The Clements Center for Southwest Studies is pleased to sponsor a seminar

Fran Levine

“Surviving Extinction”: The Legacy of Pecos Pueblo

In the early years of the twentieth century, eminent anthropologist Edgar Lee Hewett declared the Pecos Pueblo to be extinct. He noted the death of one of the last of the Pecos then living at Jemez Pueblo, and declared that the “last leaf on the tree was gone.” In the Spring of 1999, nearly 2,000 human burials were repatriated to Pecos National Historical Park in a moving ceremony attended by the Jemez Pueblo people of Pecos descent. The ceremony awakened the nation to the continuity of Pecos Pueblo traditions among the Jemez. In her book, Our Prayers are in This Place, Frances Levine traces the ethnohistory of Pecos Pueblo, exploring the impact of Spanish and Anglo-American occupation of the region on the community. She will lead a discussion about the myth of Pecos “extinction,” and the important lessons of history that are illustrated by Pecos.

Dr. Frances Levine is the Division Head of Arts & Sciences at Santa Fe Community College in Santa Fe, New Mexico where she teaches classes in New Mexico history and the ethnohistory of the Pueblo and Hispanic communities of the Southwest. She holds a doctorate in anthropology from Southern Methodist University. Her doctoral research examined historic settlement and land use on three Pecos River land grants in New Mexico. She has served as an expert witness in land and water use adjudications testifying on behalf of the State of New Mexico and numerous acequia commissions. She has been a consultant to Pueblo communities on studies relating to traditional use lands. Dr. Levine’s most recent publication is a study of the sacramental records from the mission churches at Pecos Pueblo. It is entitled Our Prayers Are in This Place (University of New Mexico Press, 1999).

Dr. Levine will lead the seminar discussion on Wednesday, March 29, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. in the History Department’s conference room. Those who wish to read in preparation for the seminar may pick up a photocopy of selections from her book from Jane Elder in the Clements Center, rm. 356 Dallas Hall. Or phone Jane at (214) 768-1233 and she will send them to you.