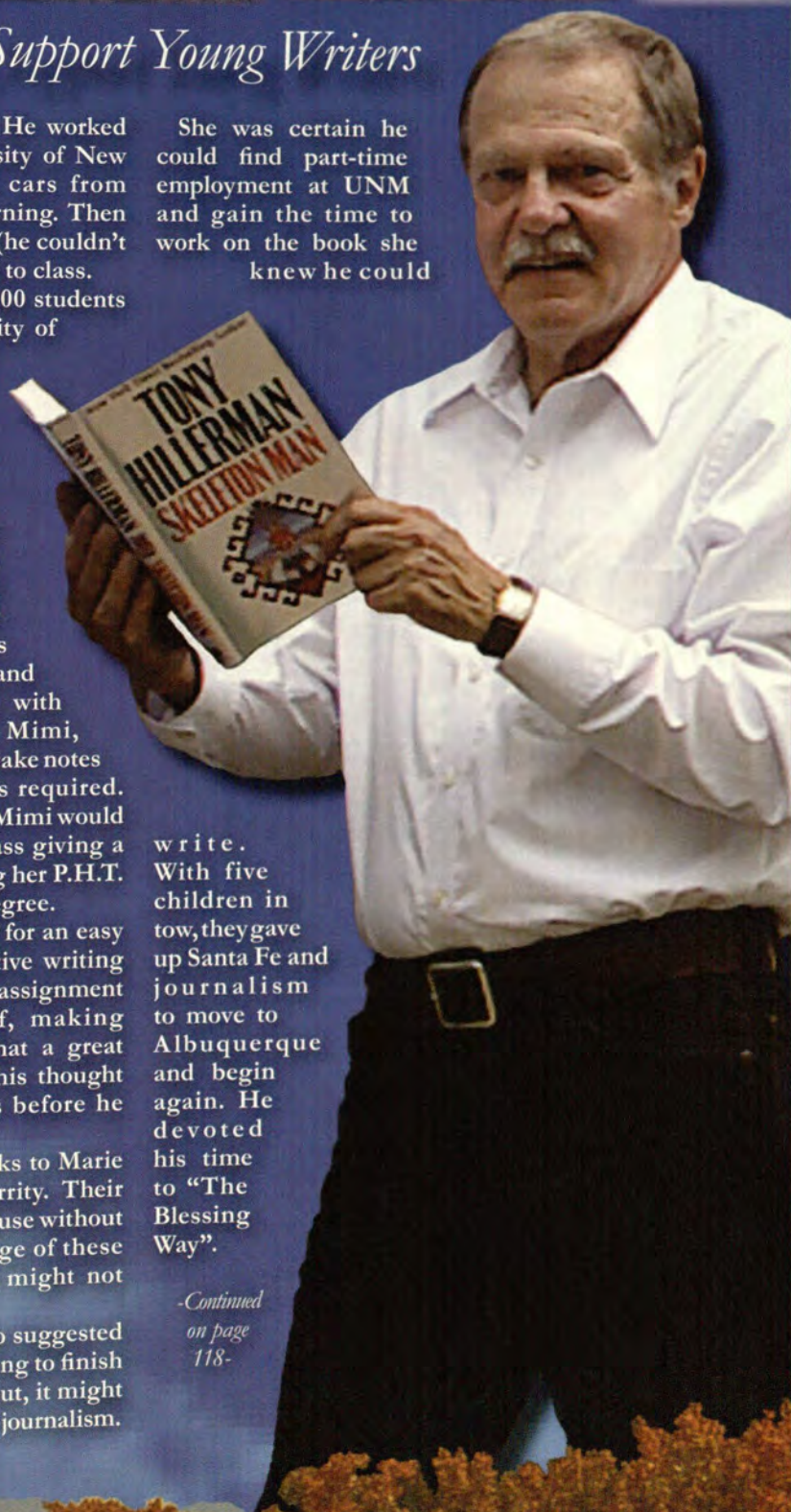
Readers owe a debt of thanks to Marie Hillerman and Mimi McGarrity. Their husbands owe them, too, because without the love, support, and courage of these two women, their potential might not have been realized.


It was Marie Hillerman who suggested to Tony that, if he was ever going to finish that novel he kept talking about, it might be time to give up his career in journalism.

She was certain he could find part-time employment at UNM and gain the time to work on the book she knew he could

write. With five children in tow, they gave up Santa Fe and journalism to move to Albuquerque and begin again. He devoted his time to "The Blessing Way".

*-Continued  
on page  
118-*





## Moriarty & The Pumpkin Patch

- Continued From Page 23 -

A prime example of the pueblo-deco style of Architecture, it was built in 1923 and is now a national landmark building. From Mountainair the Salt Missions Trail leads northeast to Willard which was once a railroad town. It contains many well-preserved stone homes. From Willard the traveler will head north through the center of the Estancia Basin to Moriarty and then return on old Route 66 westward to the starting point at the village of Tijeras.

The city of Moriarty is more than a small dot on the New Mexico map at the intersection of Interstate 40 and NM 41. Population-wise it boasts just under 2,000 permanent residents and it even has a museum. In the commercial vein the city has 212 motel rooms, ten restaurants and two truck stops. Esthetically the views from Moriarty are beyond price. Every morning the sun creeps over the rolling Pedernal Hills toward the east to bathe the city in its dawning light. During the evenings there are gorgeous, multi-colored sunsets over the majestic Sandia and Manzano Mountains to the west. In addition, Moriarty's residents delight in the magnificent views they have of the often snow-covered Sangre de Cristo Mountains toward the north.

The people of Moriarty have one final boast. That is: The Sherlock Holmes Society meets there annually.

- Jerry R. Davis

## Chasing the Dream Tony Hillerman and Michael McGarrity Support Your Writers

-Continued From Page 56-

It wasn't an easy sell. At the time, regional literature was believed to be just that - regional. If a book was set in New Mexico, it could only sell in the southwest. One agent even told him to "get rid of the Indian stuff" and she might be able to sell it. In 1970, *The Blessing Way*, introducing Joe Leaphorn was published by Harper and the rest, as they say is history. Jim Chee made his first appearance in 1980's *People of Darkness* and the two finally teamed up in 1986's *Skinwalkers*. The seventeenth Leaphorn/Chee mystery, *The Shape Shifter*, will be published in November 2006.

Mimi McGarrity is made of the same stuff as Marie Hillerman. Even though McGarrity describes his first (unpublished) book in less than glowing terms, Mimi wouldn't let him give up. She encouraged him to cut back at work and take time off. Even without an agent, McGarrity had the courage to send his manuscript to W.W. Norton. The editor rejected it but

something about the writing made him offer an unheard deal to McGarrity. That editor promised to take a look at whatever he wrote. It was ten years later (1996) that *Tularosa* was published. With Mimi's encouragement, he quit his job and turned to writing full time. *Nothing But Trouble*, the tenth Kerney novel was published in 2005 and he's hard at work on the next one tentatively titled *Rule of Law*.

Another life influence they share is a deep and abiding love of libraries. Tony recalls "My closest real library was in Shawnee, Oklahoma about thirty-five miles away. The rules were that you had to be a resident of that area to get a library card so we used the state library. We'd fill out a slip for three books, the money for postage, send it and then wait ten or twenty days for the books to arrive. Then here'd come a package and a lot of excitement. We'd open it up and on the top would be a slip of paper, always the same, 'Dear Library Patron, we're sorry to tell you that the books you ordered were unavailable. We've picked out others that we thought you might find interesting.' Because of that, you got a very broad-based reading experience like *The History of the Cotton Economy In The Post-War South*."

"We would go to town on the weekends," Michael counters. "If you didn't have a quarter for the matinee, you'd end up at the library. Actually, you'd end up there to get books even if you did go to the matinee. This was still pre-bookmobile. You had to go to the library; the library didn't come to you. The library was a very important part of my education so I do as many library events as I can. Libraries helped frame who I am as a person. So I support the libraries, I try to help programs that help people become literate because reading is a vital and necessary skill to survive in the modern world."

Which brings us back to the scholarship. "There are lots of ways to leave a legacy. You hope the work you leave behind endures," McGarrity says. "This is a way of doing good, of helping young people to develop into the people they're meant to be."

In that (hopefully far off!) day when there is no new Hillerman or McGarrity novel coming, we readers are going to need someone to fill that gap. A good way to make that happen is to contribute to the Hillerman-McGarrity Creative Writing Scholarship. It's a great way to say thank you for hours of good reading and to guarantee there will always be more.

*Tony Hillerman-How He Came To Be A Novel Writer will be offered through UNM Continuing Education on Wednesday, November 29th, from 9:30-11:30 AM. The cost of Hillerman's lecture is \$19.*

*For more details visit [www.dce.unm.edu](http://www.dce.unm.edu) or call 277-0077*

## The Gift of Reading

-Continued From Page 75-

Santa Fe. The personal stories lend a vitality that makes the events real to new generations. The well-written prose makes this book highly readable for those interested in the troubled time it chronicles and indices, bibliography, and extensive notes will appeal to World War II scholars.

### UNDERGROUND BUILDINGS: More than Meets the Eye

by Loretta Hall.

It might surprise you what lies underfoot as you explore a new city. Instead of looking up look down instead. You might find a mine converted to office space (Space Center Executive Park in Independence, Missouri) or an underground malls providing climate controlled shopping ease (Houston, Montreal, Toronto). Underground libraries (including the University of New Mexico's Centennial Science and Engineering Library), schools (Abo Elementary School in Artesia), and numerous homes, museums, and theatres around the United States are hidden from view. Lavishly illustrated with photographs, the book includes a list of fifty viewable sites across the country. This is a fascinating look at a form of living you might never have considered.

A few more quick recommendations before you head out to the bookstore. Fellow POSH writer Jerry Davis is author/illustrator of **HOME ON THE FARM** and **TALES OF THE ROAD**. These collections of family memoirs are a delightful read. And how could I not recommend my own Taylor Morgan Trilogy that begins with **TIMING IS EVERYTHING**. And one departure from New Mexico authors. The absolute best book I've read this year is Frances Mayes' **A YEAR IN THE WORLD**. This compilation of the stories from her many travels makes you want to go home to a place you've never been.

*Don Bullis will offer An Overview of 15 Years in New Mexico: 1846-1862 through UNM's Continuing Education on Dec.4 or Dec.6. Visit [www.dce.unm.edu](http://www.dce.unm.edu) or call 277-0077 for further information.*

## Stand by! Lights up! Curtain up!

-Continued From Page 114-

The Black Box Theater seats about 80 and produces about ten plays each year with either a short play competition or cold readings of original plays annually.

Choose a theater that suits your mood and make arrangements to spend a few hours in a make-believe world. Beware though. Because of theater size and popularity, shows often sell out so it's best to call early to reserve your seats.