

# Images of the Southwest

by Myron Goldfinger Architect

# **Images of the Southwest**

**by Myron Goldfinger Architect**

**Artium Books**

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FOR JUNE, THIRA AND DAN, DJERBA AND KEVIN AND EVA

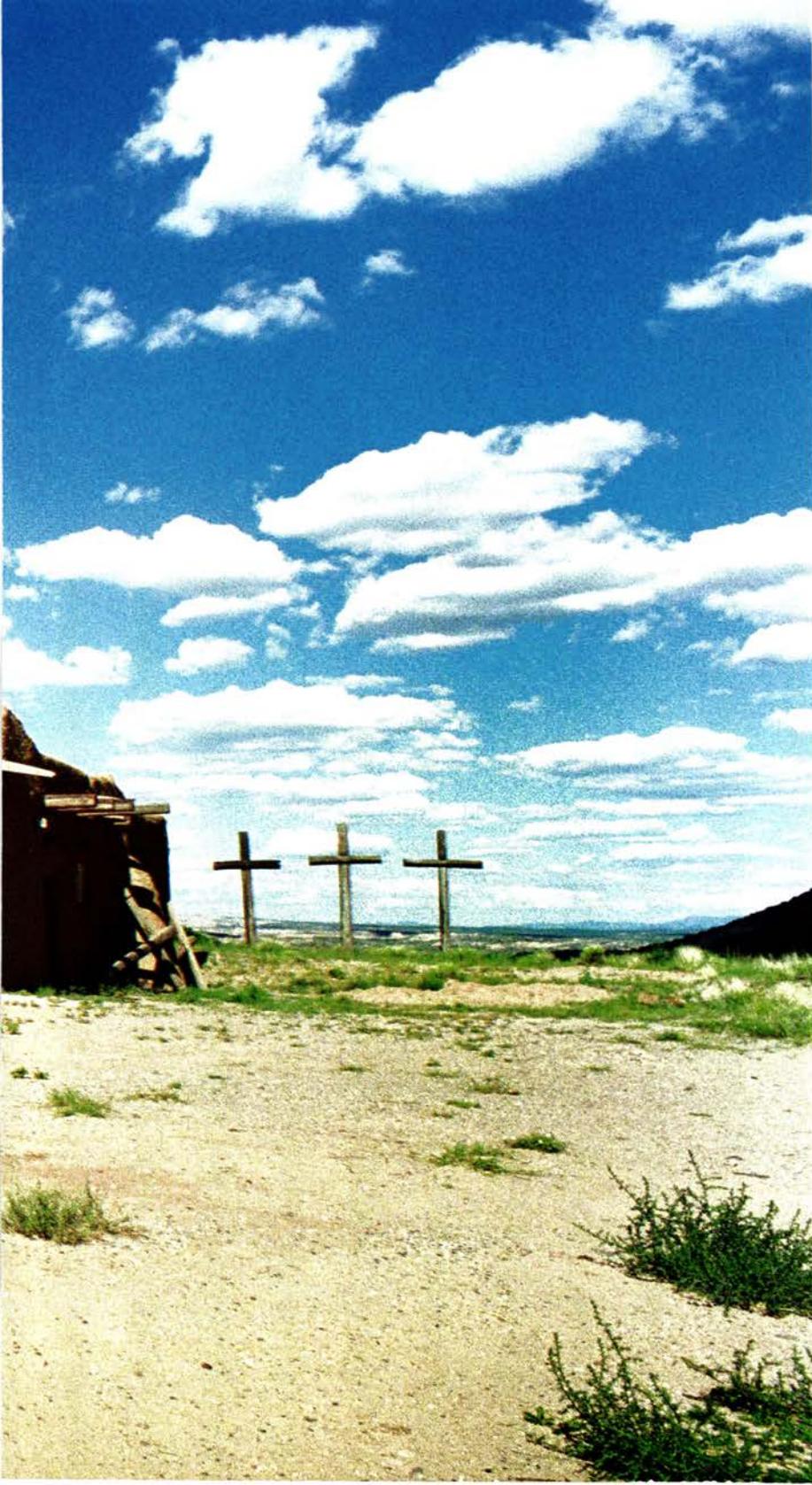
# Introduction

IMAGES OF THE SOUTHWEST begins some twenty-five years ago in San Antonio, Texas. I attended ceremonies with my wife June and two young daughters, Thira and Djerba, which presented to me the Honor of a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. I liked San Antonio - the Riverwalk, the Alamo, the Texans so proud of their city. From there we flew off to Santa Fe for the first time; the Santa Fe of the movies, the native Indians, the Mexican - Americans, the Rio Grande, the Pueblo style architecture, the dry desert surroundings.

Returning to New York for the moment, June and I decided to make spring and fall journeys to the west of the U.S. to explore an area mostly unknown to us. After some ten years we decided to search for a parcel of land near Santa Fe, high in the foothills of the Sangre De Cristo mountains. We eventually found a beautiful 30 acres of land overlooking the Rio Grande valley towards Los Alamos some 35 miles away. We built our modest Cabin in the Sky to break away several times a year from our business in New York and the boutique resort Covecastles which we developed in the Caribbean island of Anguilla.

This was the perfect balance to our life experience - the energy of New York City, the tropical seas of the Caribbean, and now the dry seas and spectacular skies of New Mexico. I am pleased to share with you these IMAGES OF THE SOUTHWEST - no names or dates or historical facts - only visual images of my photographic eye to capture the spirit of this very special part of our country.





## Images of the Southwest

When I travel I always keep my camera nearby. Photography has always been my number two interest, second only to my architectural designs. It has always been very natural for me to observe striking forms in nature - sculptural trees in the desert, unusual plants and rock formations, lush vegetation, open fields and clouds of everchanging shapes. I also enjoy spotting architectural forms of many types from decaying structures of old to interesting geometric forms and brightly colored facades. And within that framework, doors and windows and walls. And signs and symbols - commercial, religious and whatever. Also portraits of course.

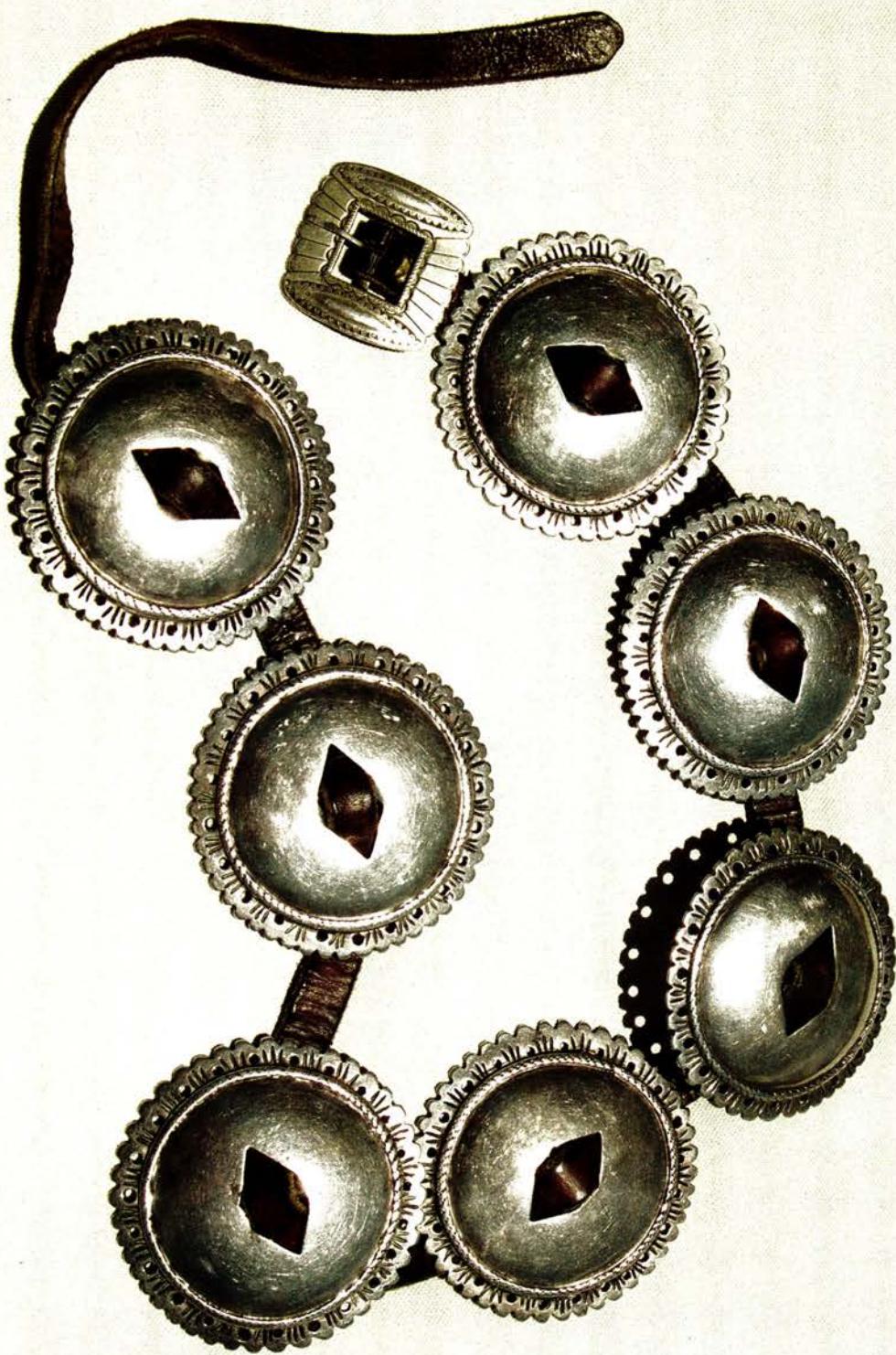
I present in this chapter scenes I experienced throughout the southwest, a collage of multiple images; a portfolio of the staff at Gabriel's Restaurant near Tesuque where you can get the greatest guacamole; an unusual church of curved aluminum sections; Patrice, the Sweetwater goat cheese lady; some amusing signage; the beautiful Indian girl; the unique Rainbow Man shop in Santa Fe; the rock art; the windmills, old and new; the great palm tree forest near Palm Springs.

I could go on and on. Please see what I saw.



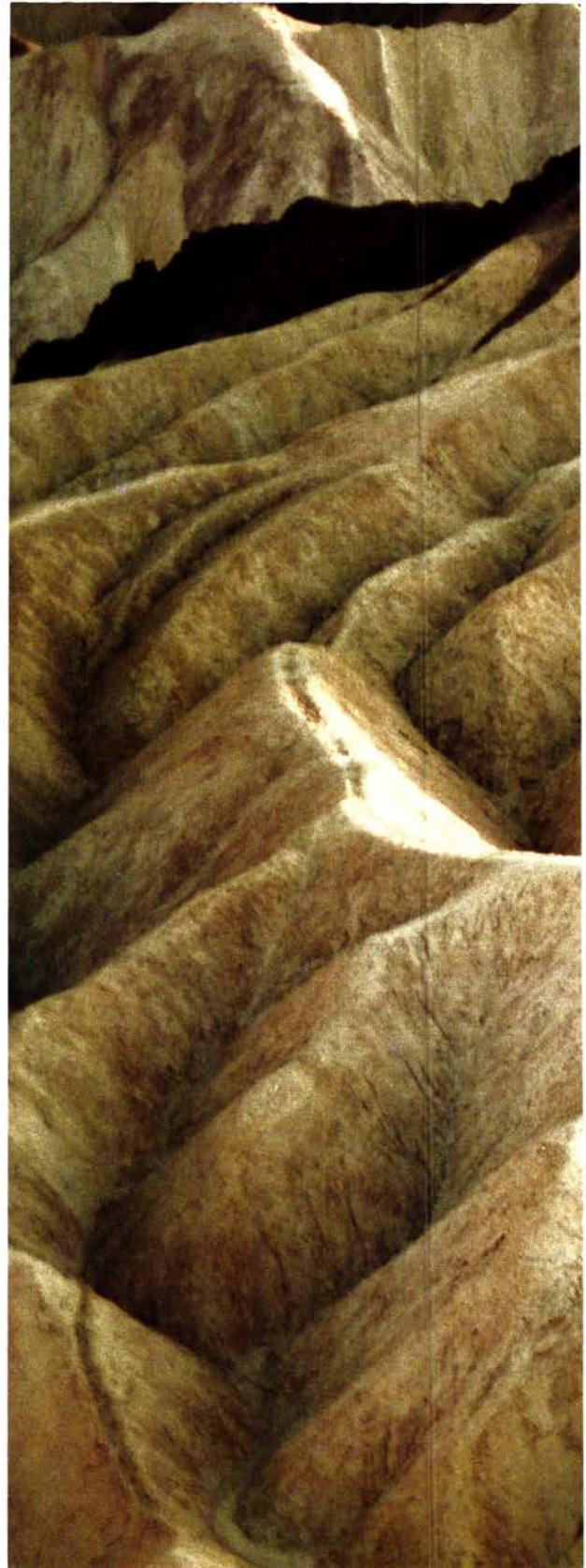






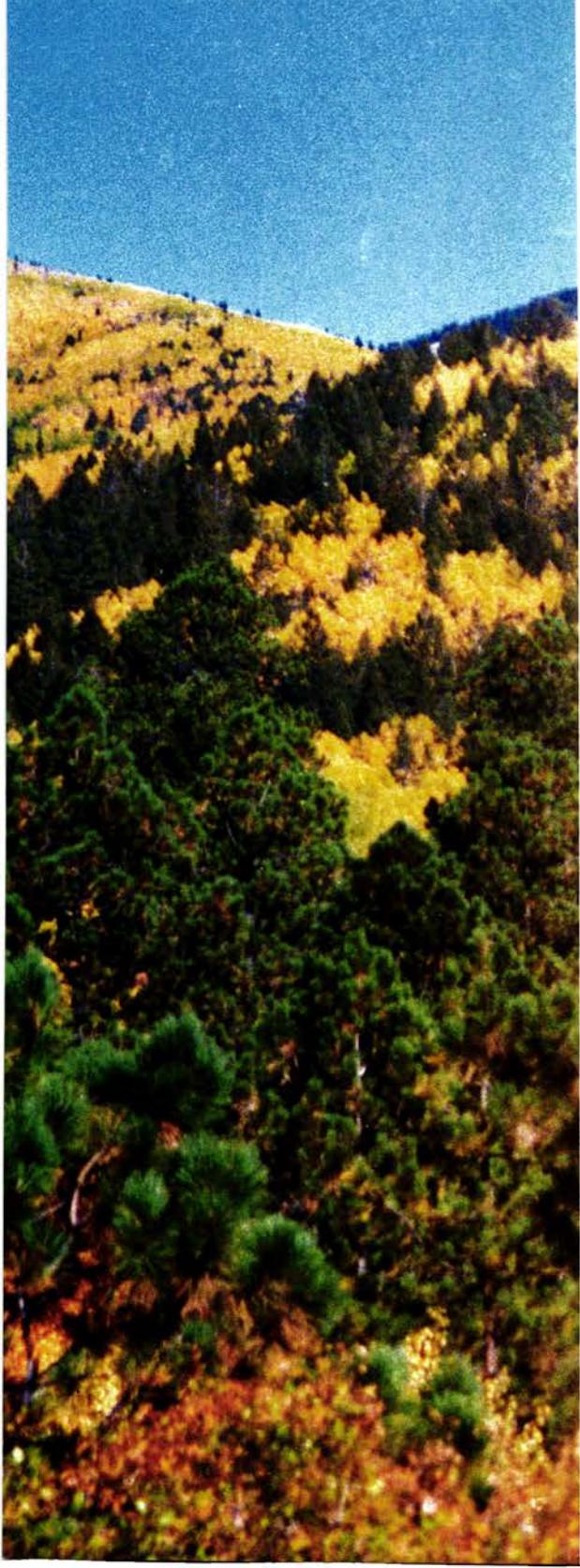


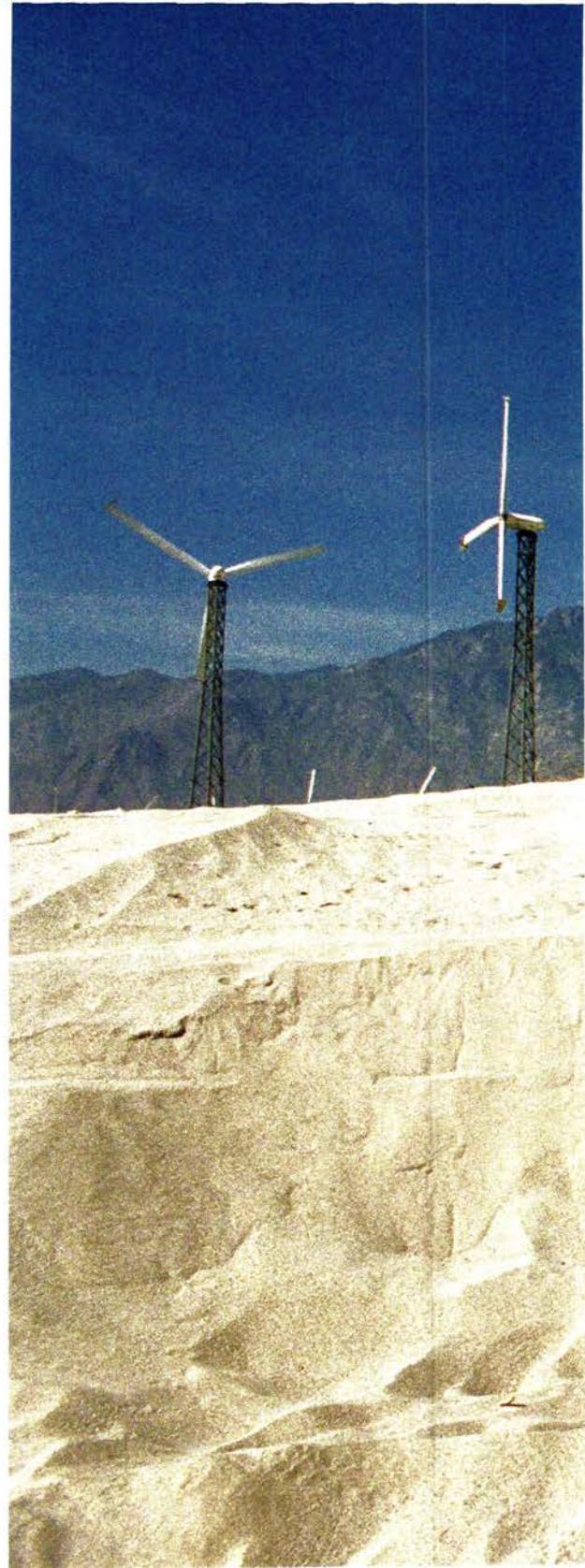




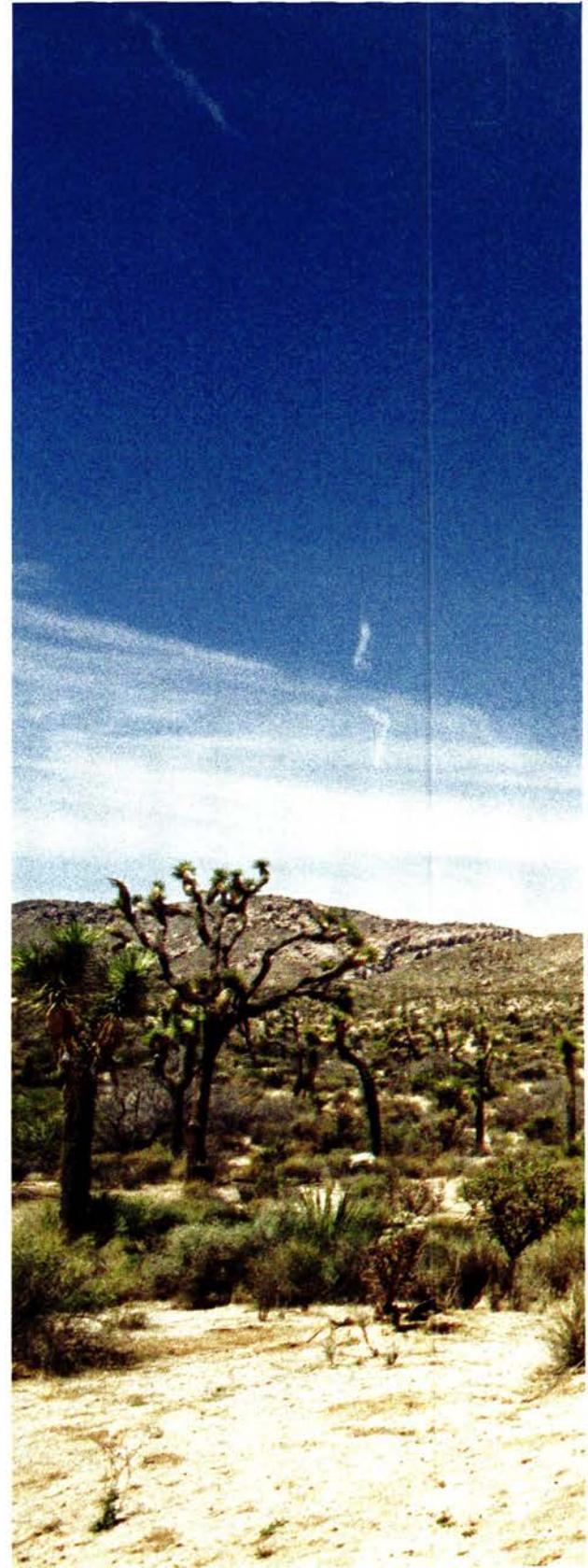










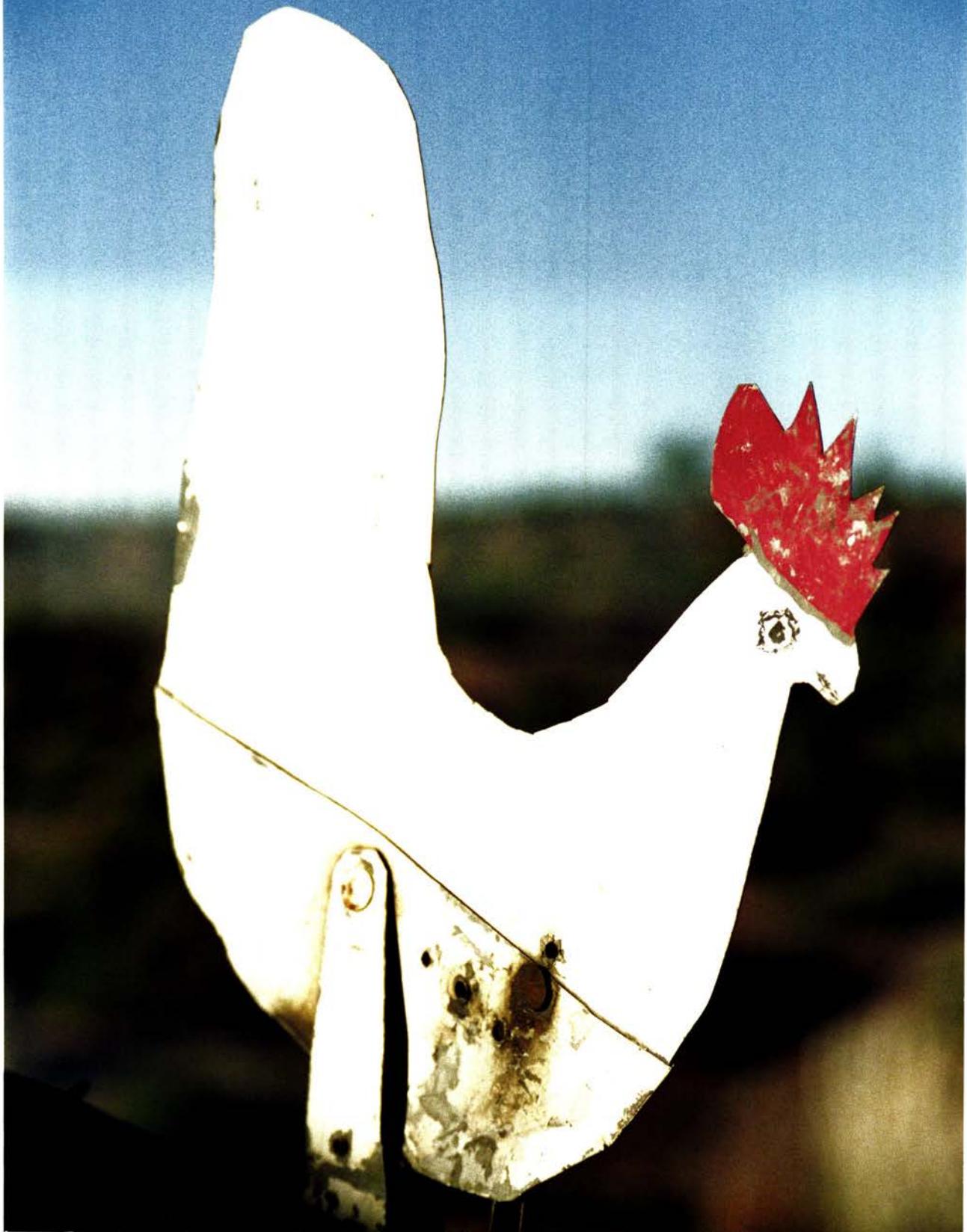


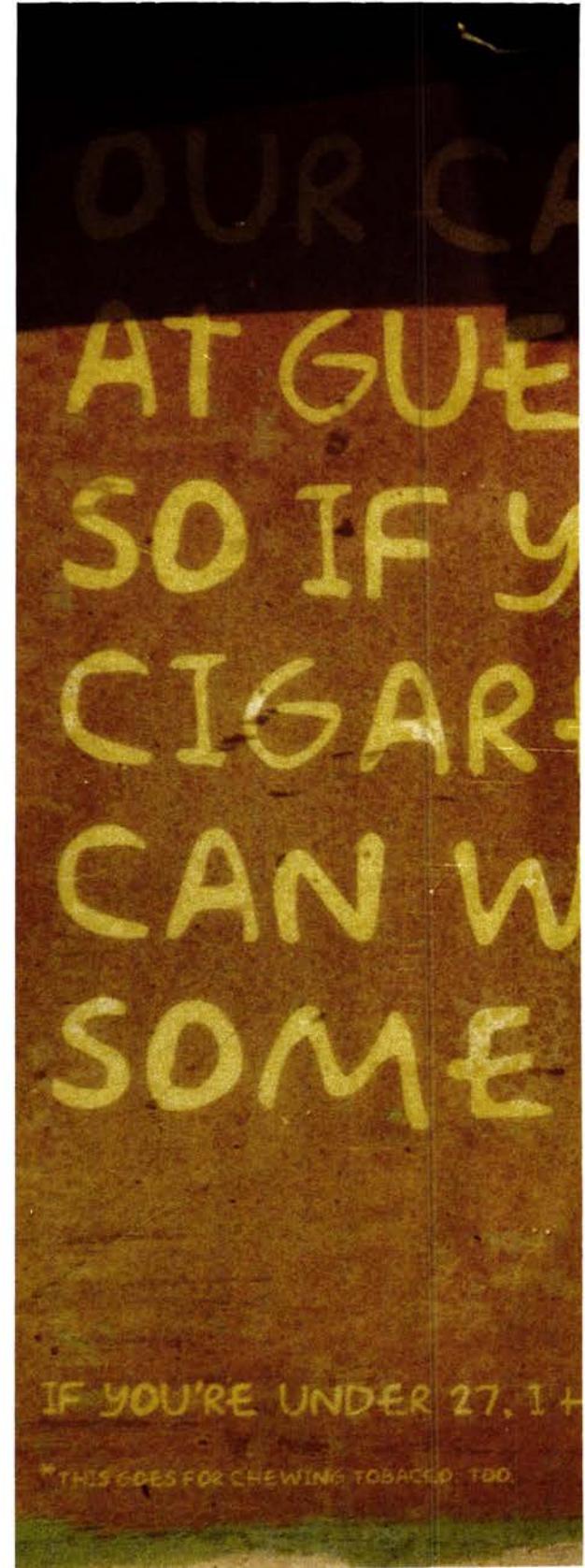




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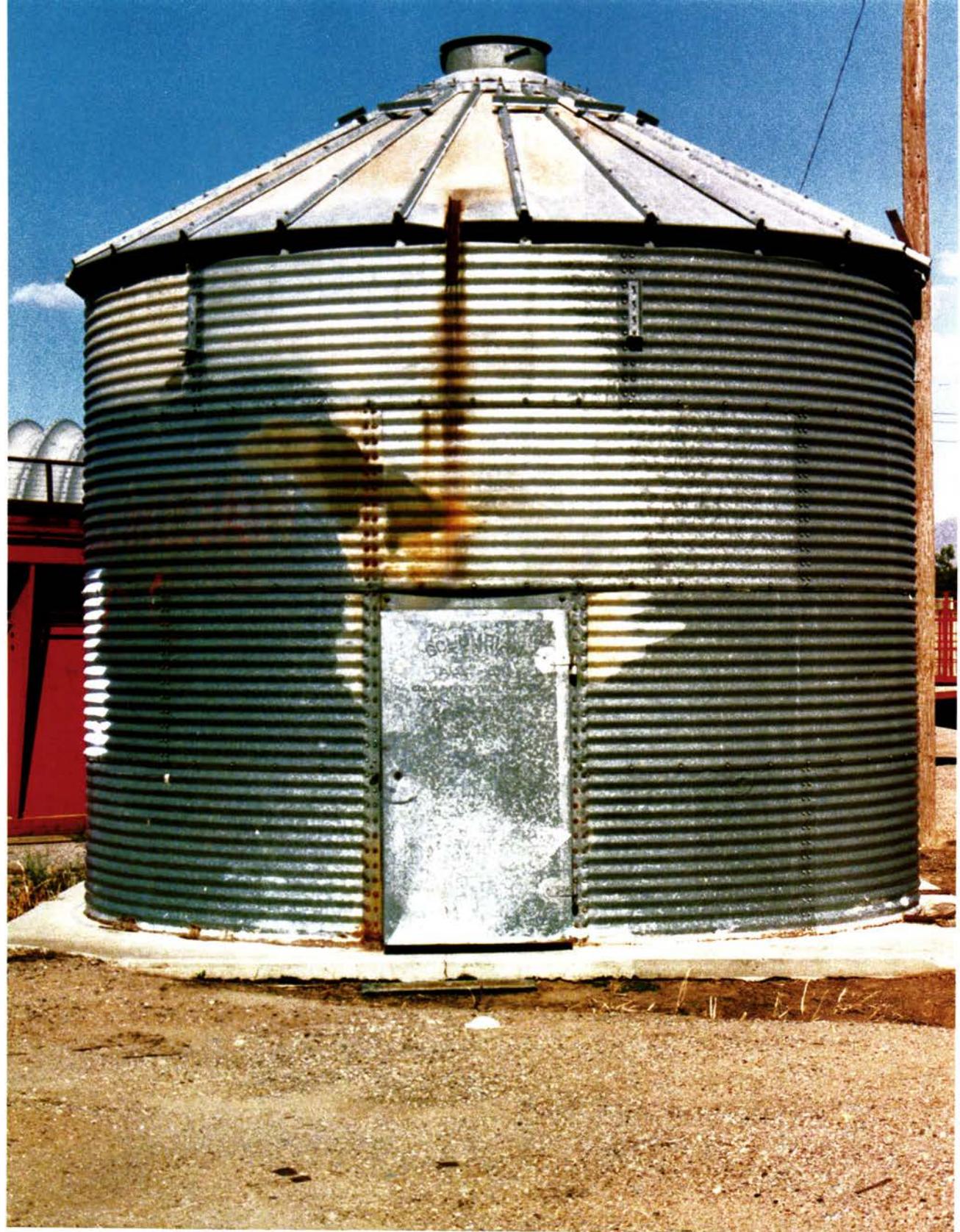


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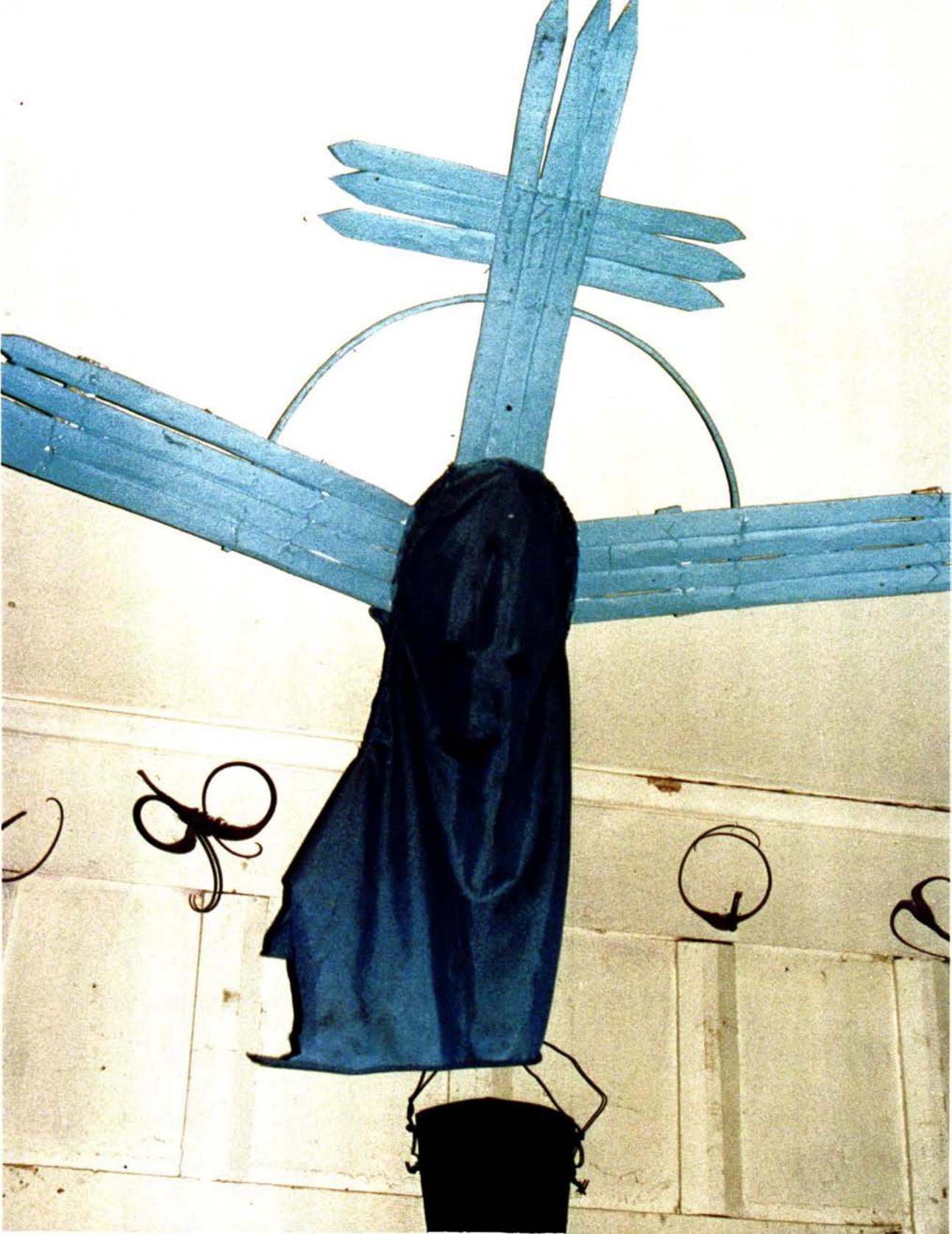
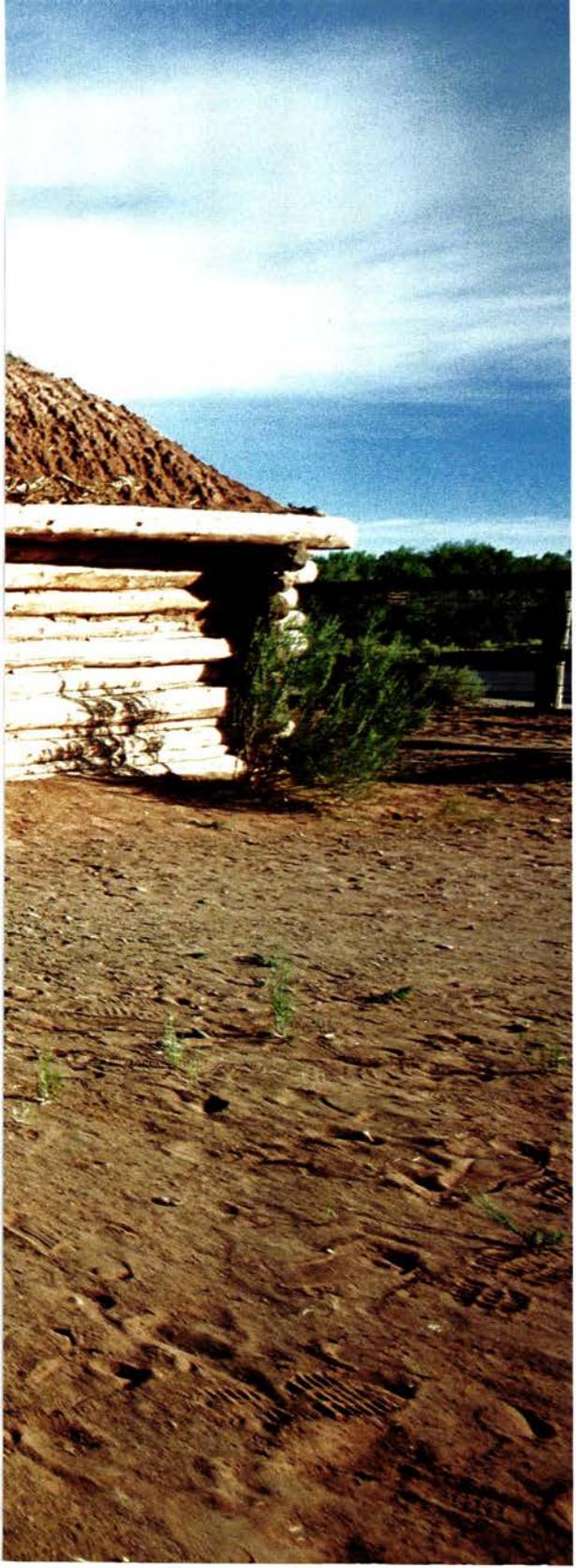


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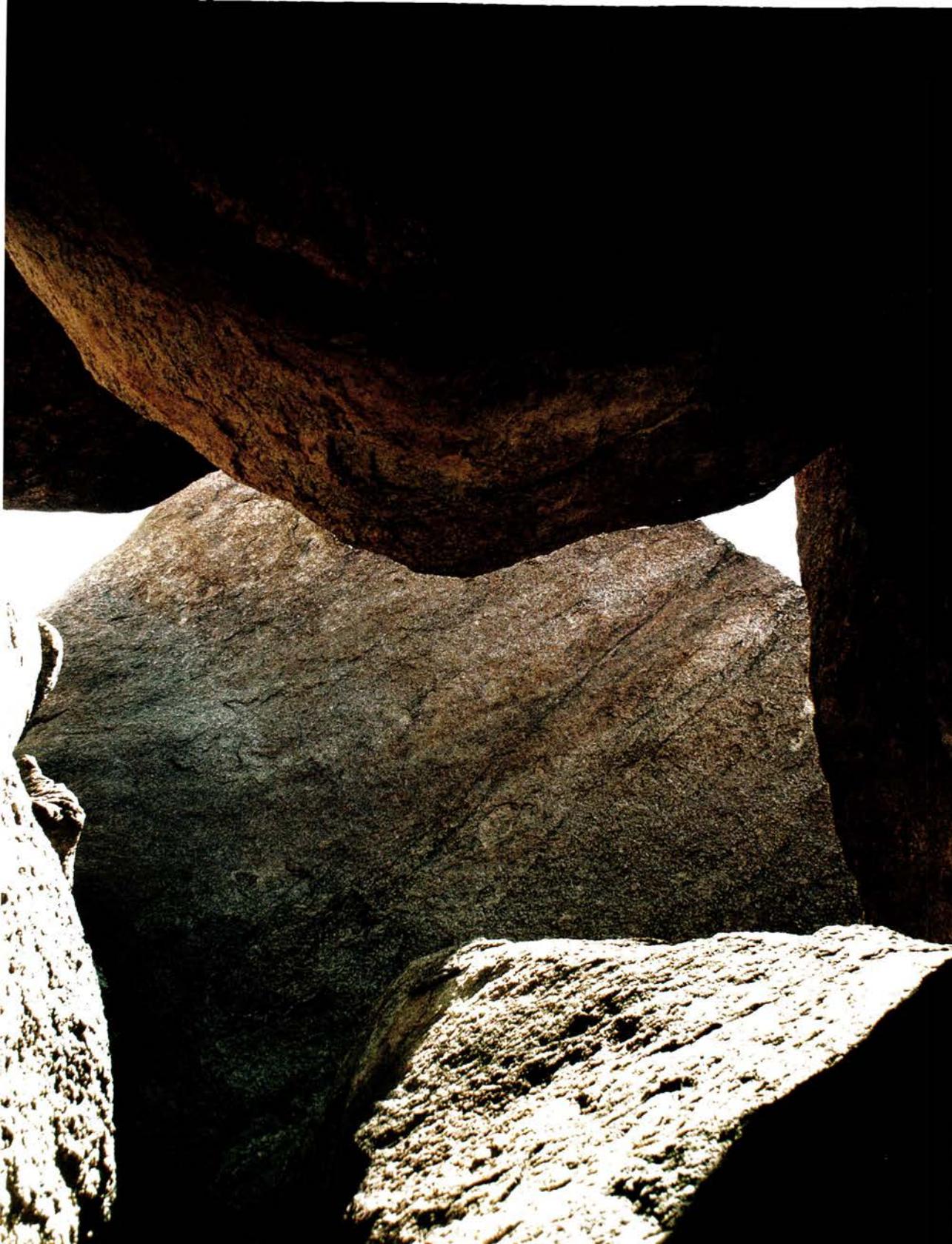


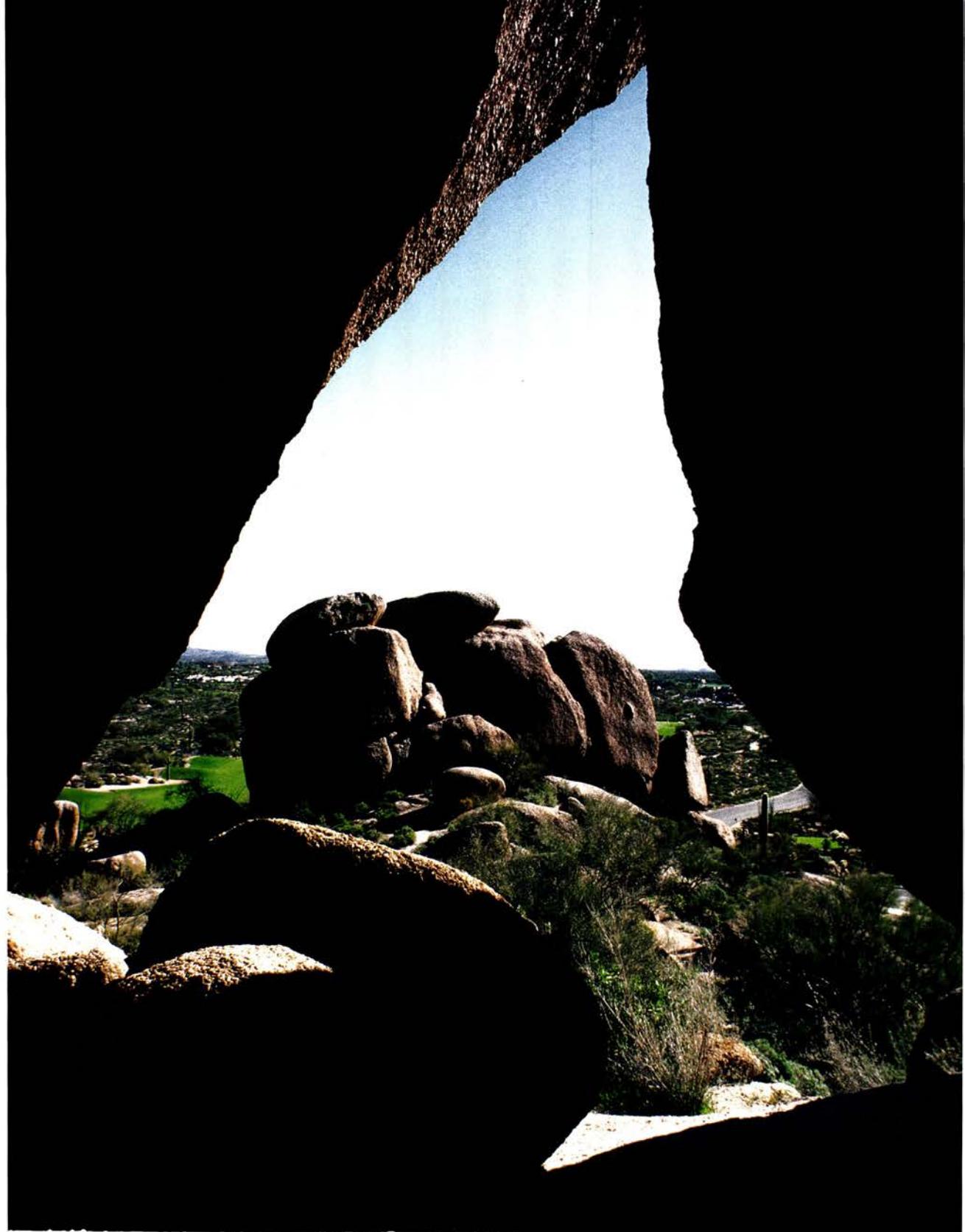


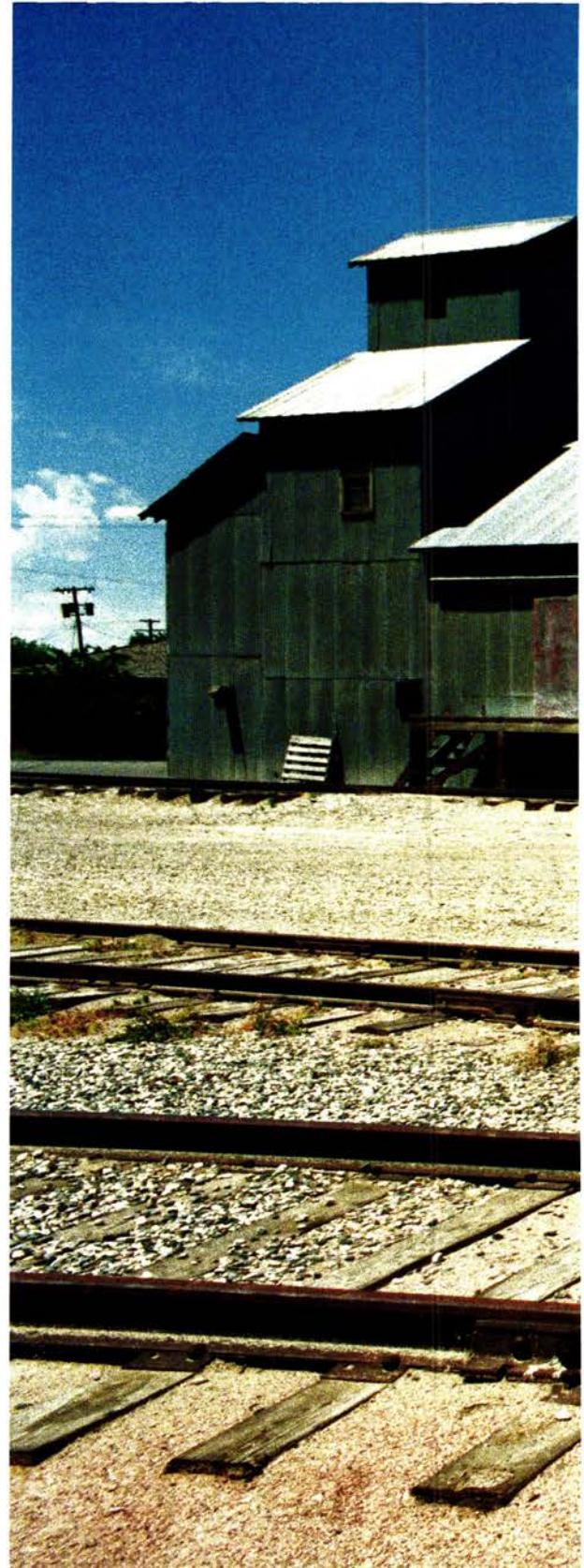




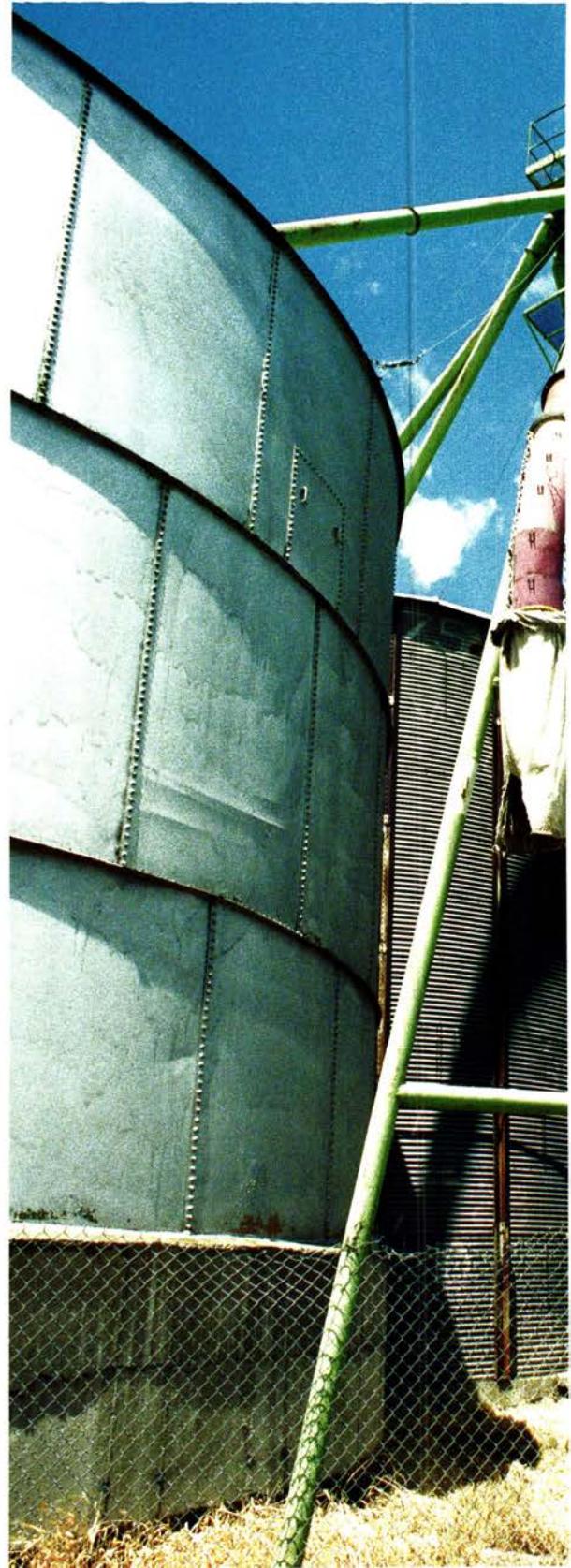


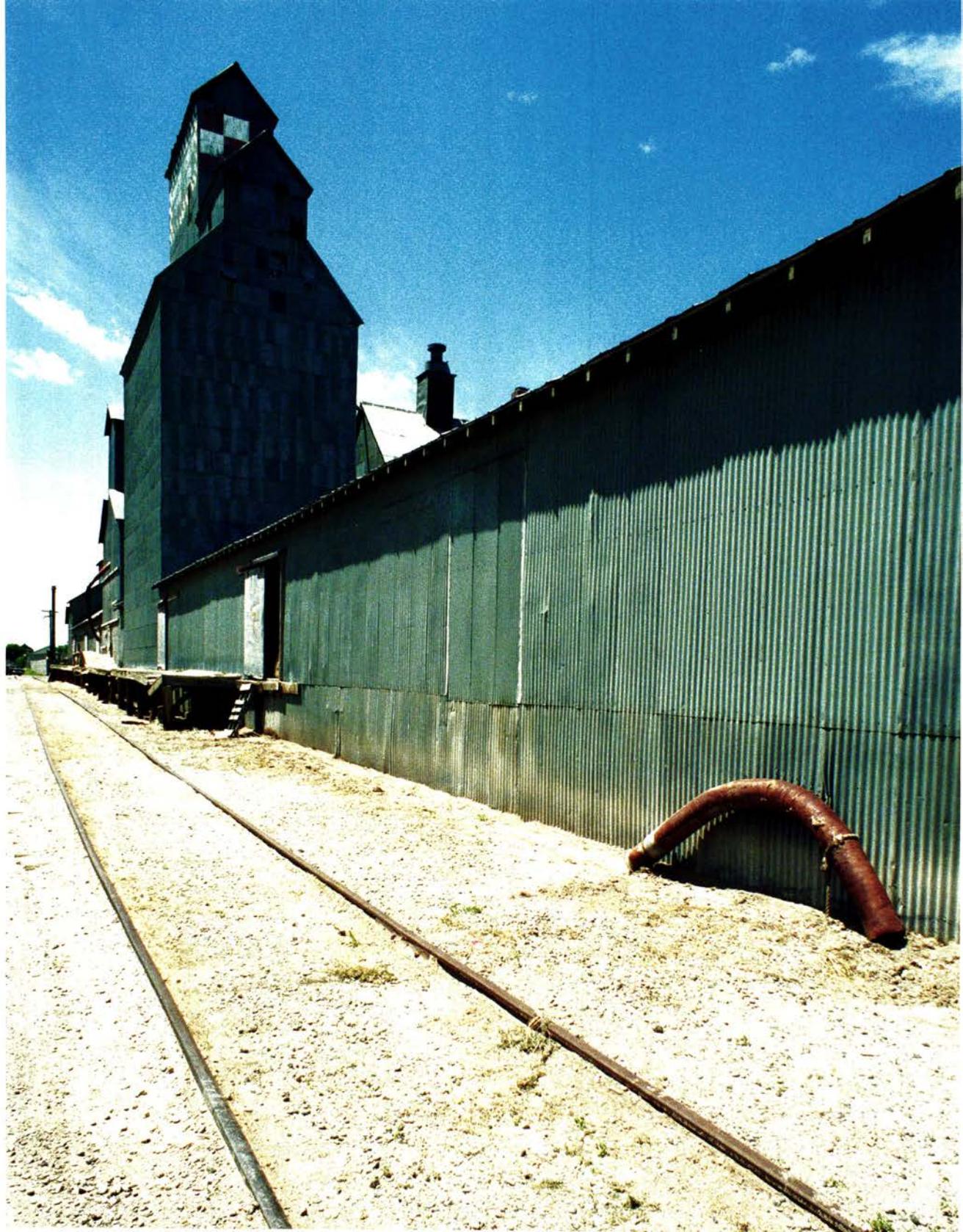


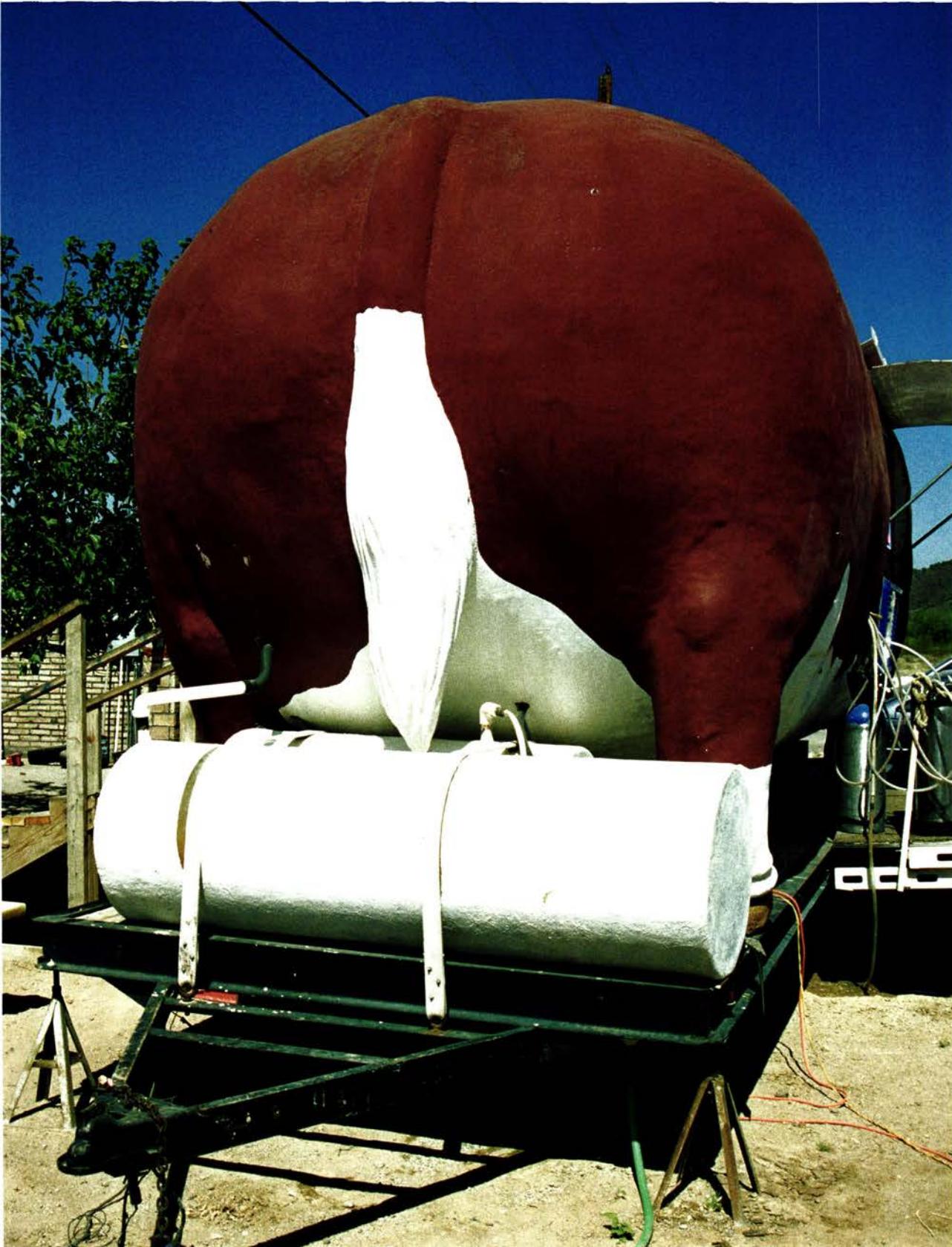






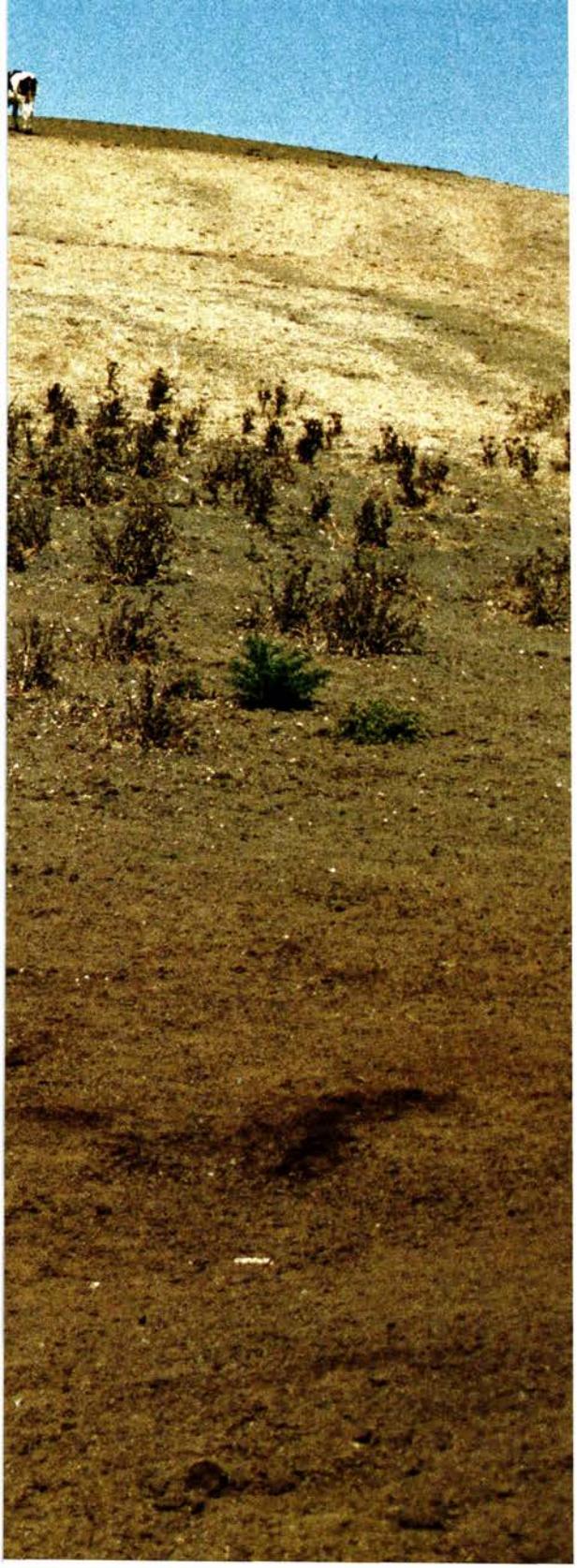


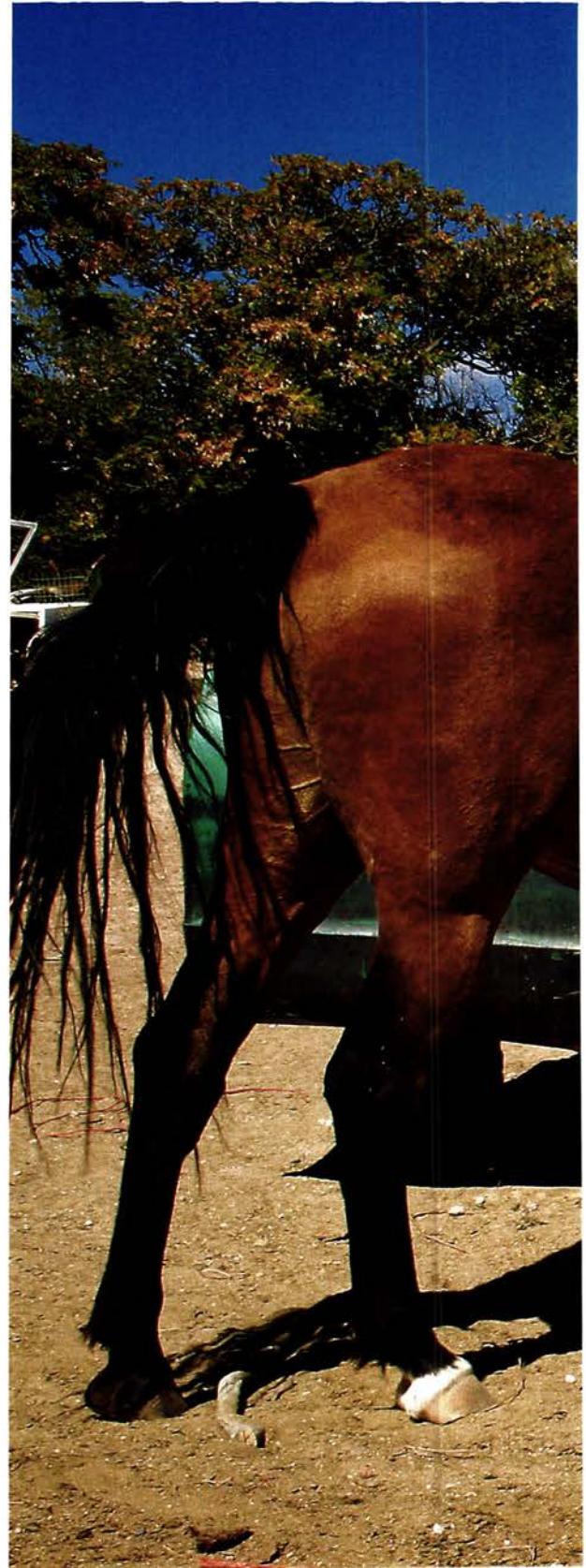








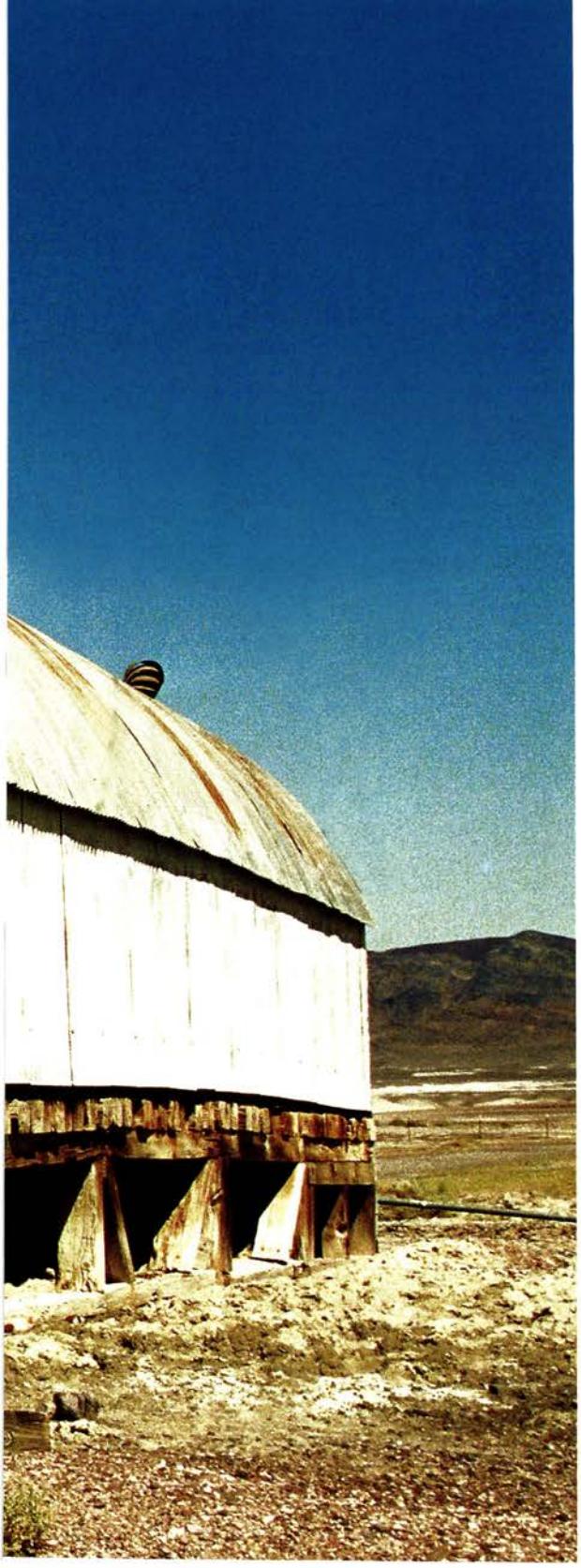


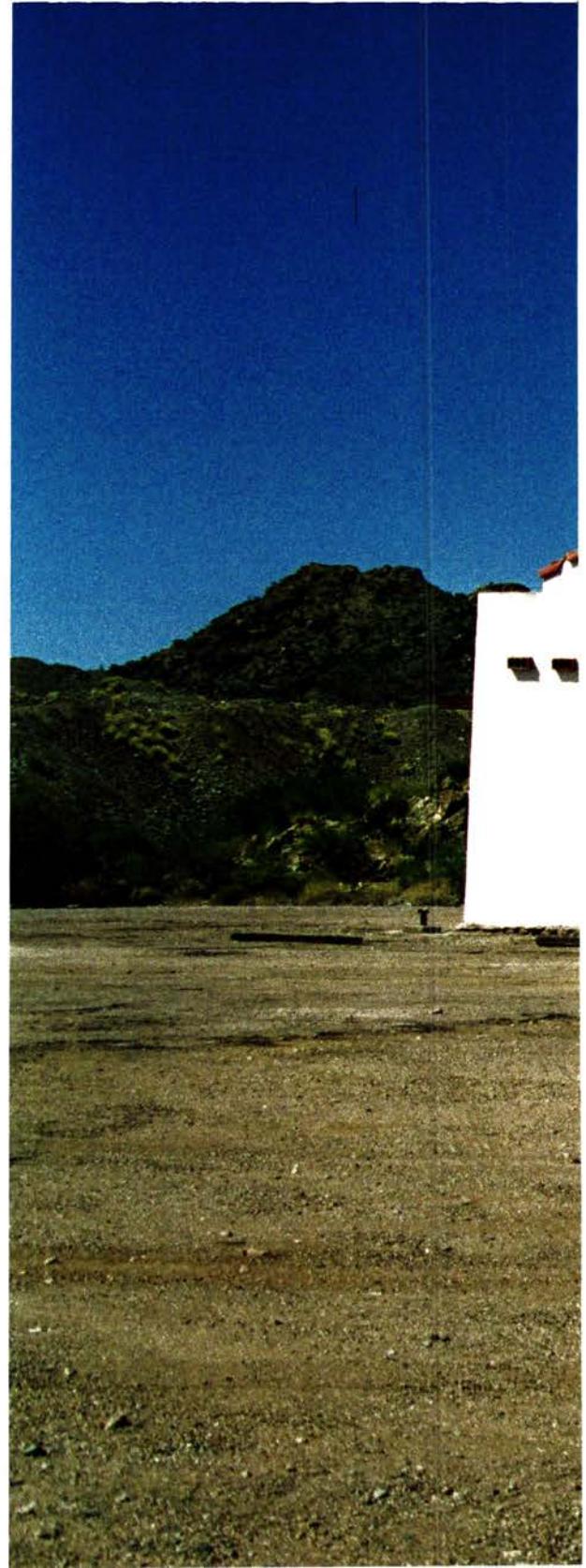
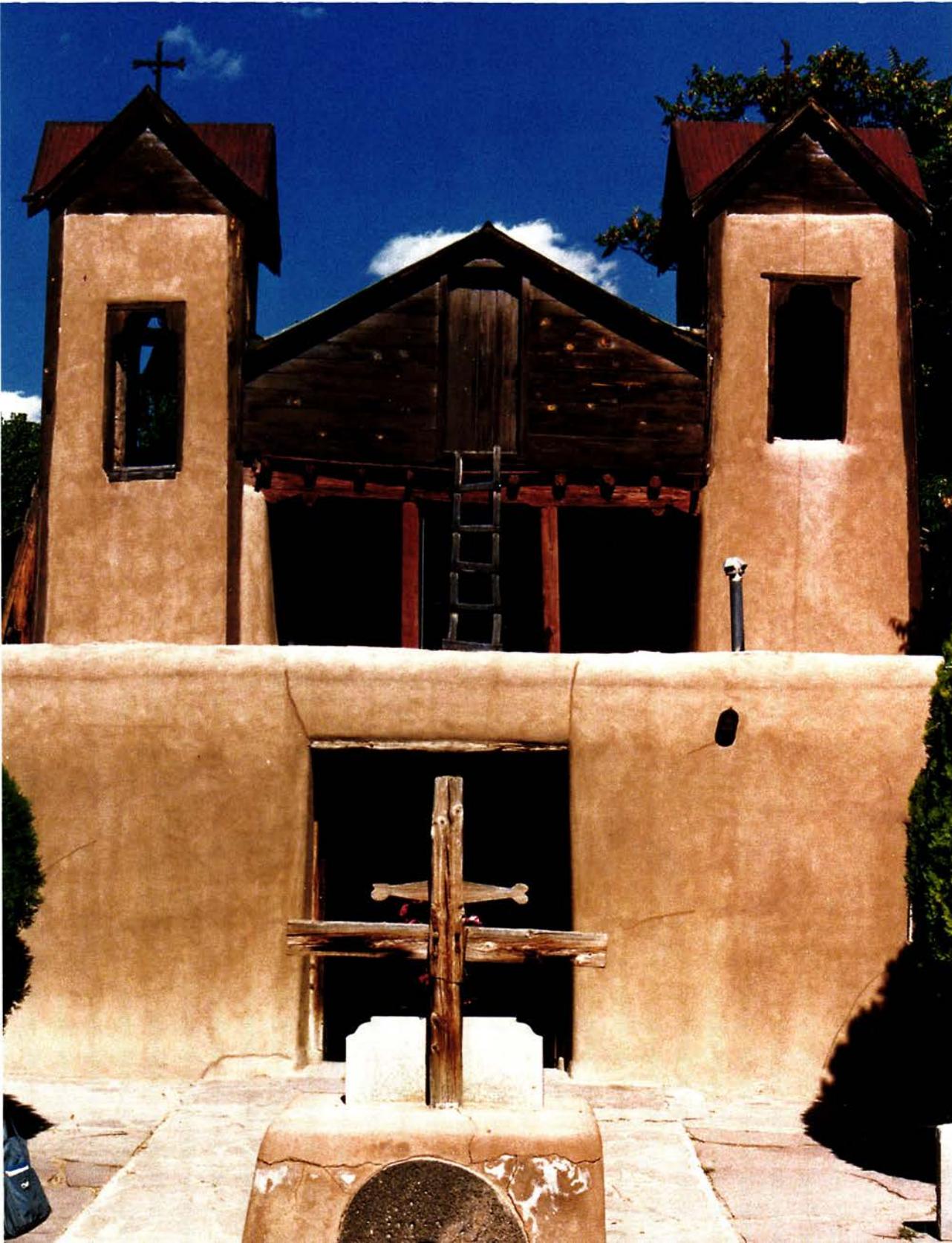




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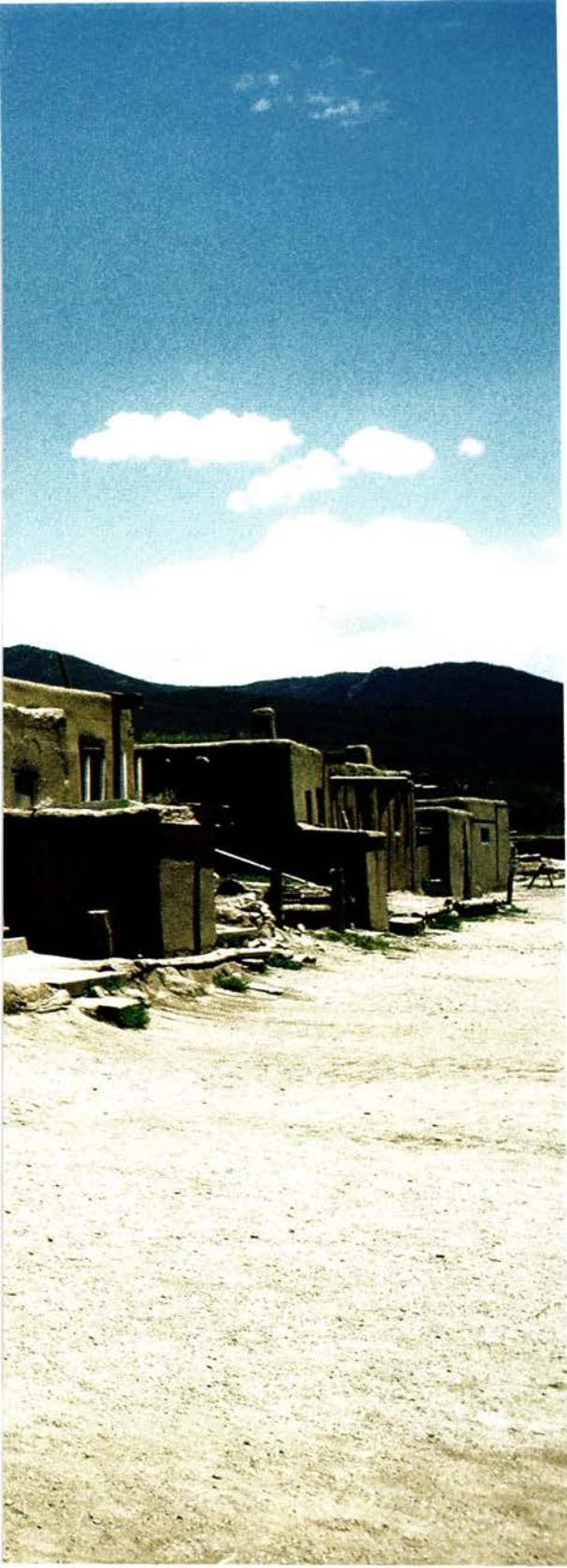


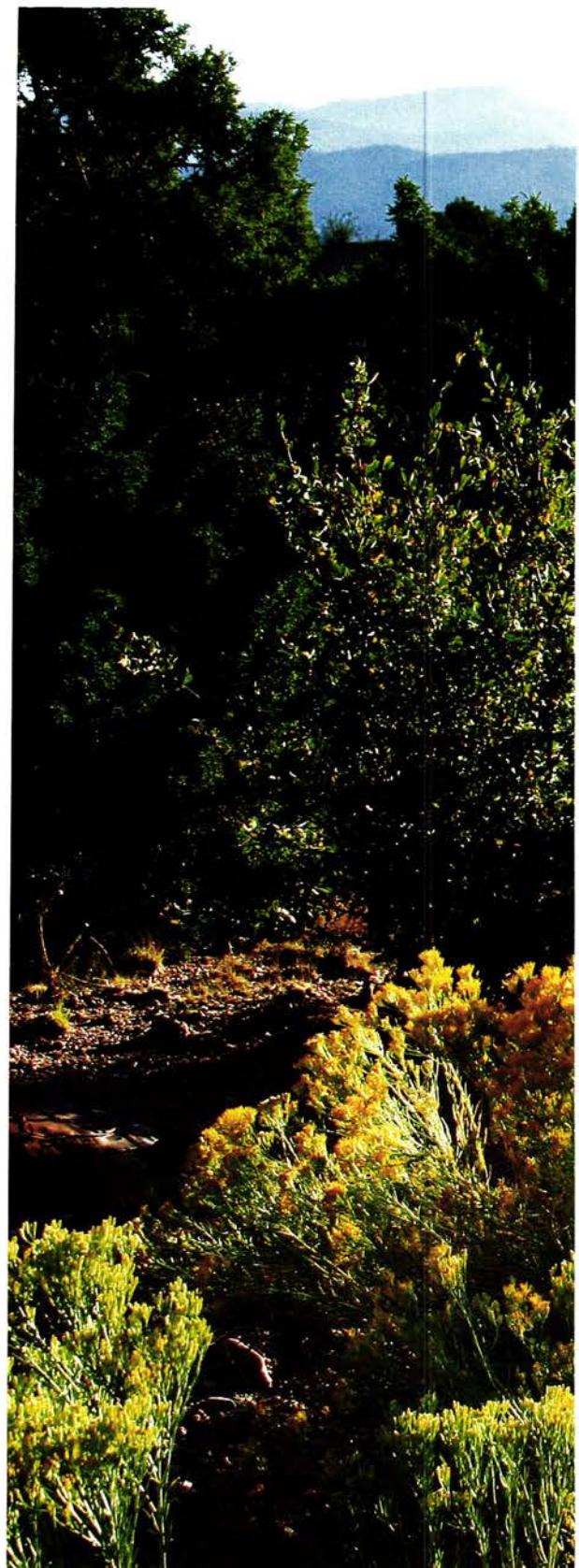
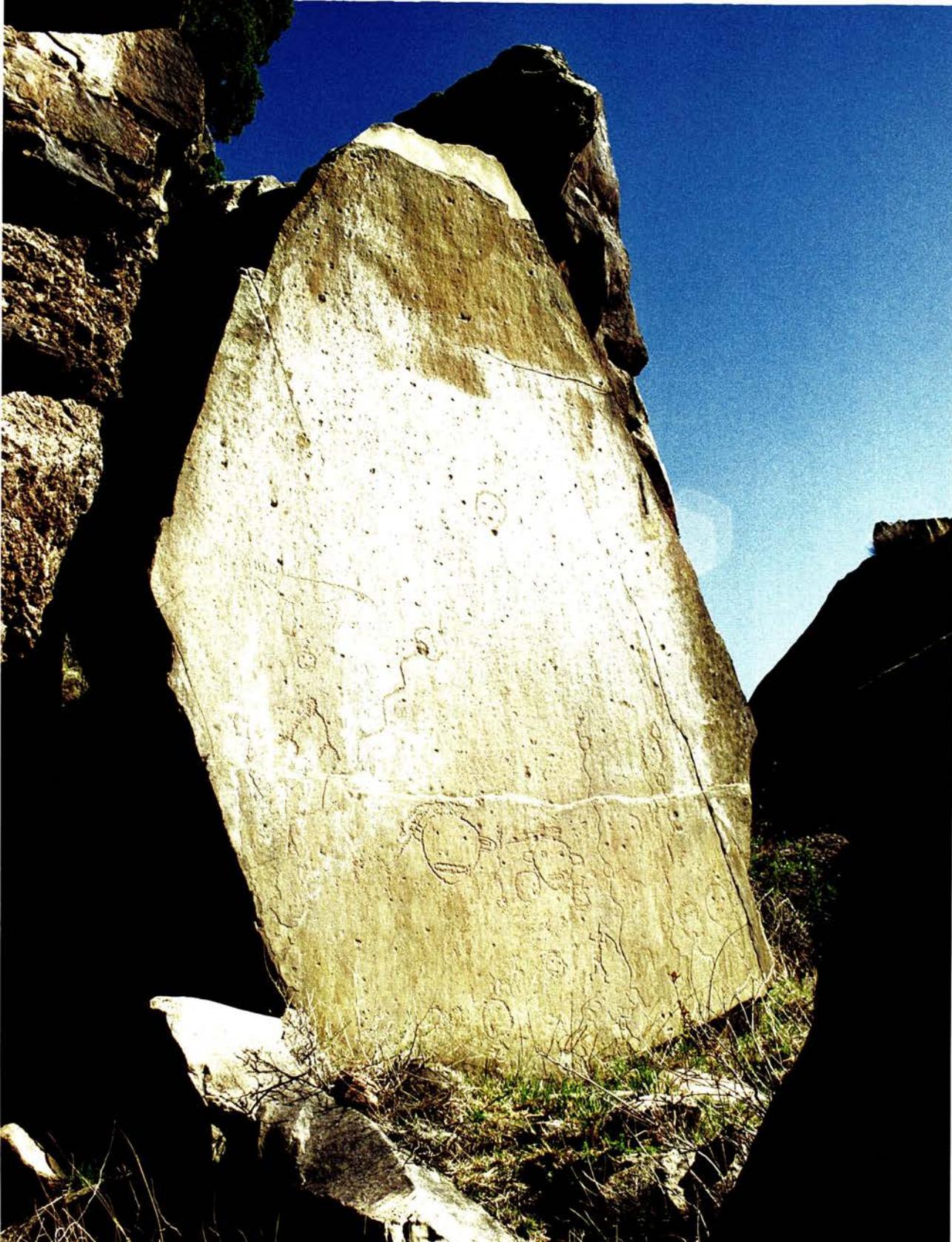




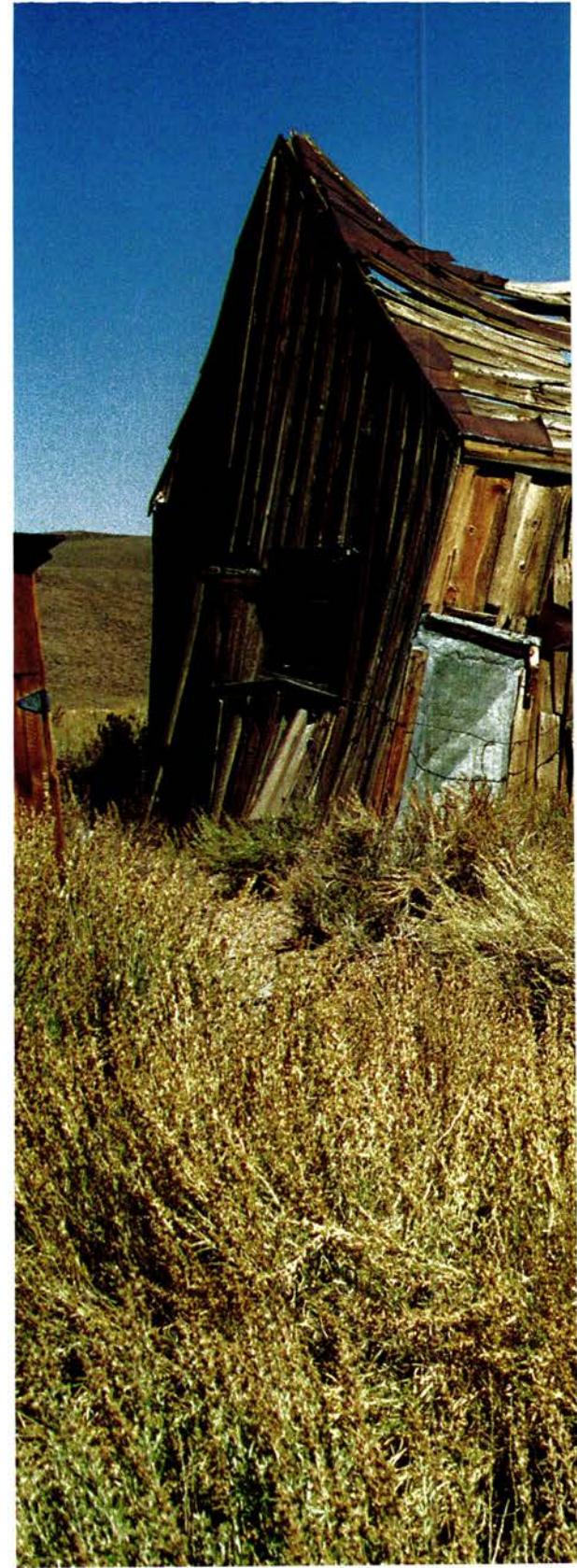






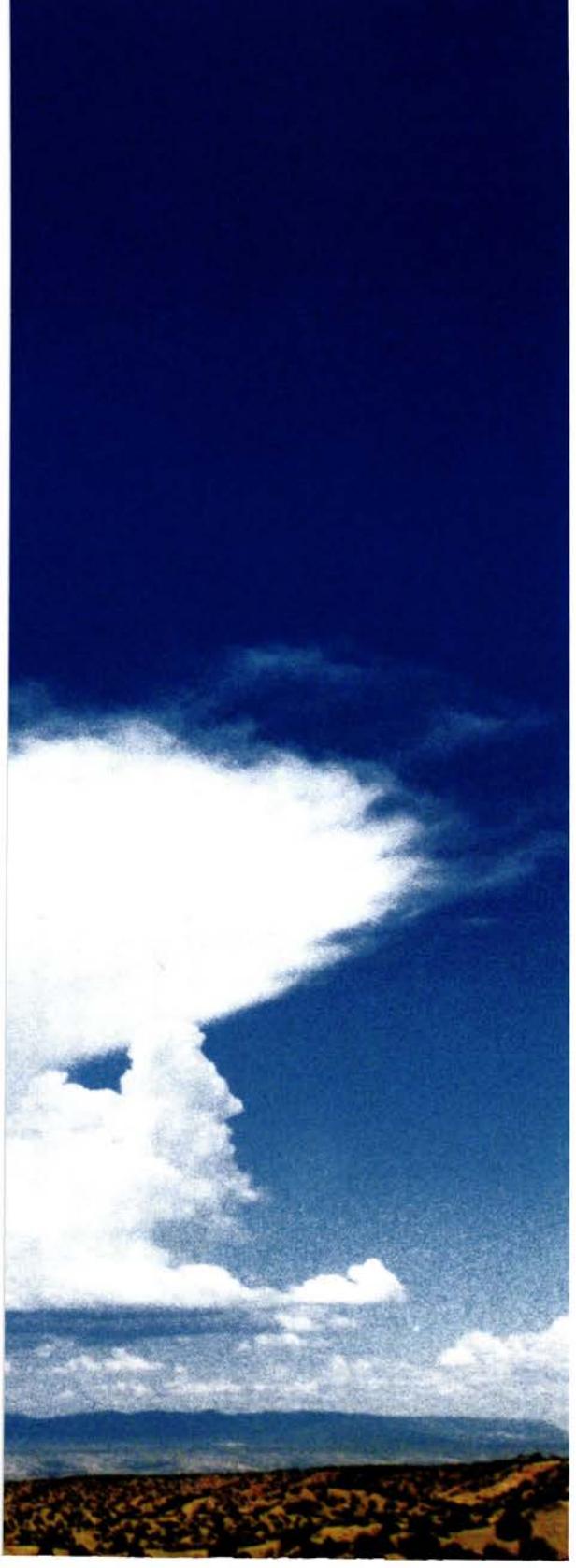








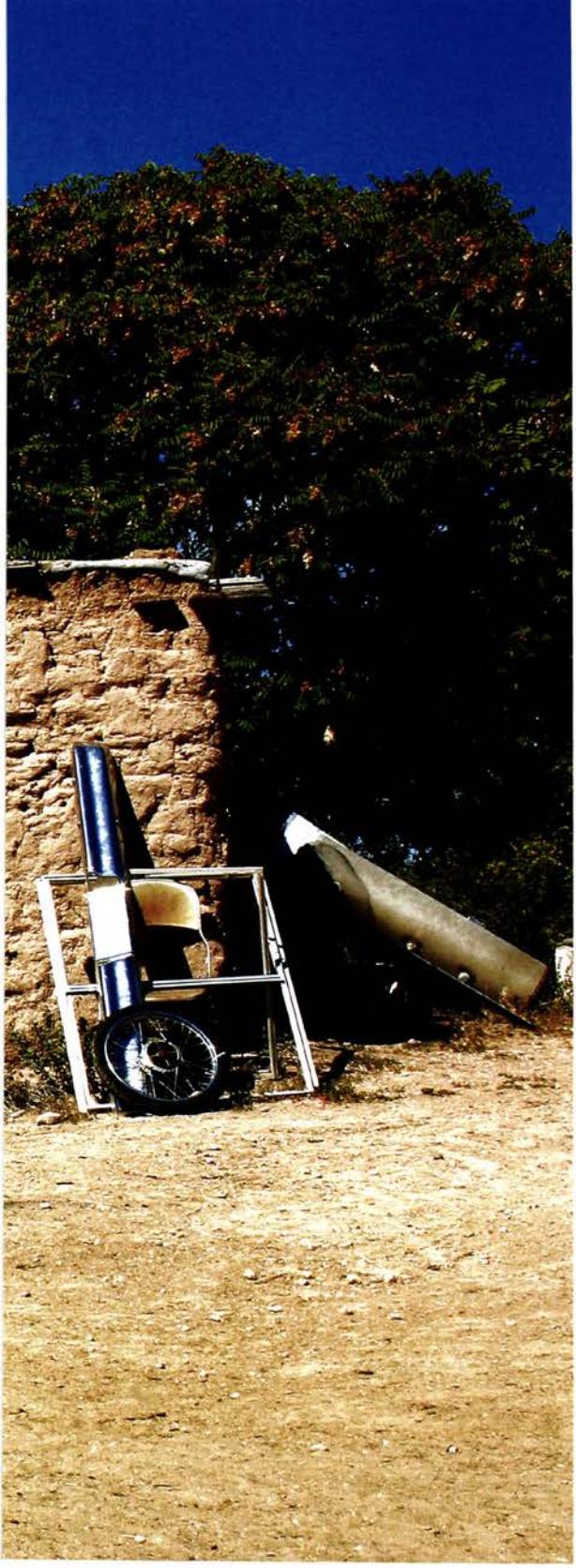




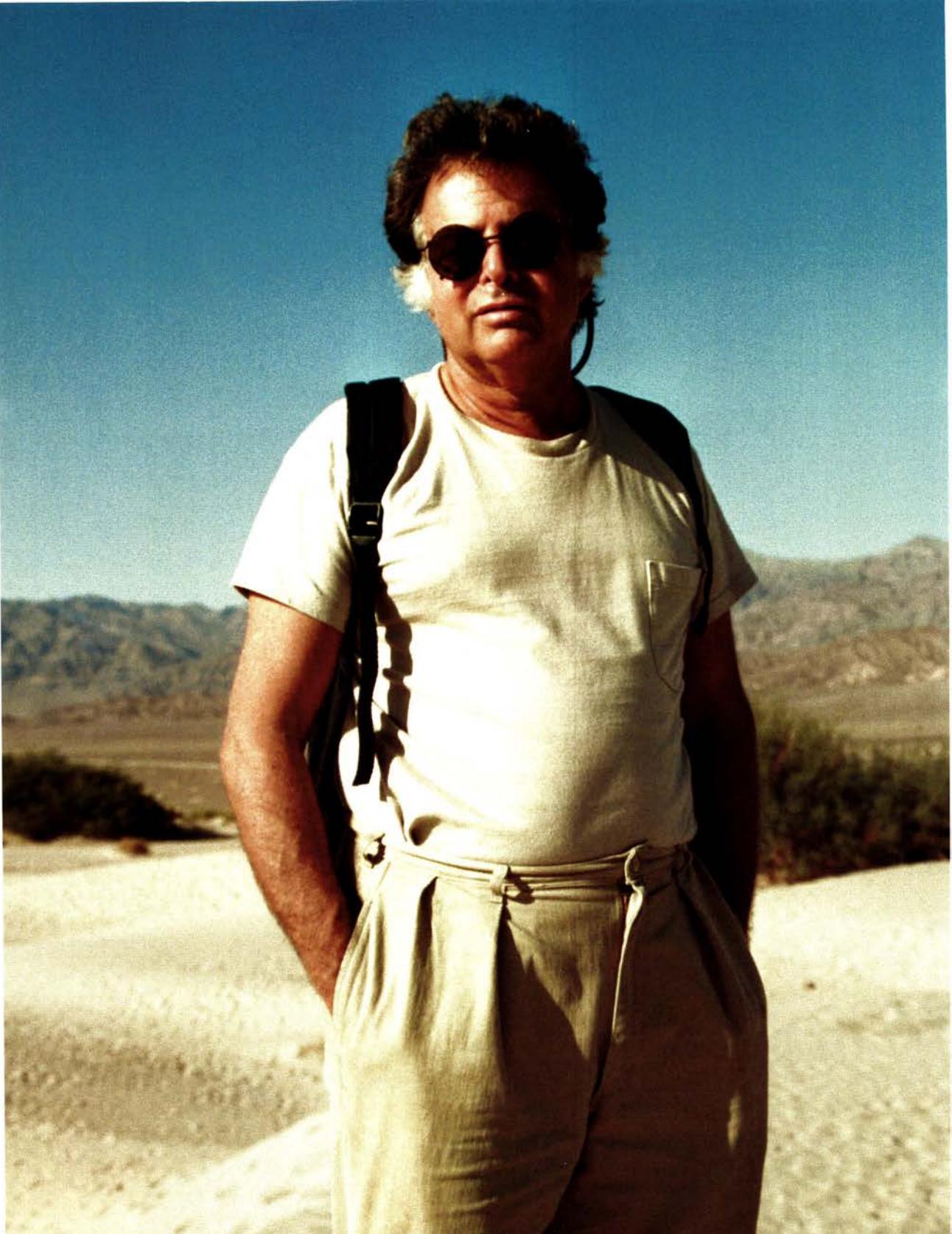
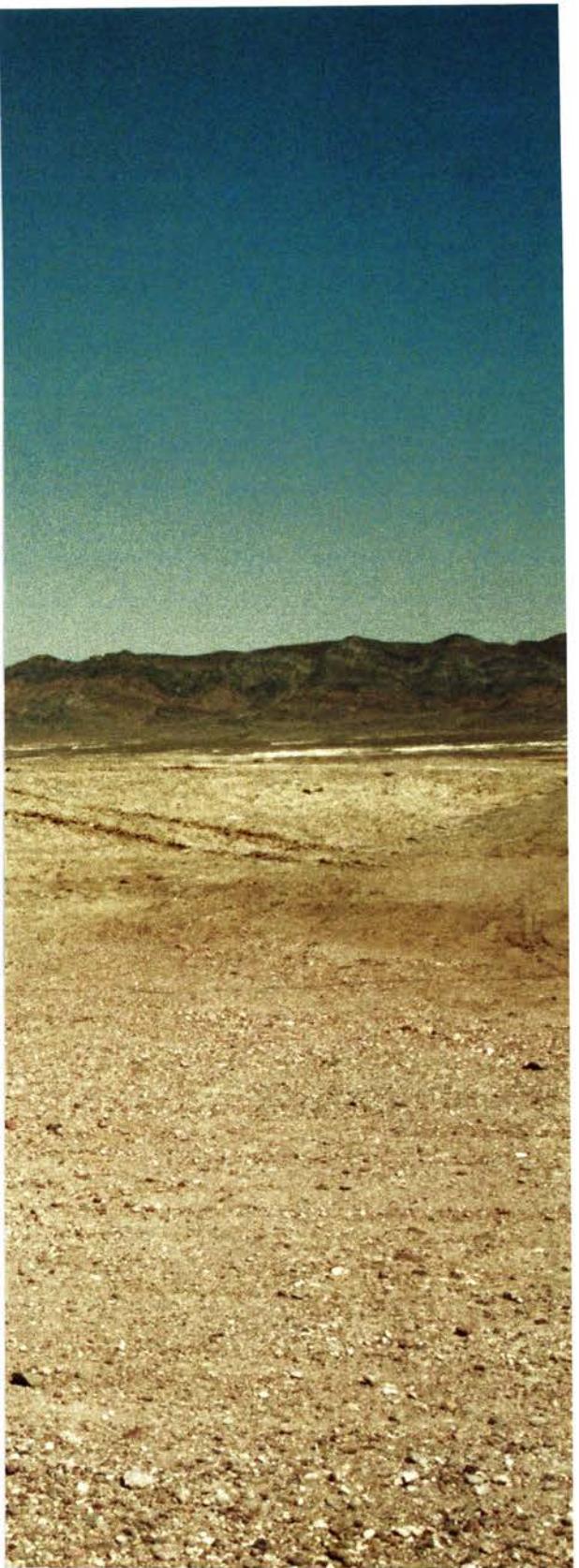
















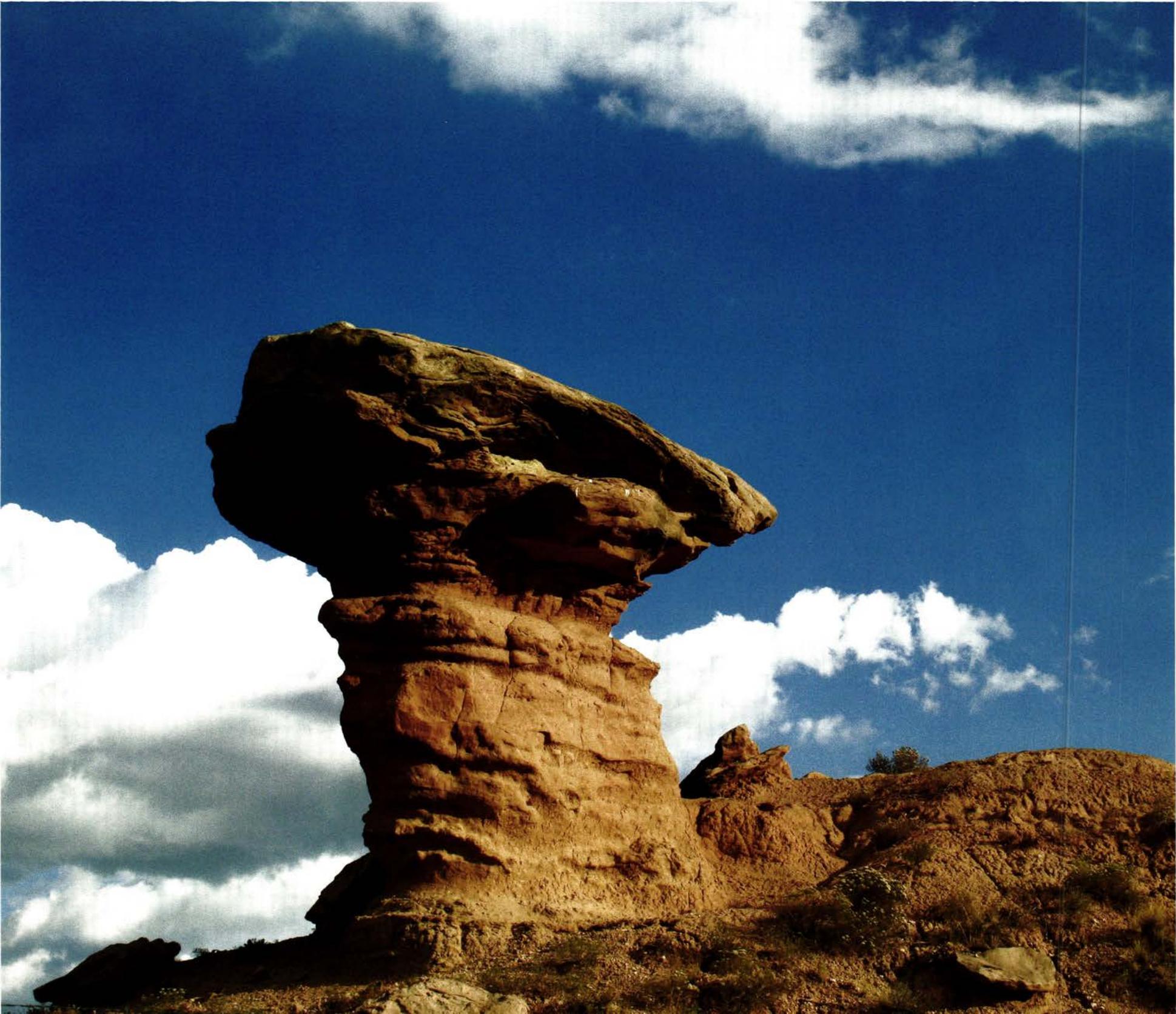




Best Little  
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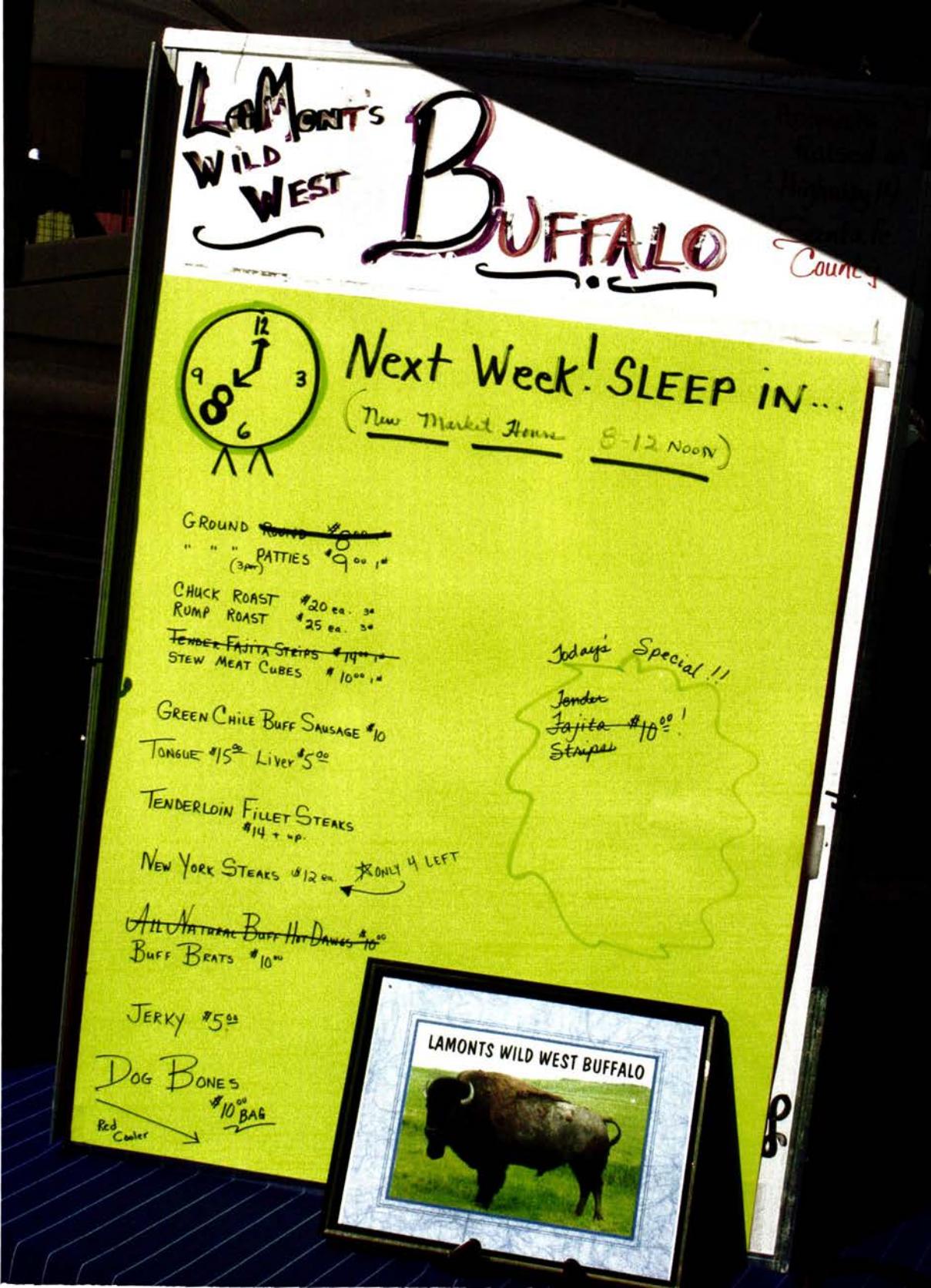








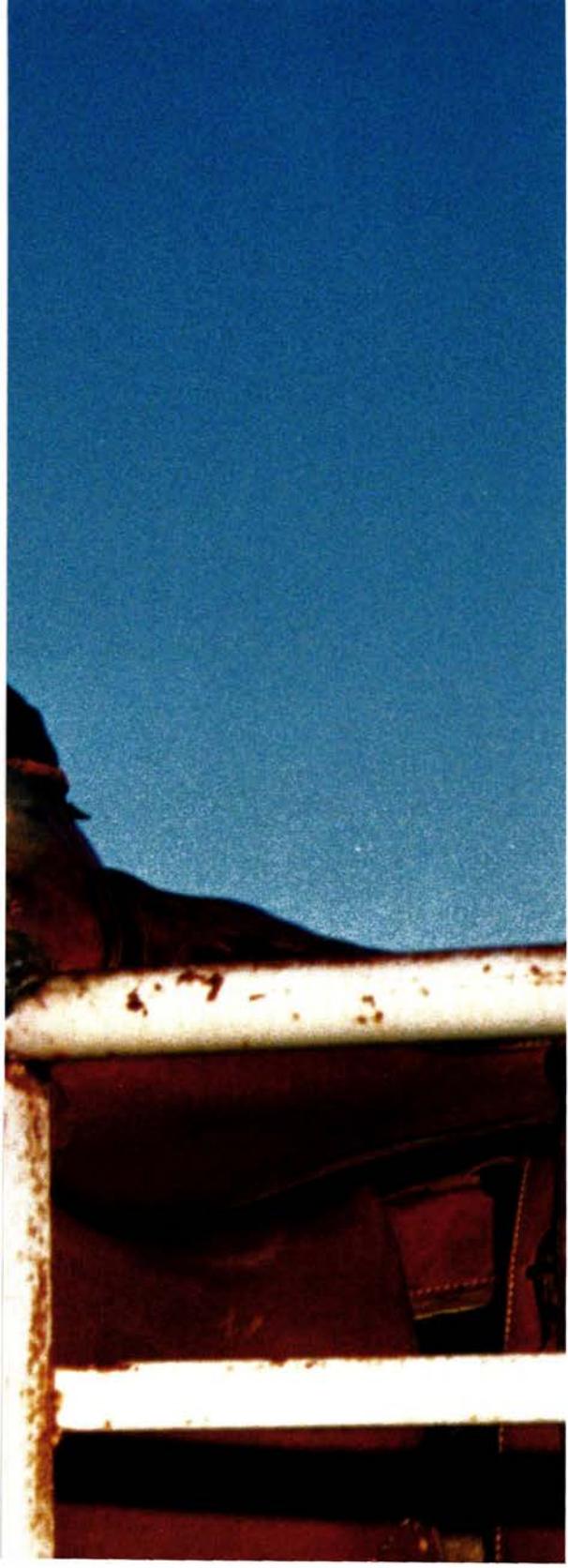


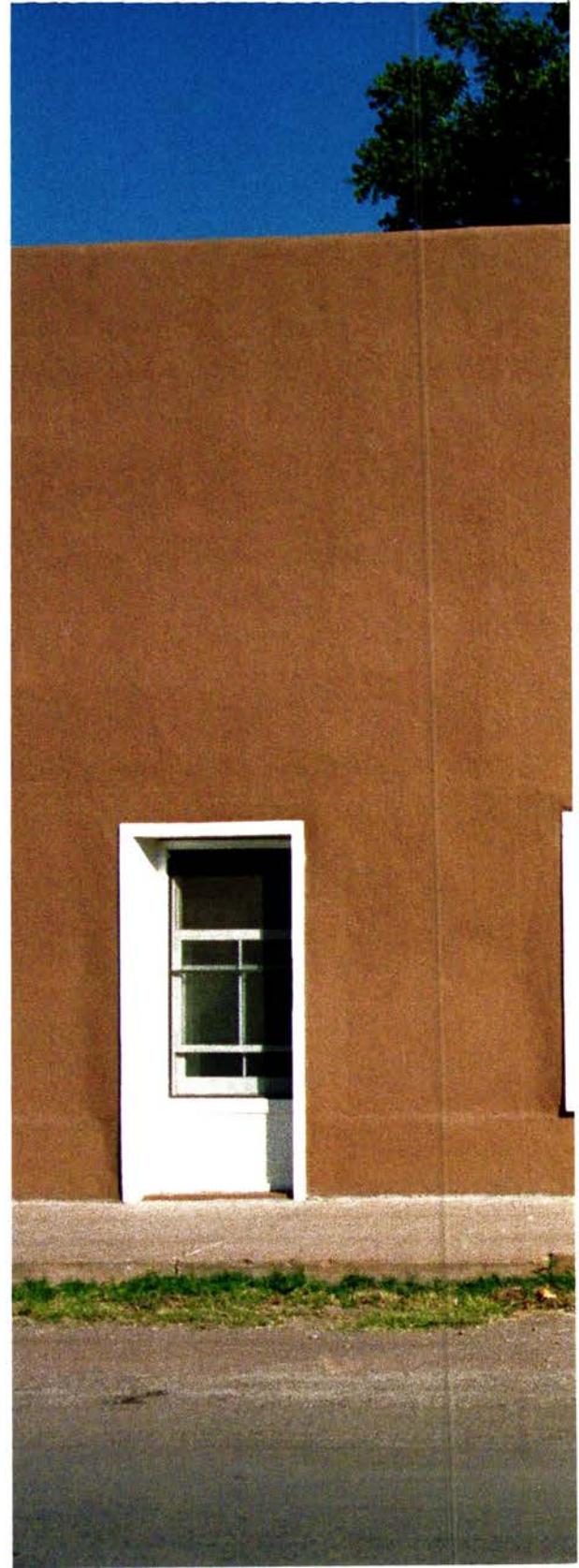
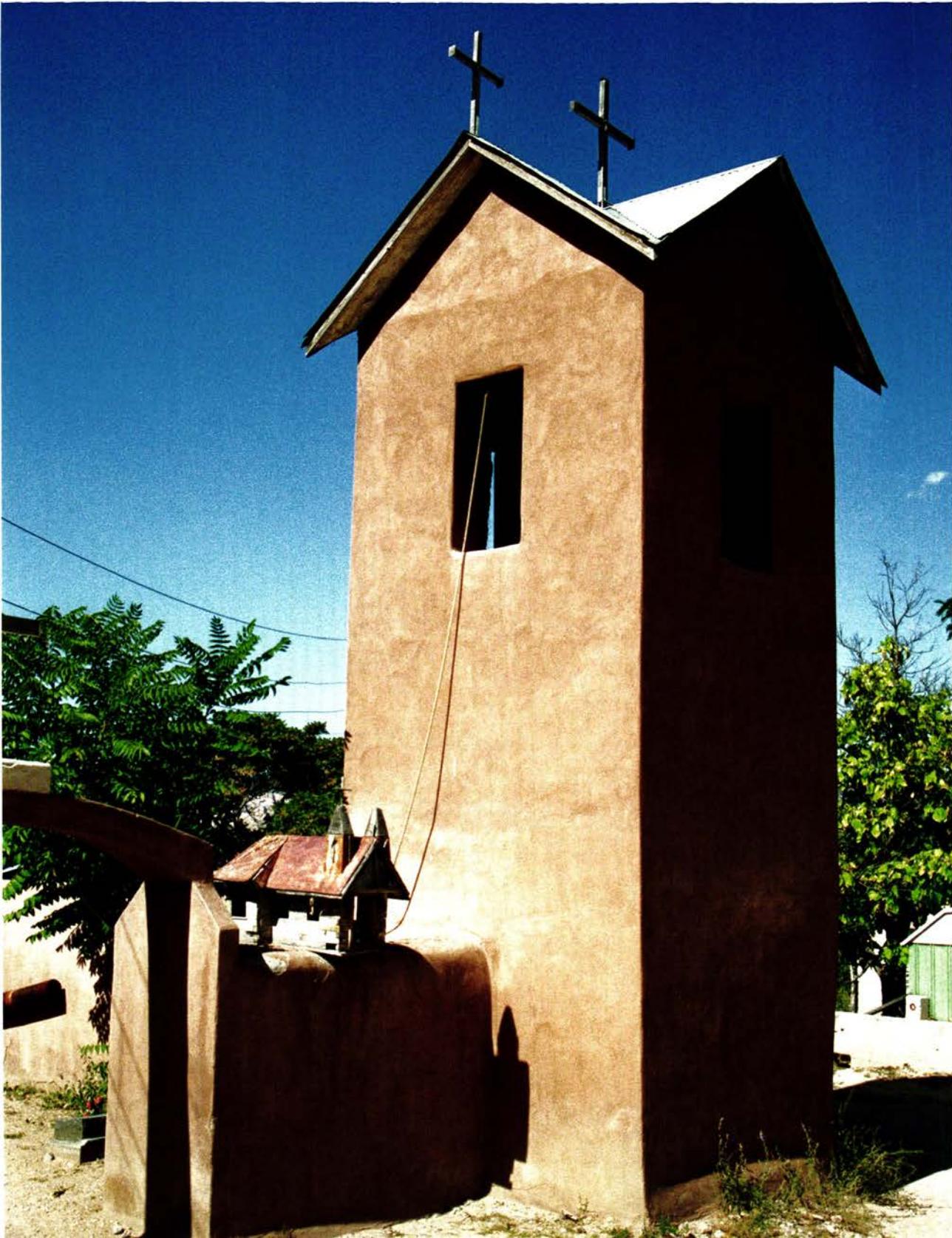




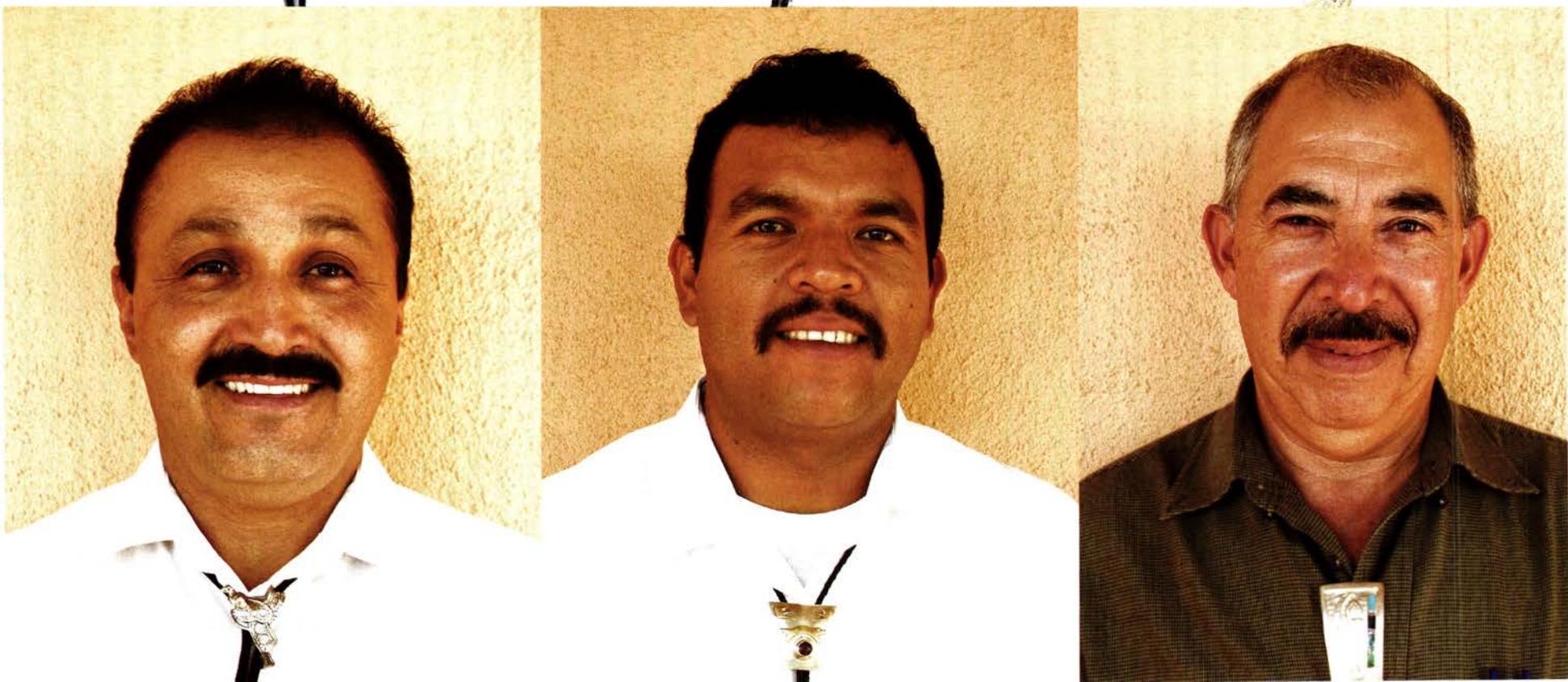


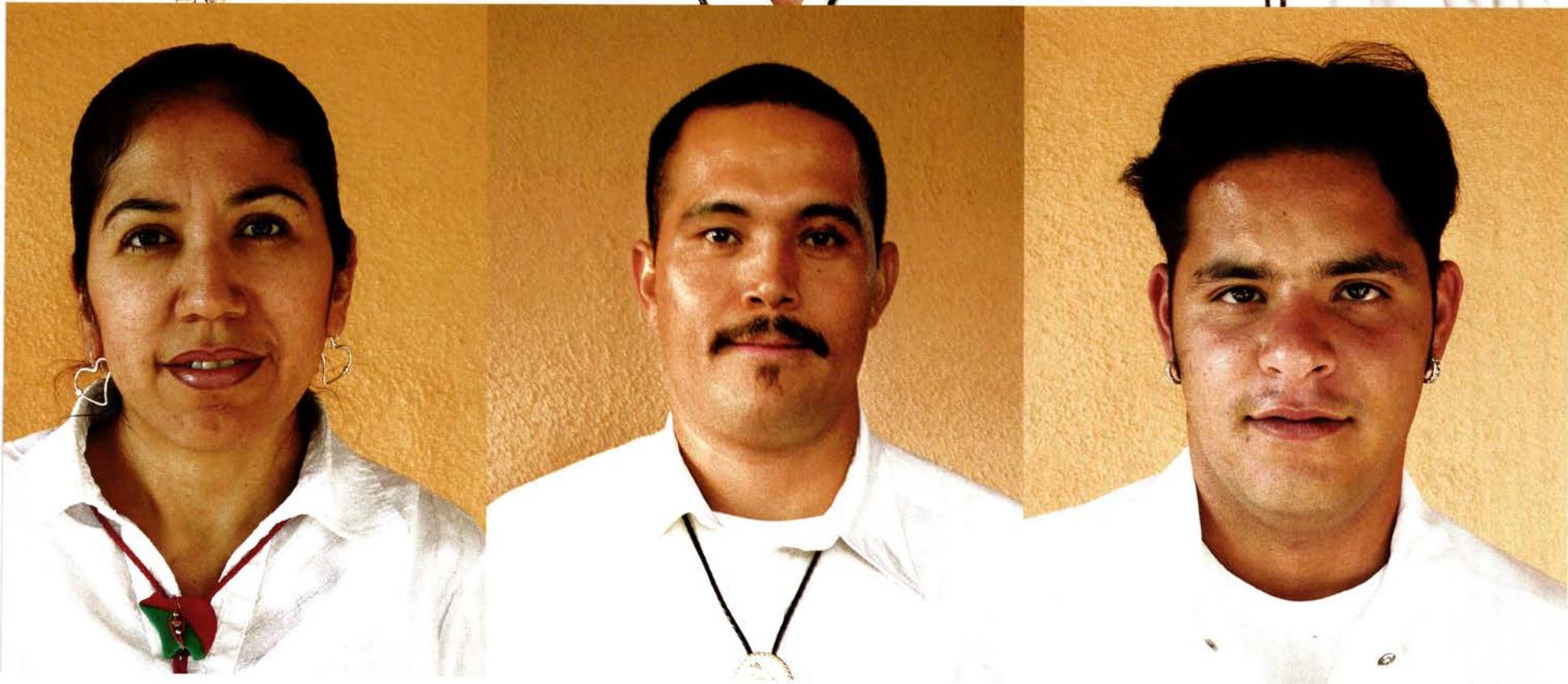






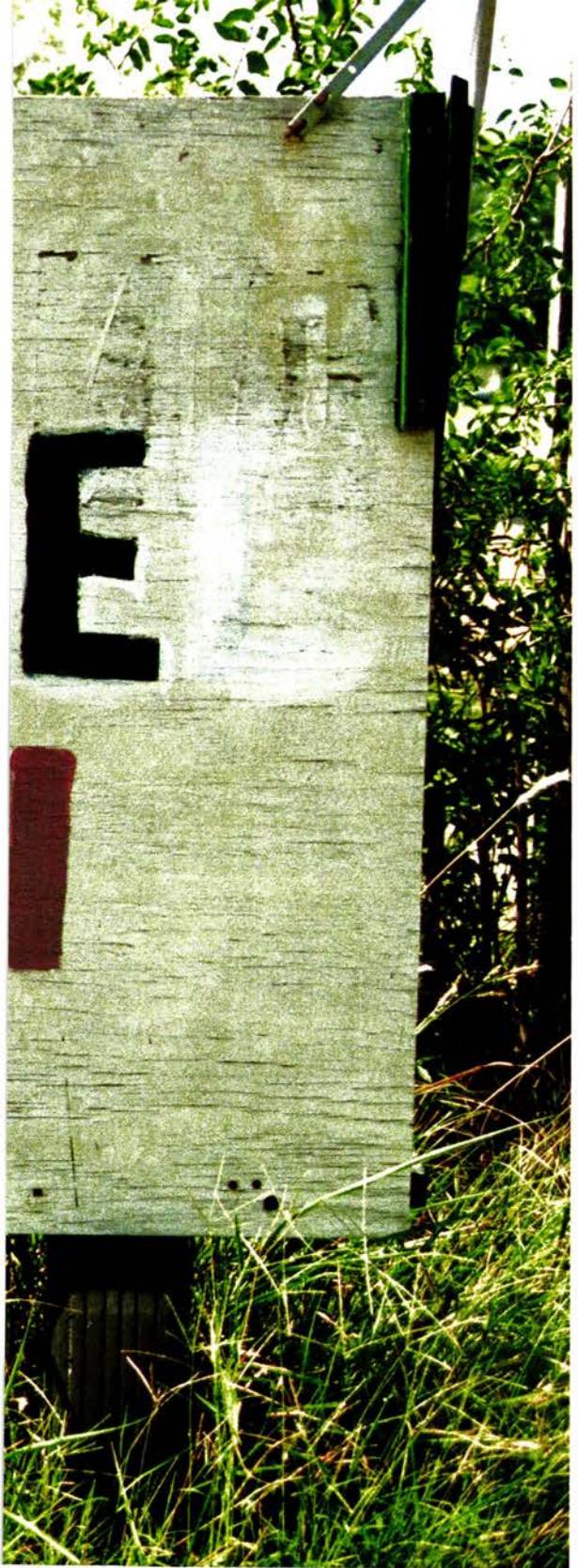






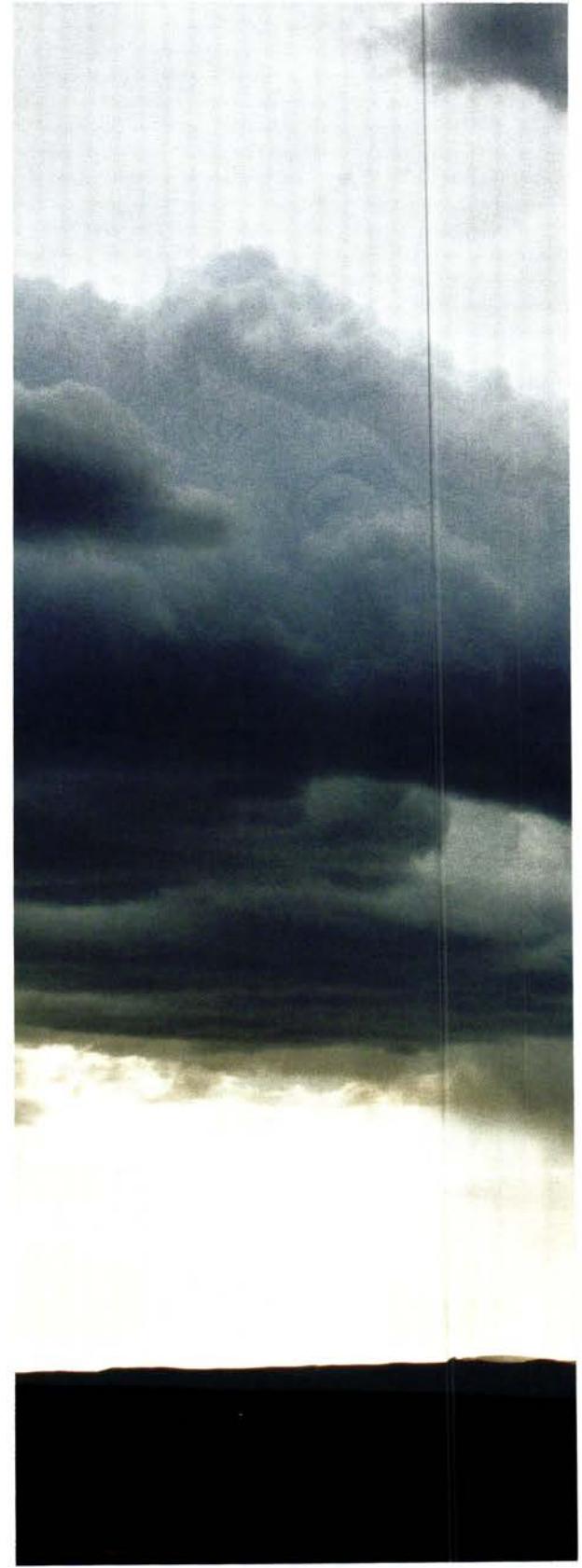
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**SELLING & PURCHASING**



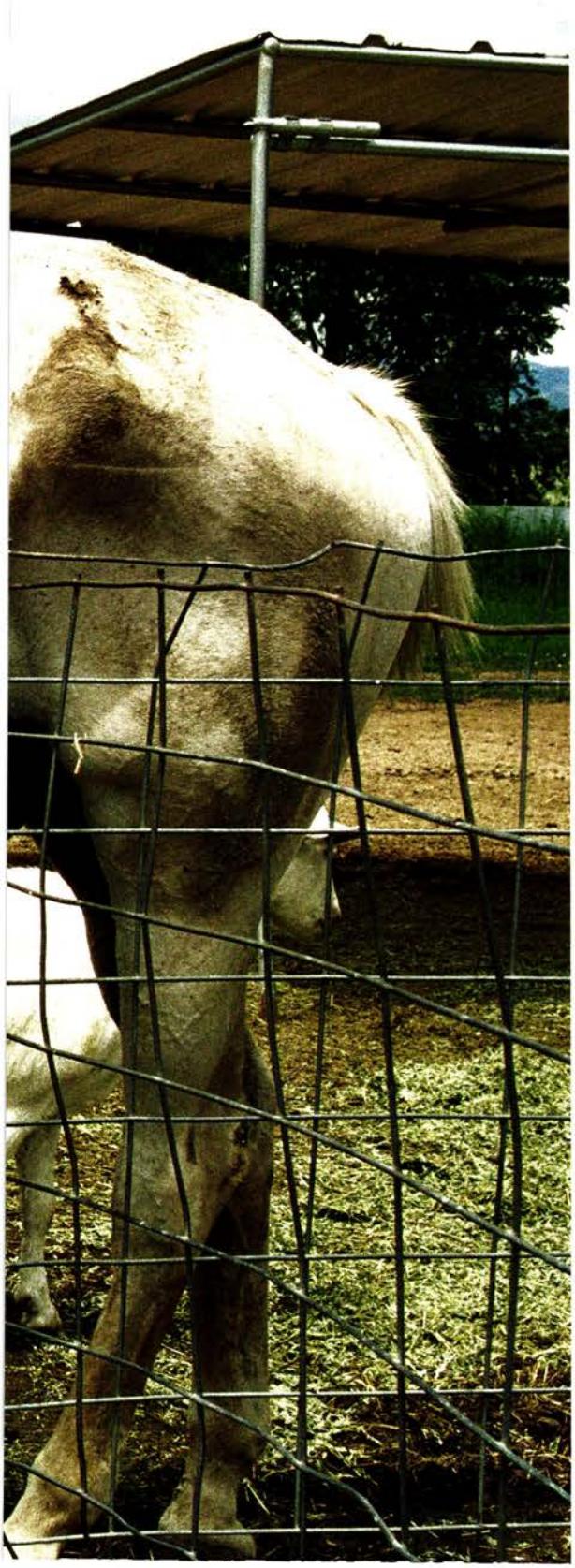
Lettuce Mix .... \$3  $\frac{00}{\text{1/2} \#}$   
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Radishes }  
Garlic }  
Shallots } \$5  $\frac{00}{\text{a bag}}$   
Onions }  
Sunchokes }  
Rutabaga }  
Daikon Radish } \$2  $\frac{00}{\#}$   
Potatoes }  
Cabbage }  
Winter Squash } \$1  $\frac{50}{\#}$   
Tomatoes ..... \$2  $\frac{50}{\#}$   
Cilantro ..... \$2  $\frac{00}{\text{a bag}}$   
Potato Bags ..... \$5  $\frac{00}{\#}$

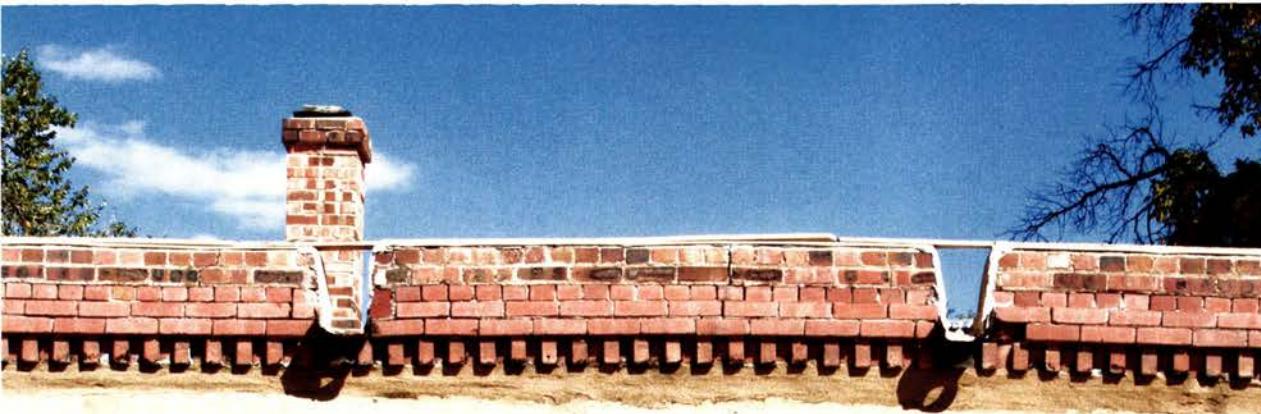
BRING YOUR BAGS TO MARKET!











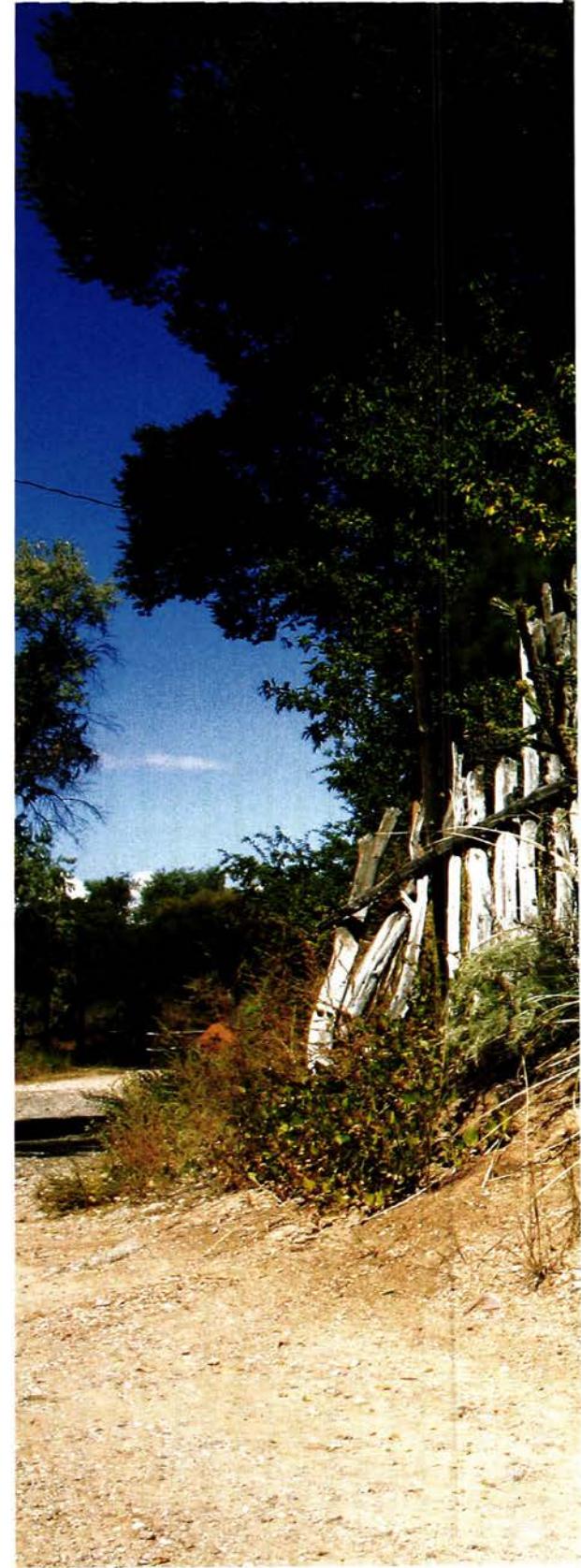






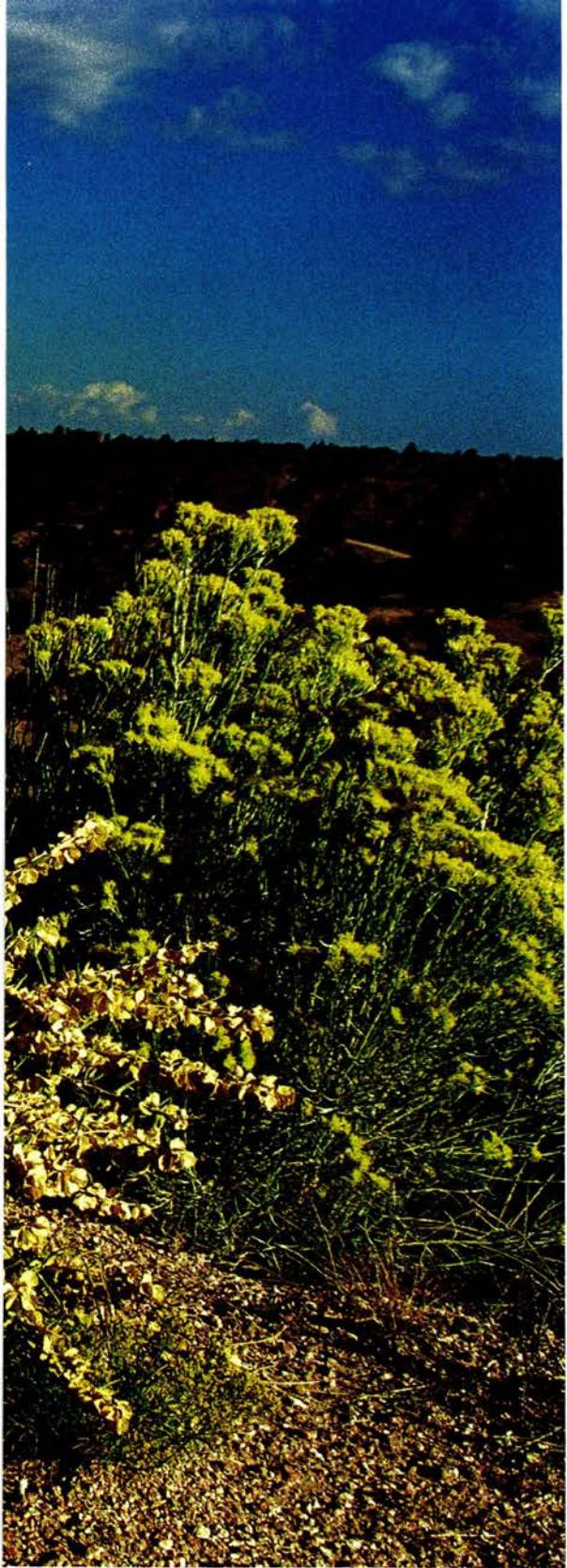














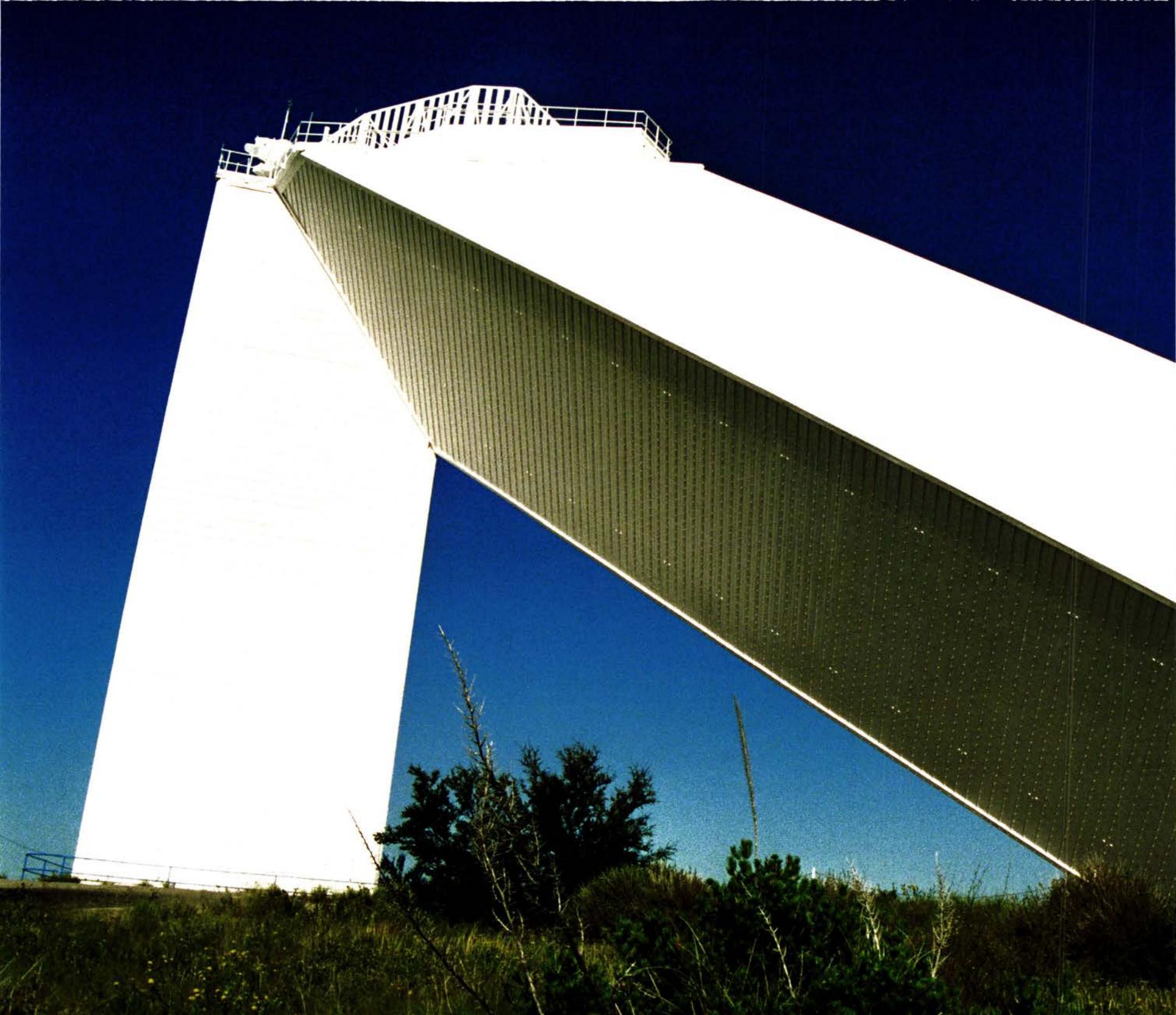














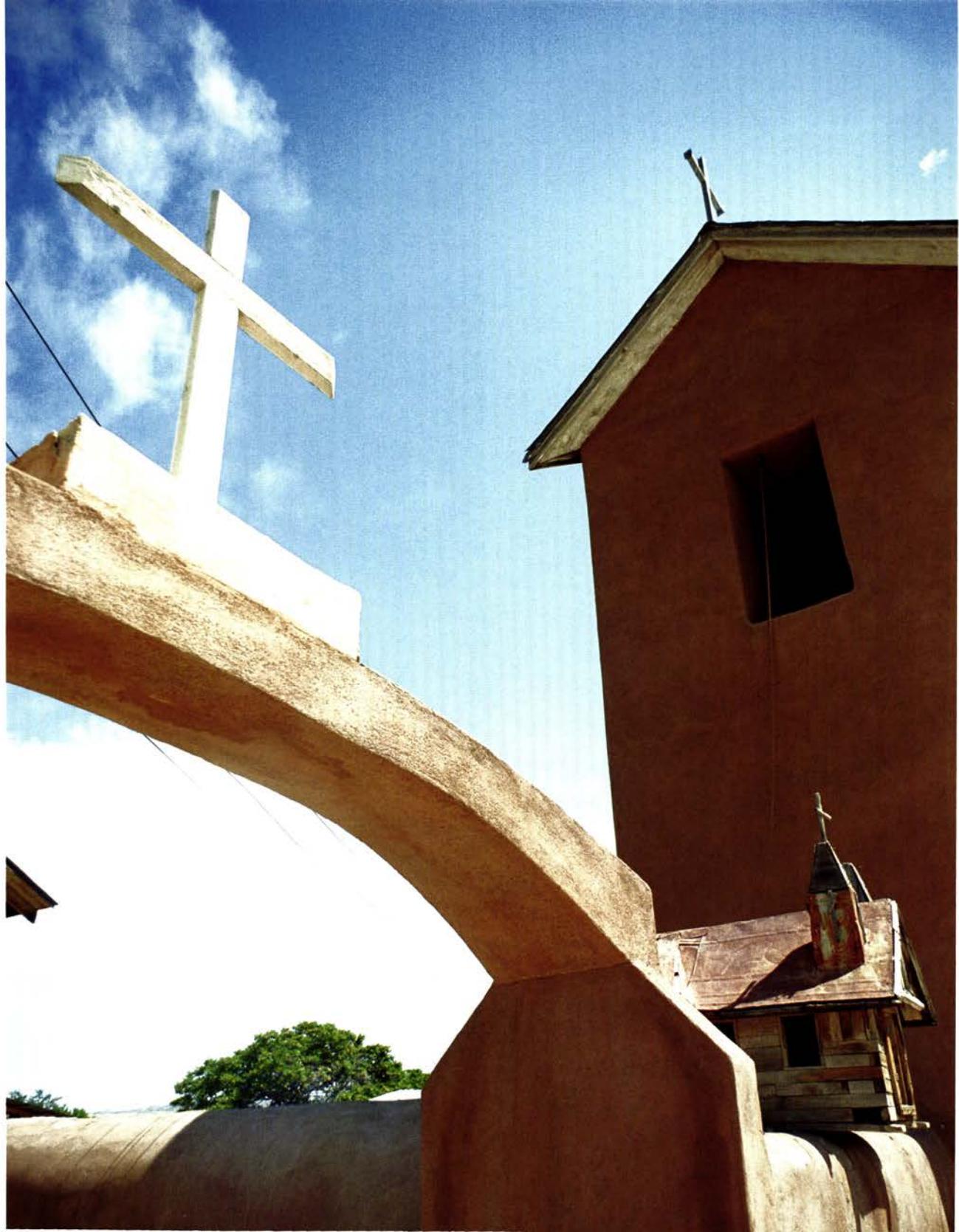
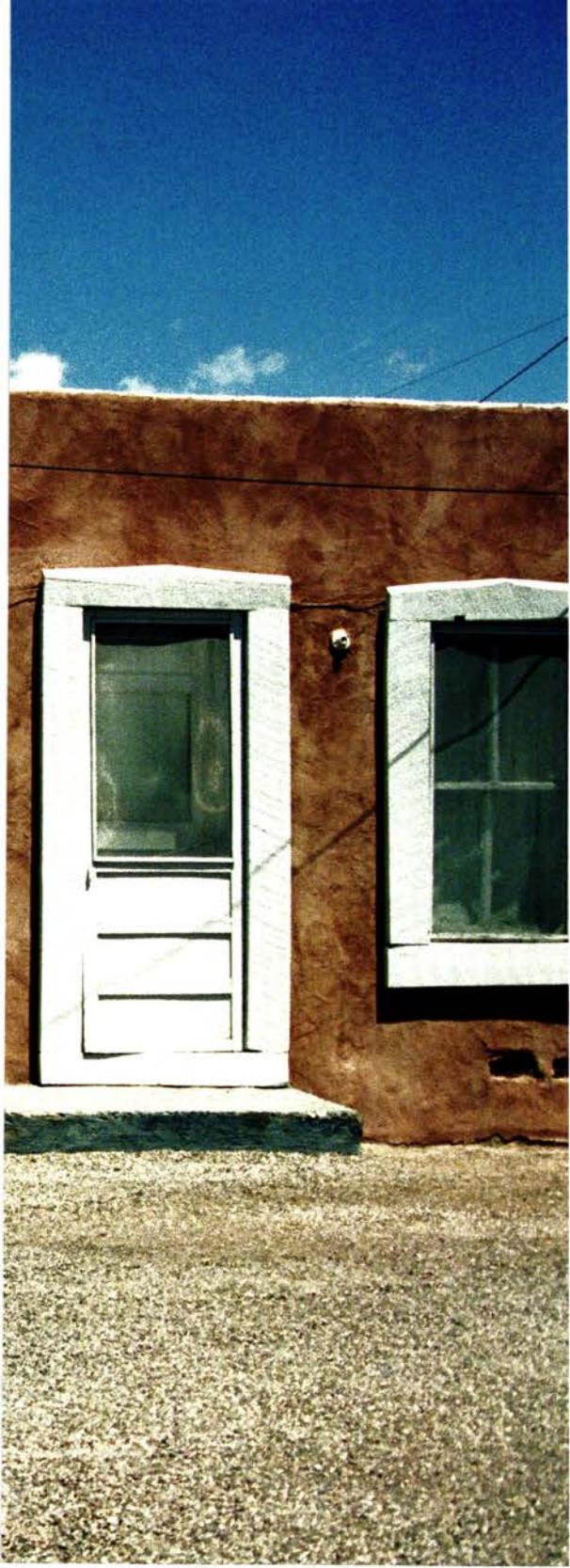


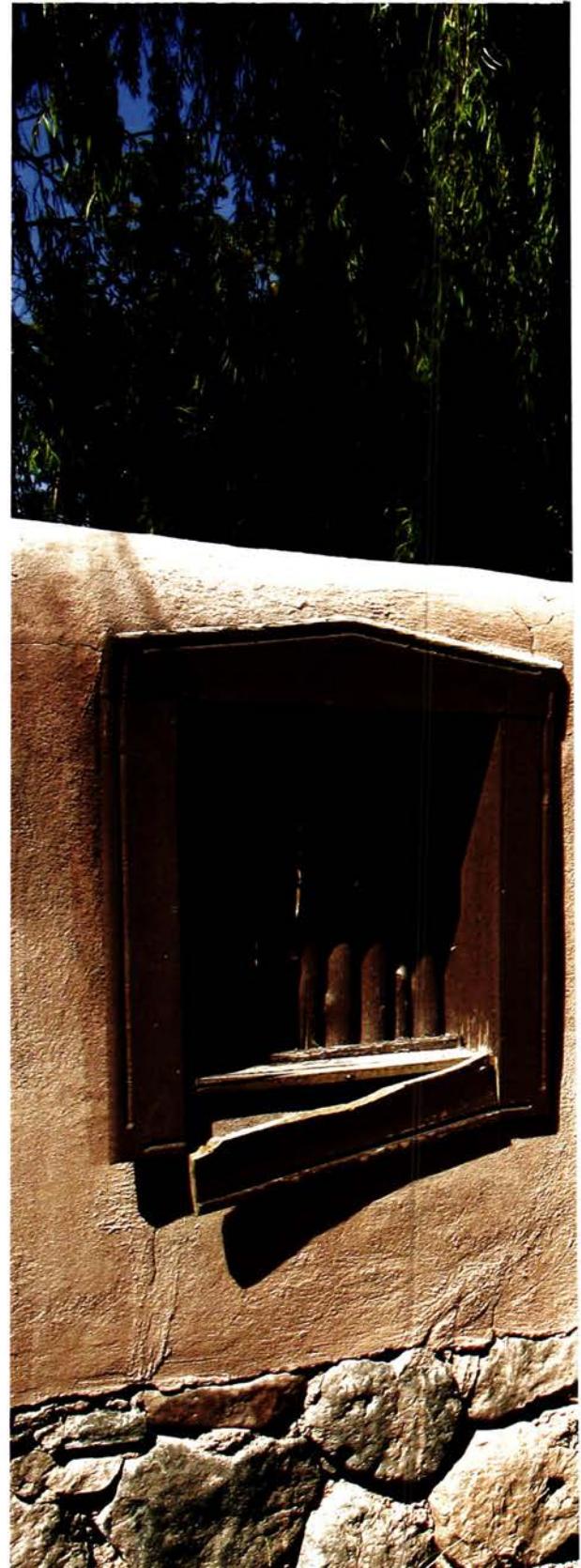














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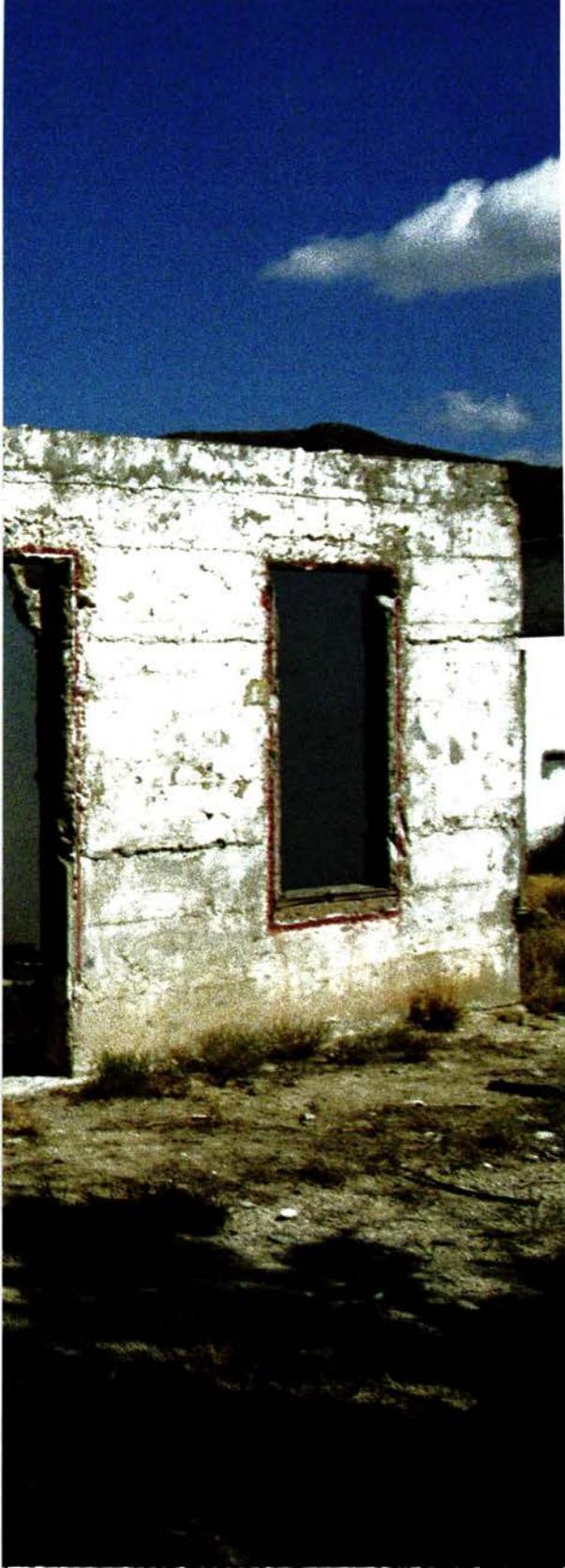












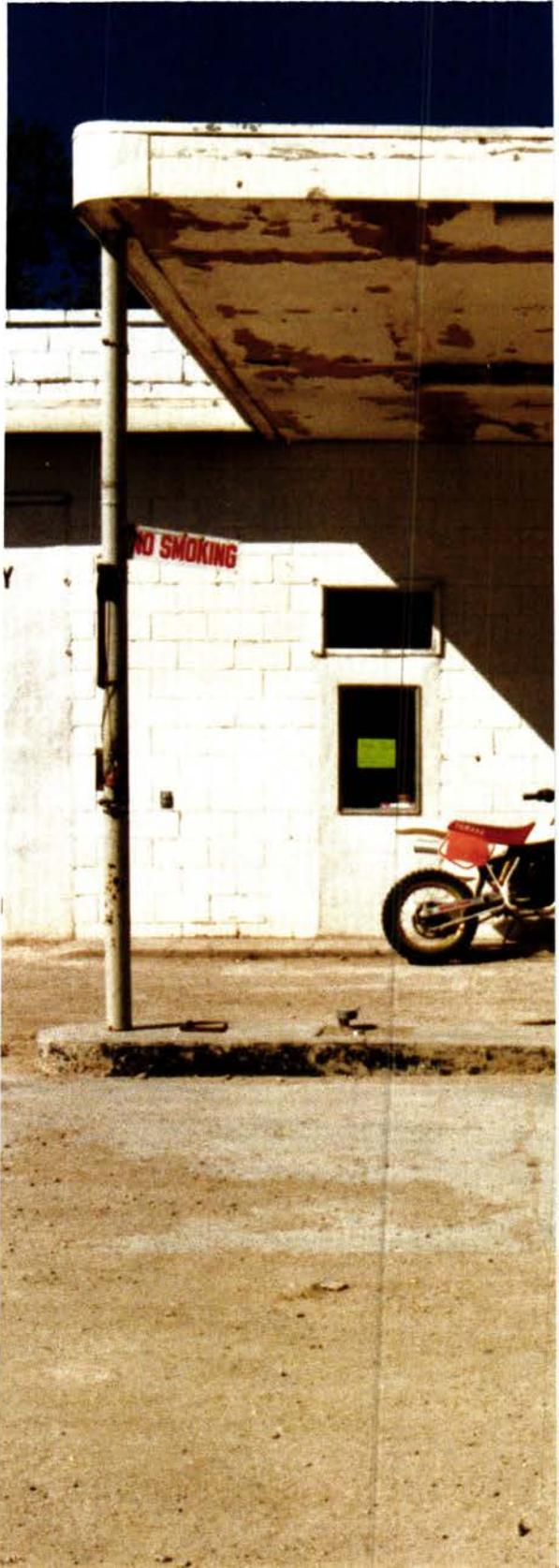
## Get Your Kicks on Route 66

U.S. Route 66 is now mostly remembered by some of the public by the occasional and rarely played recordings of the tin pan alley song "Get your kicks on route 66", a hit in the 1950's. But the road was established in 1926 as one of the original U.S. highway systems running from Chicago to Los Angeles for a total of almost 2,500 miles, with about two-thirds in the Southwest. It became the primary route in the 1930's for families in the depression era looking for jobs on farms in California. And so gas stations, restaurants, and early small motels began to develop. In the 1950's it became the vacation highway to the west coast, passing nearby areas of natural scenic beauty, until the major high speed highways were developed. Now the bits and pieces of surviving sections remain, revealing the decaying remains of those eras. In our travels west June and I searched for and found a number of these archeological specimens.



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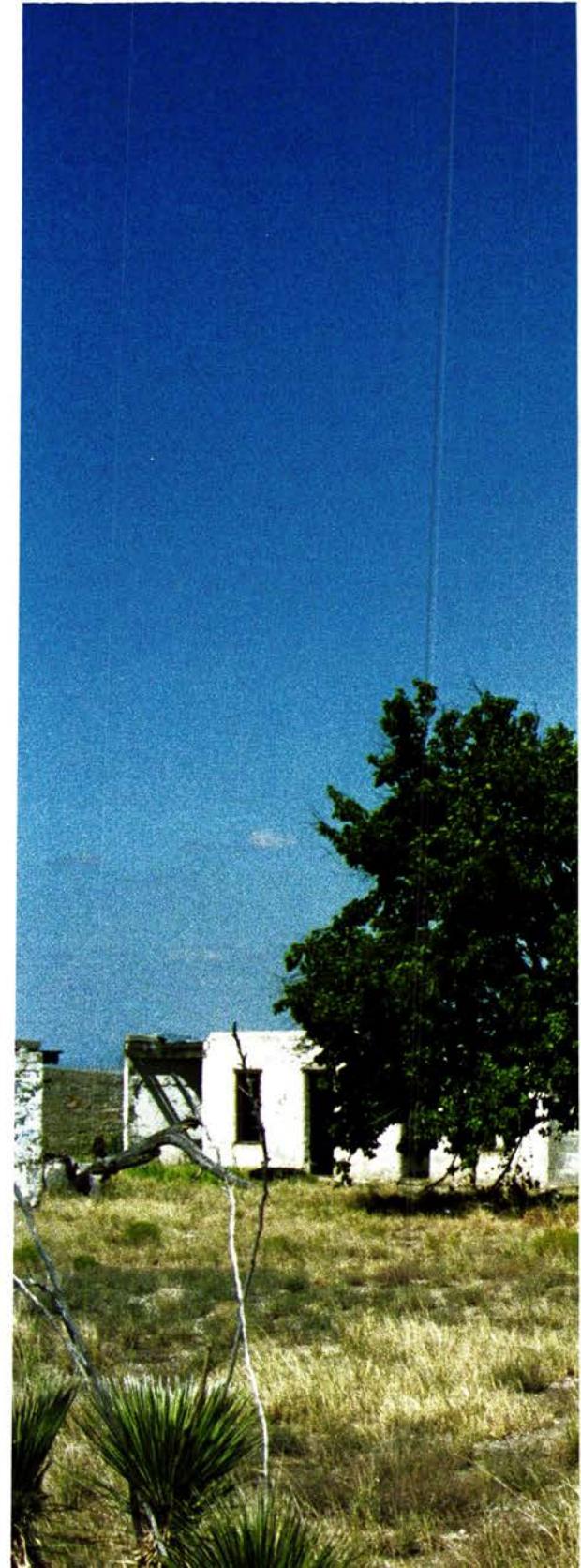








CONTINENTAL  
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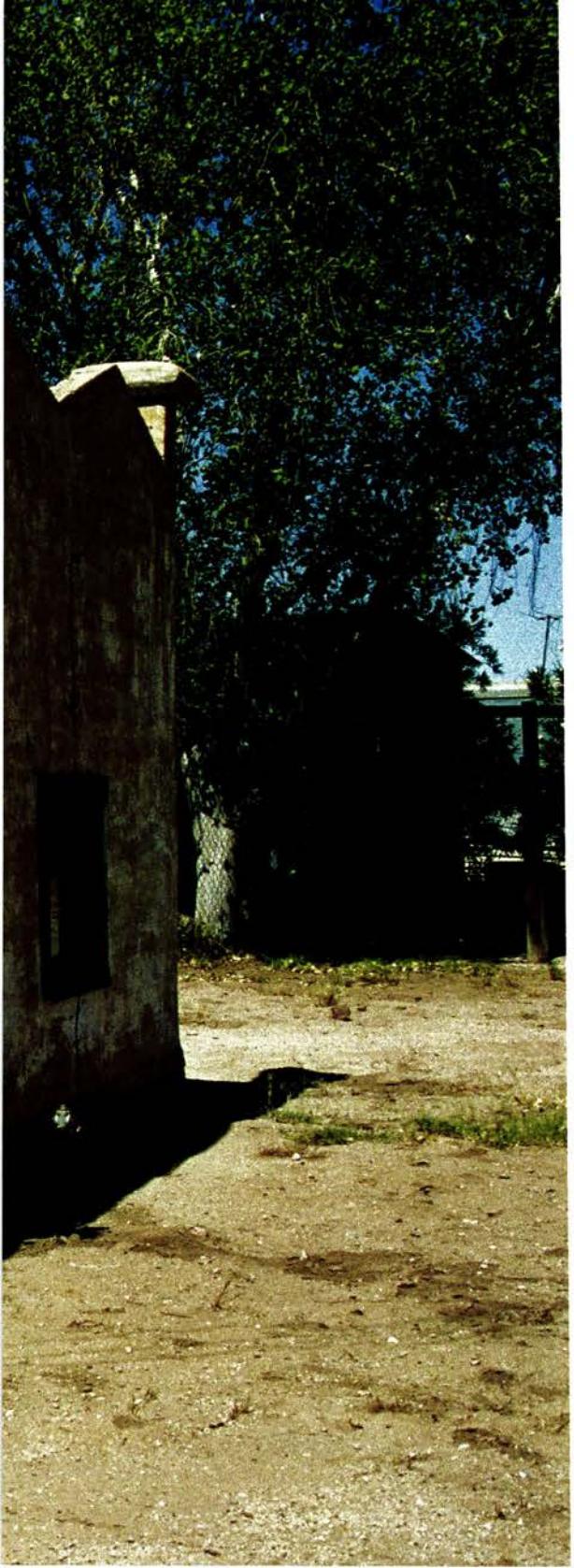
# COSTILLA COUNTY SHOP

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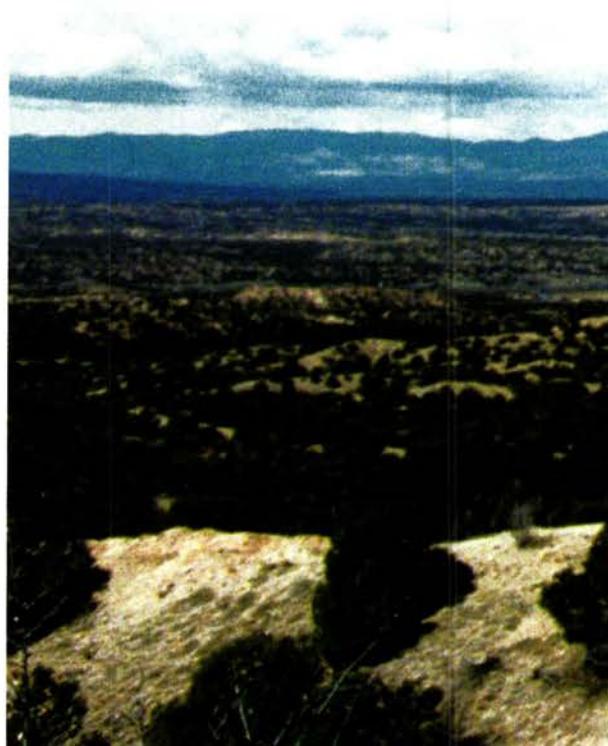




# The Goldfinger Cabin in the Sky

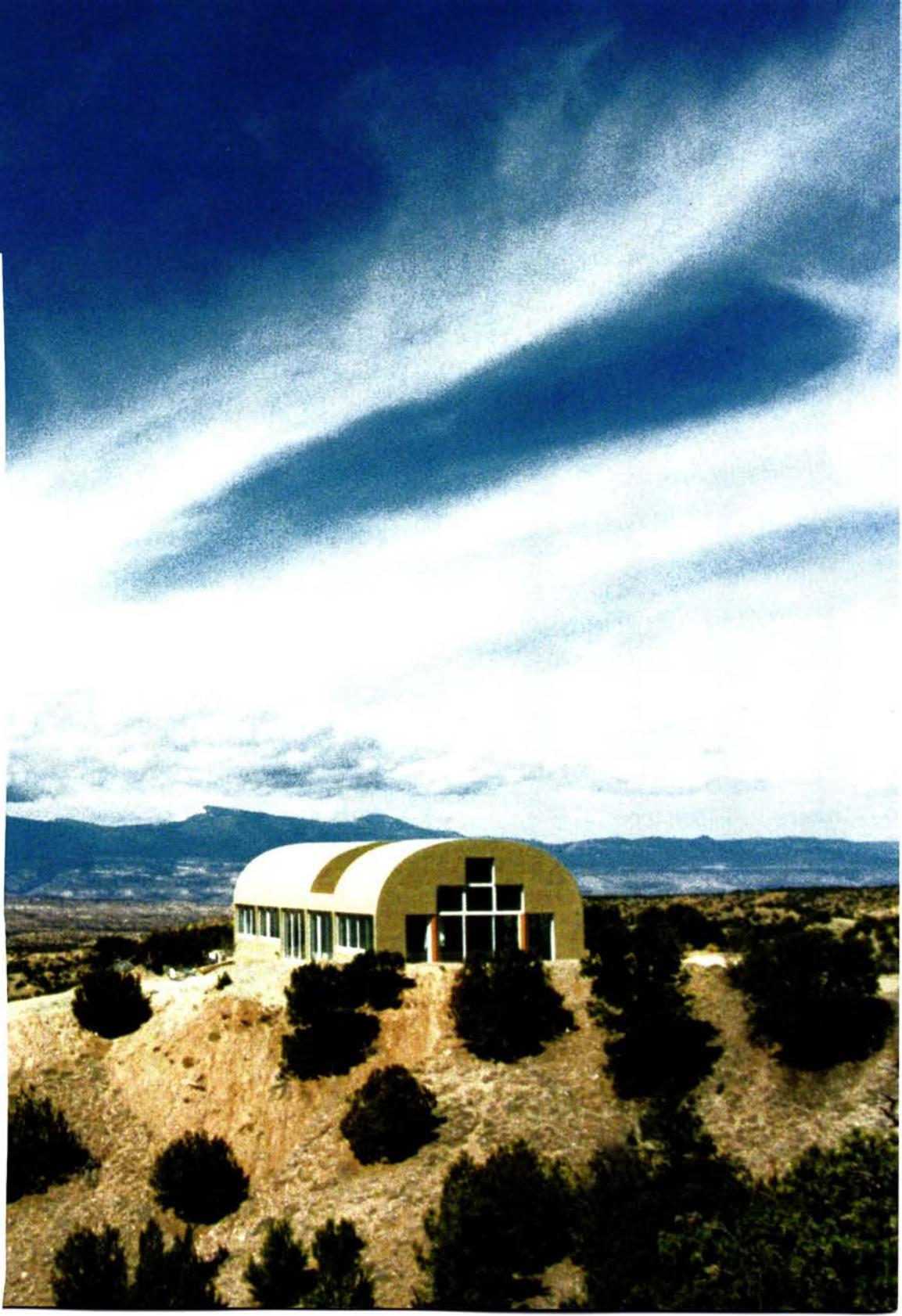
June and I were fortunate to discover a wonderful dramatic site just north of Santa Fe, New Mexico in Tesuque, a charming village on the road to Taos adjacent to the Tesuque Indian reservation. We decided to build a modest vacation home in a small cleared area some one thousand feet up a winding precarious path. It was a natural for me to design a one story rectangular building some twenty-five feet by seventy-five feet within the cleared area, environmentally sound, without destroying any of the one hundred year old pinion trees which dotted the landscape.

It was fortunate to find a talented boatbuilder who was able to build the barrel-vaulted roof with ease and encourage the only local concrete truck owner in the region who would bring up the hill the concrete for the heated slab. The house is wrapped in glass for total views in all directions and the stained concrete floor is functional and visually pleasing. I selected a minimum of only natural plantings indigenous to the area to surround the building. The interior has no corridors or wasted space, only walls with multiple doors which delineate the areas. June, as usual, designed the interiors, and we jointly selected local folk art and objects which we have developed into our personal collection.

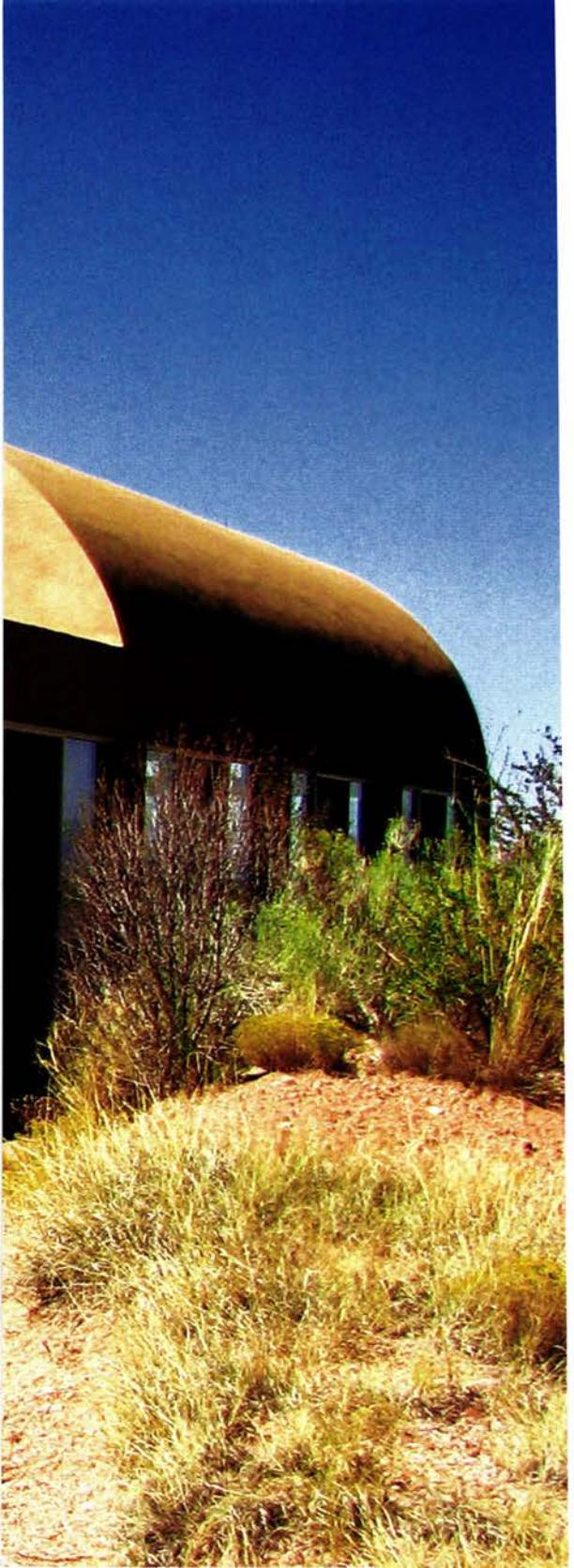


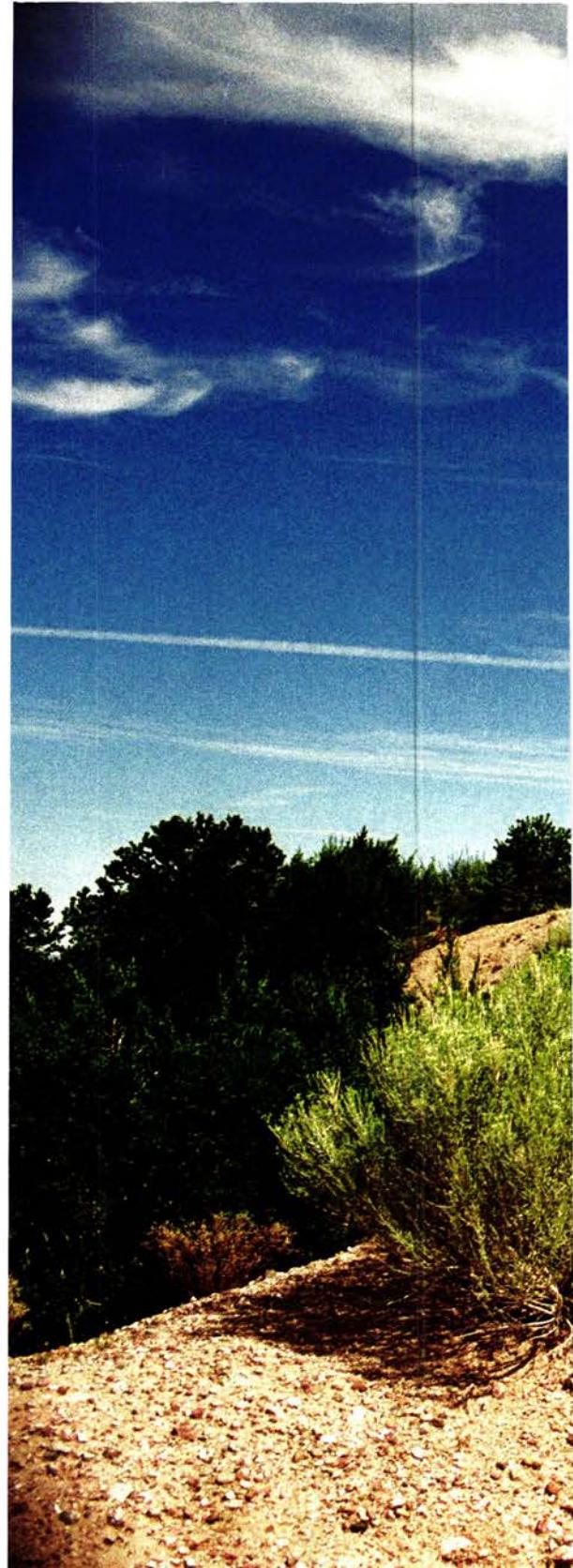
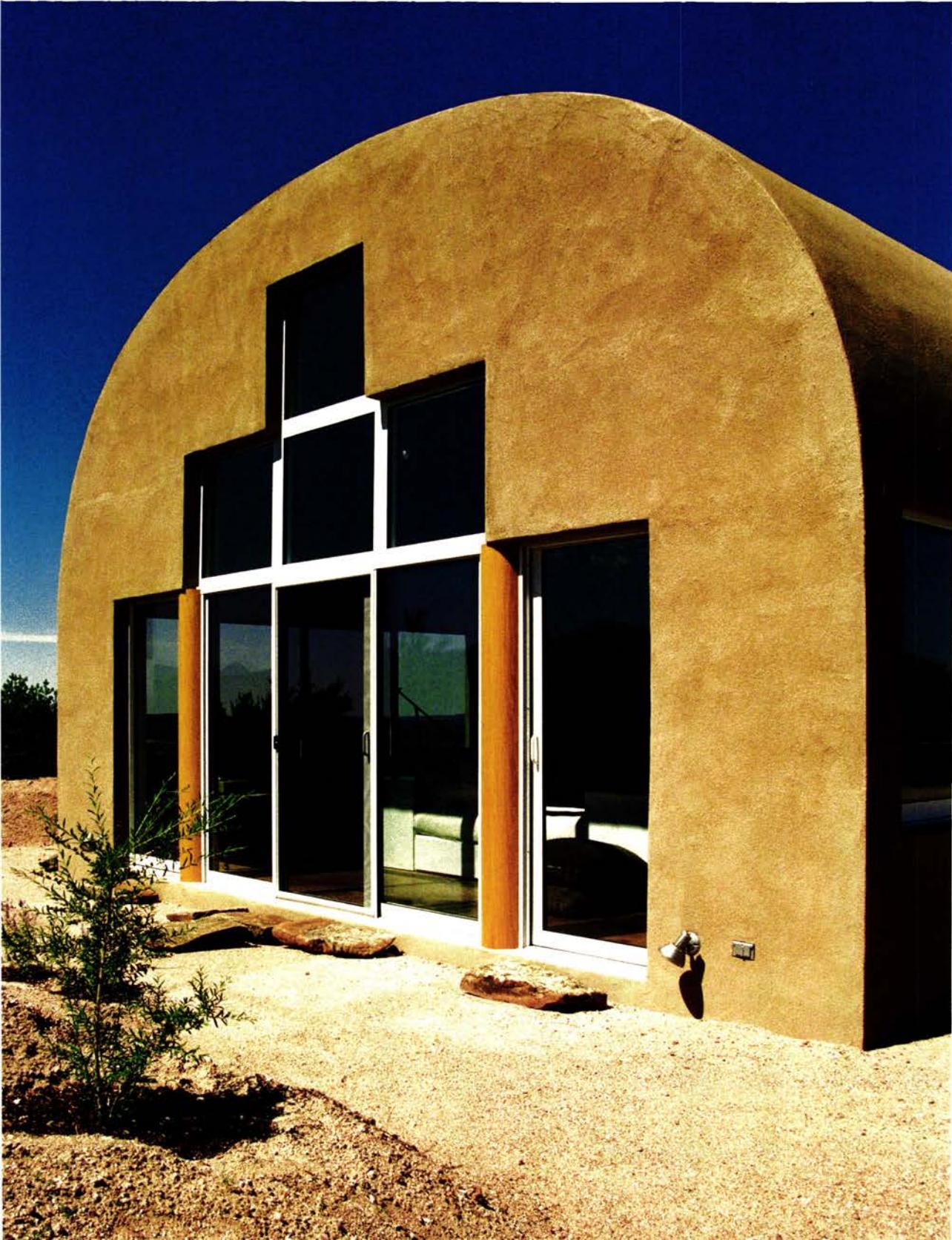
VINE & MYRON  
GOLDFINGER

TESUQUE, NEW MEXICO









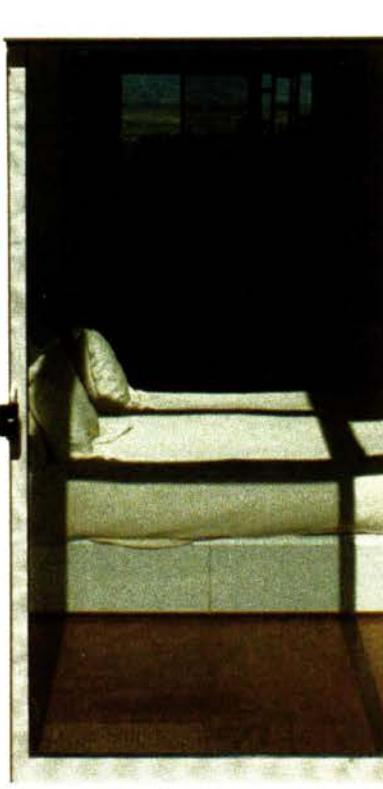
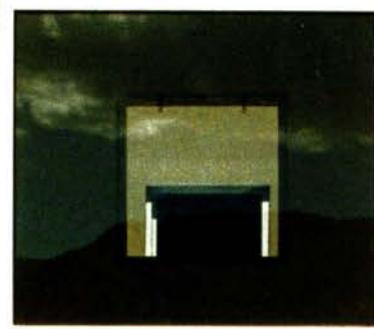
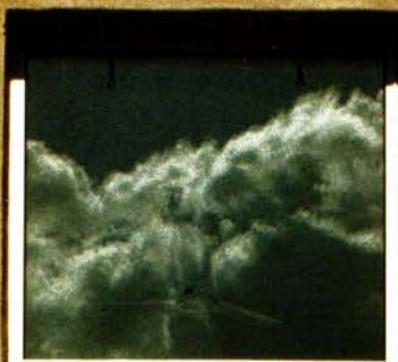






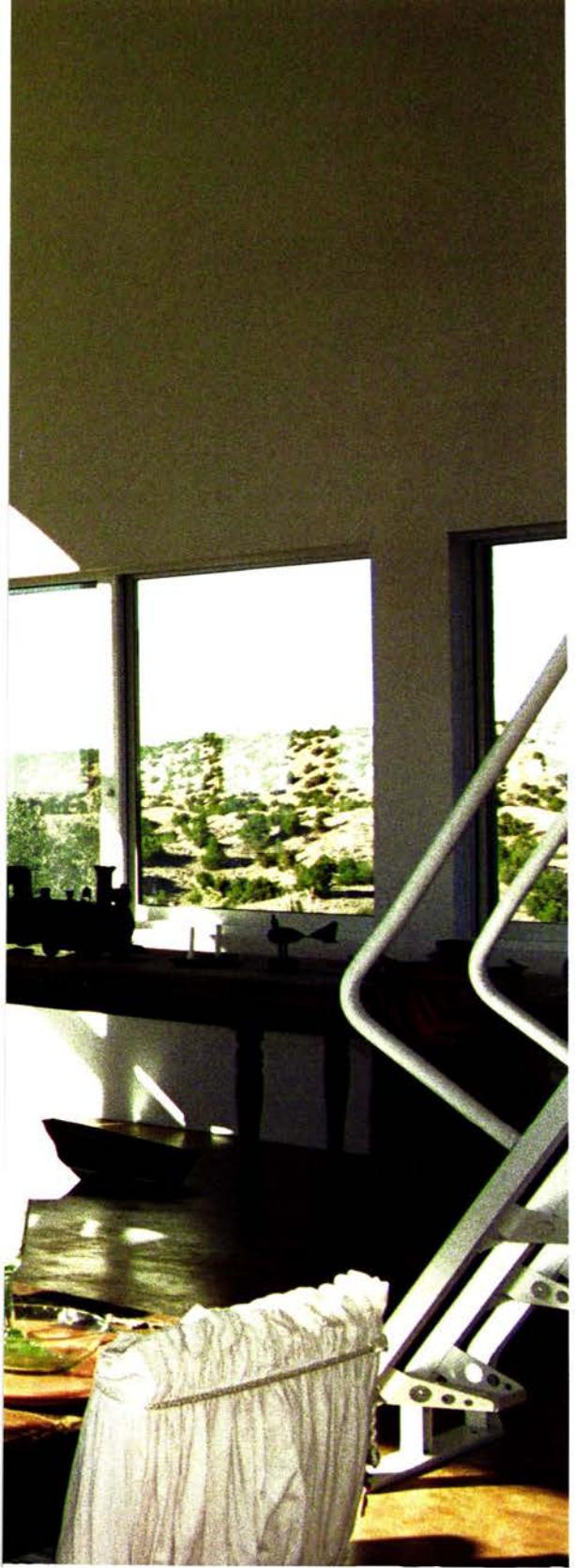


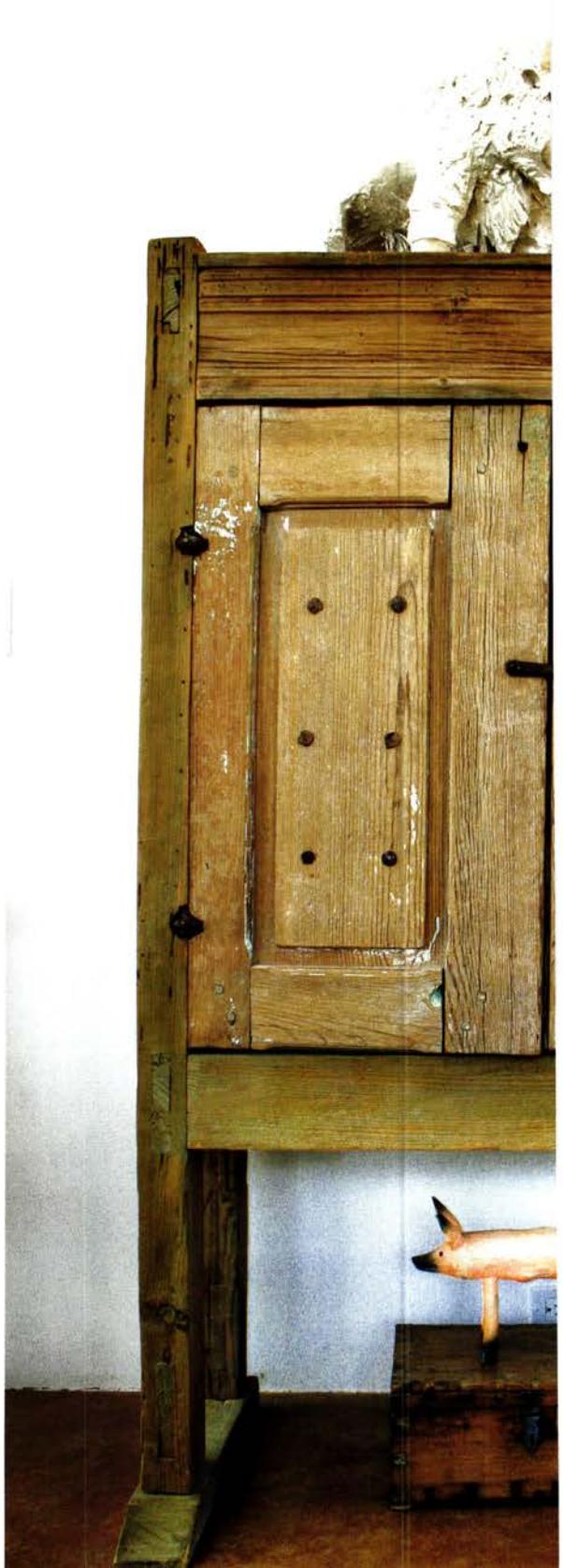
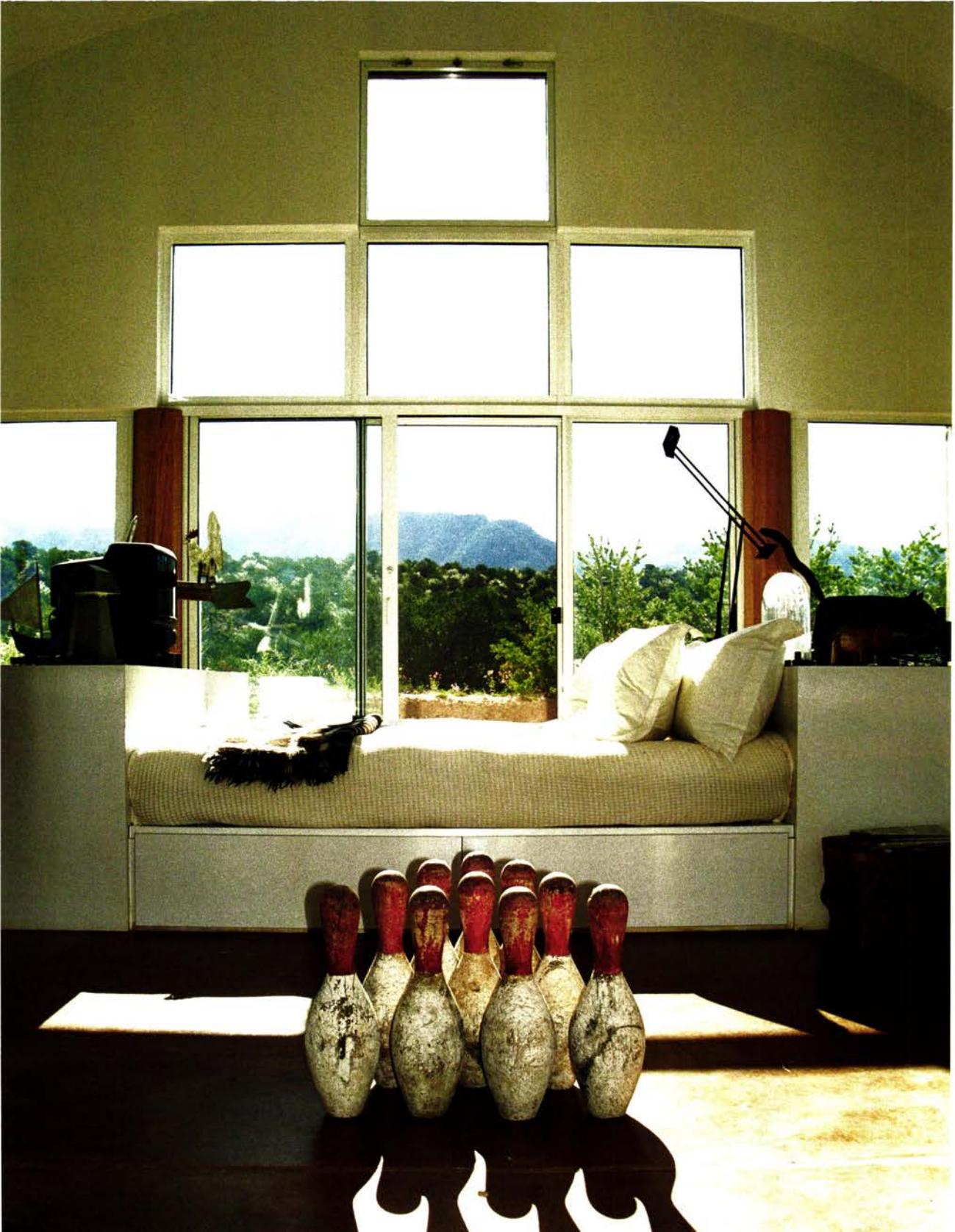


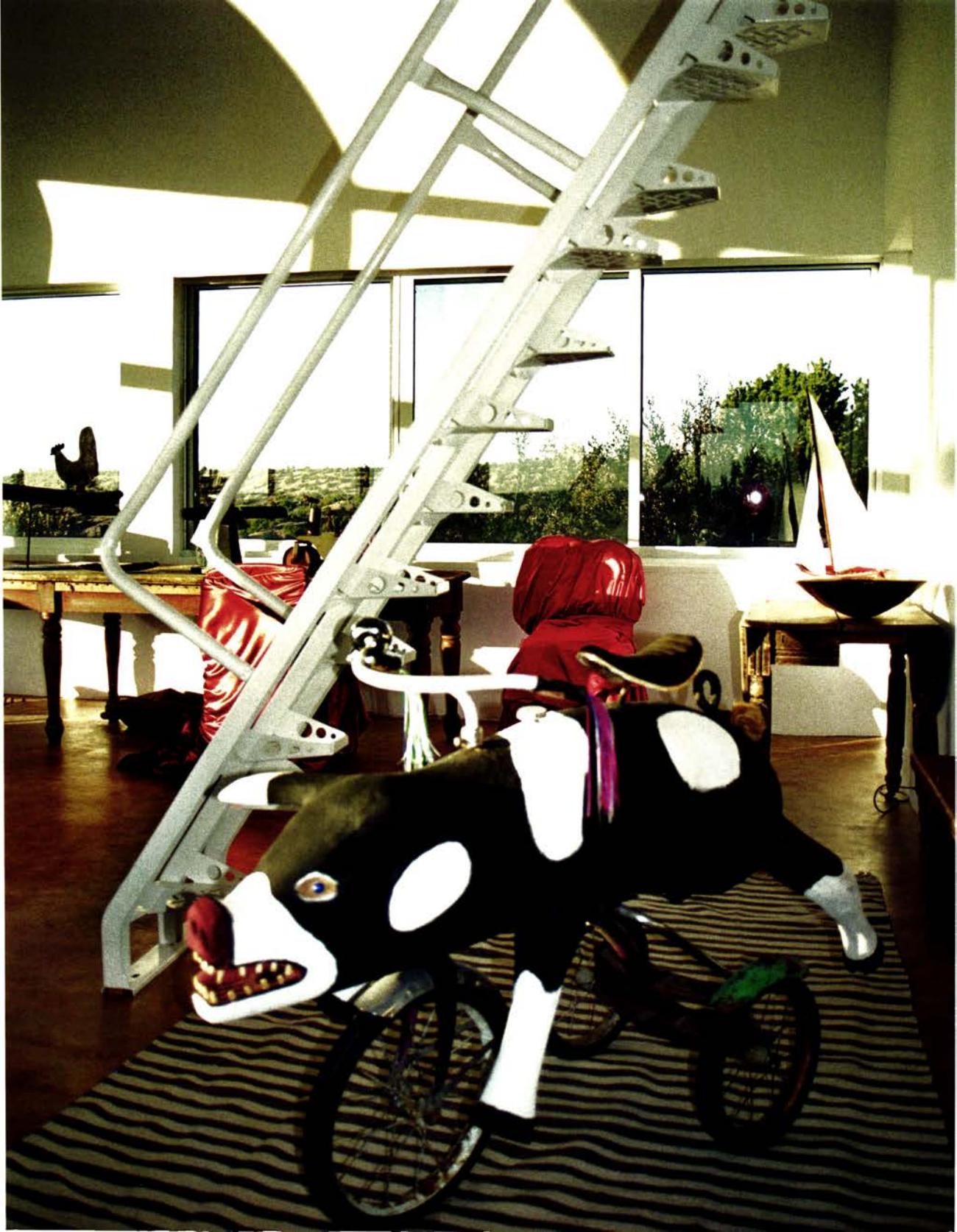




















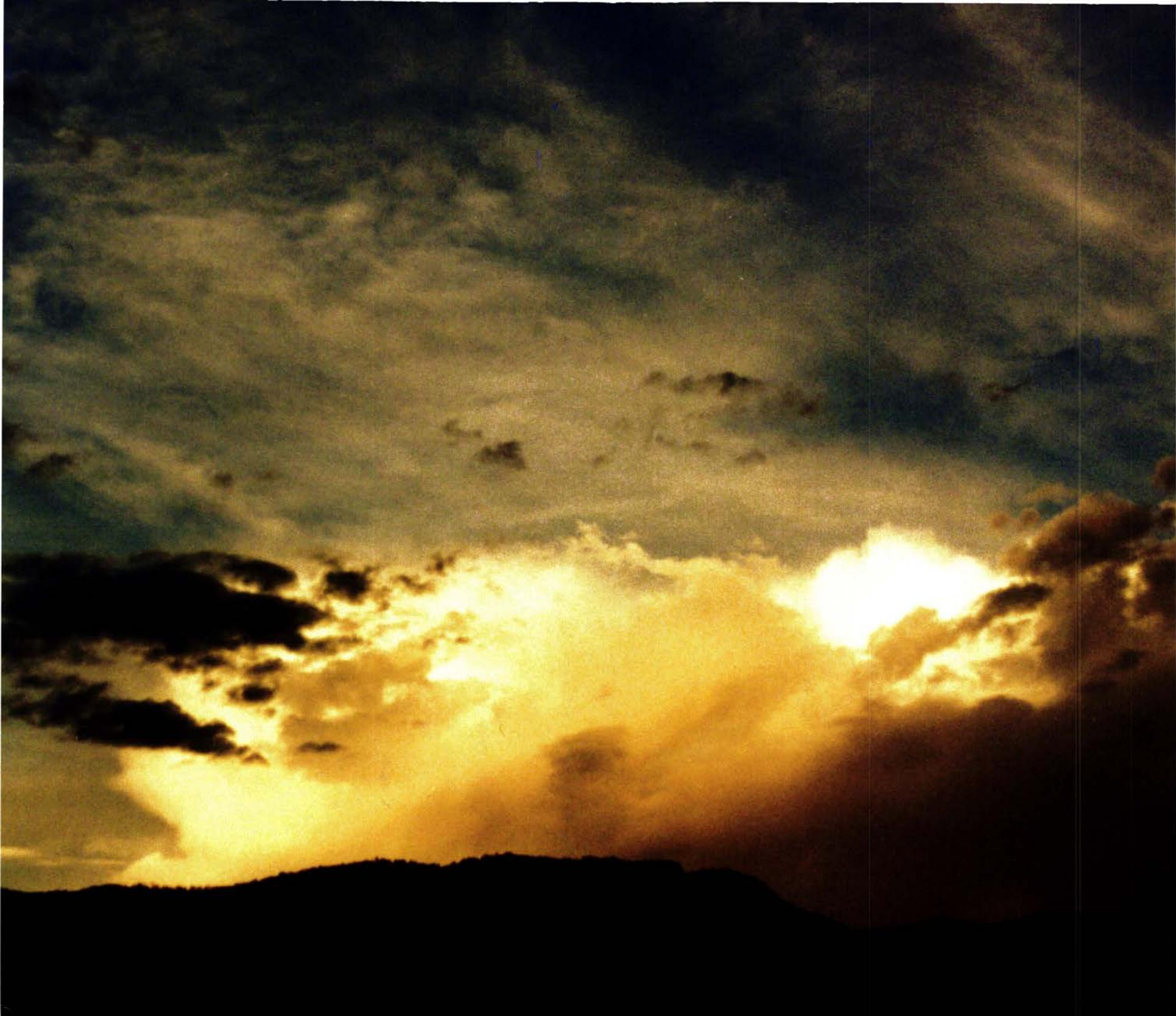
## A Room with a View

Although I designed our Tesuque cabin with two hundred linear feet of glass to capture views on all sides, my favorite is the living room view west towards Los Alamos and the Jemez mountains beyond. This affords the grandest ever changing sky and cloud experiences - unique formations all through the day; the wonderful early morning approach of fog covering the Rio Grande valley; the frequent summer showers moving in multiple directions over the Tesuque Indian reservation and the setting sun disappearing over the mountains.

I look upon my photographic images as paintings created to capture the various moods of all seasons throughout the year.









































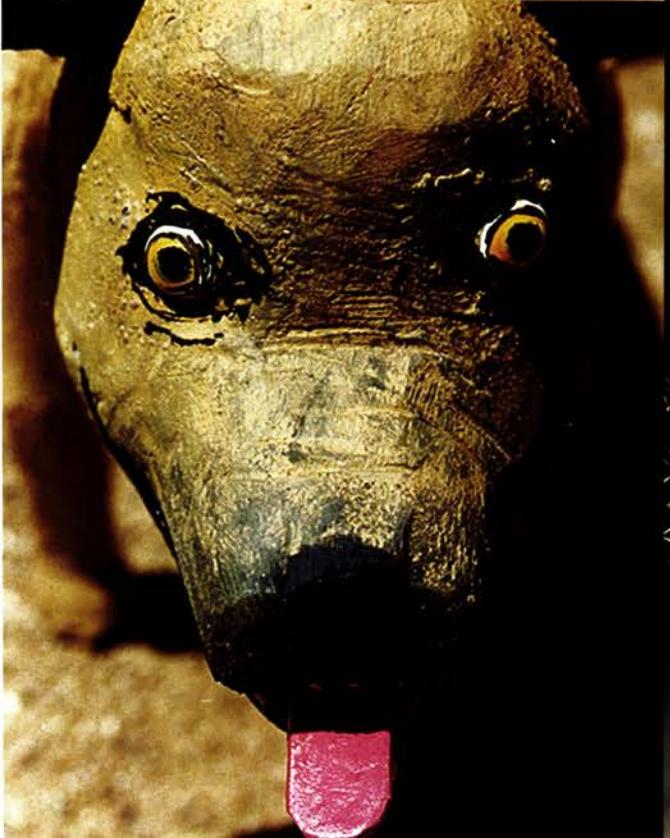
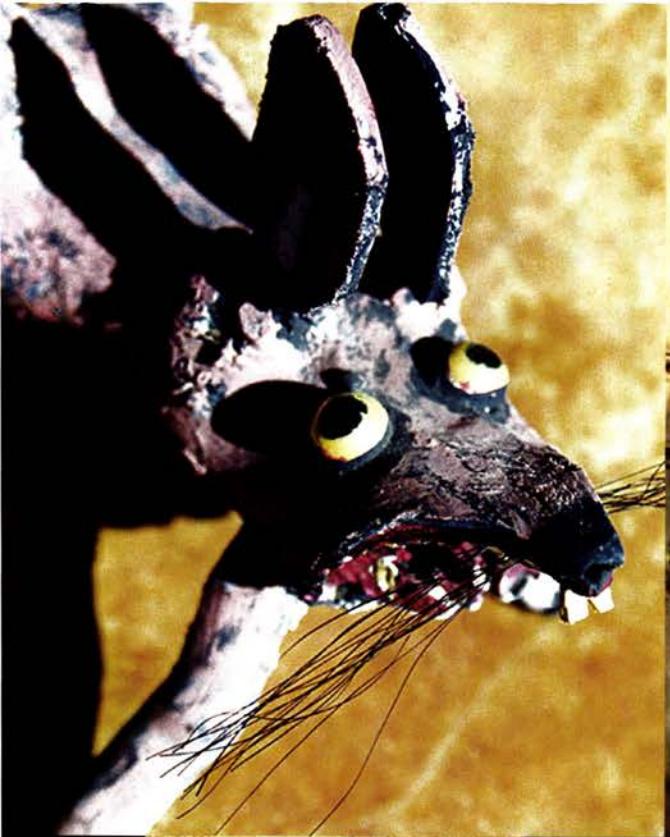


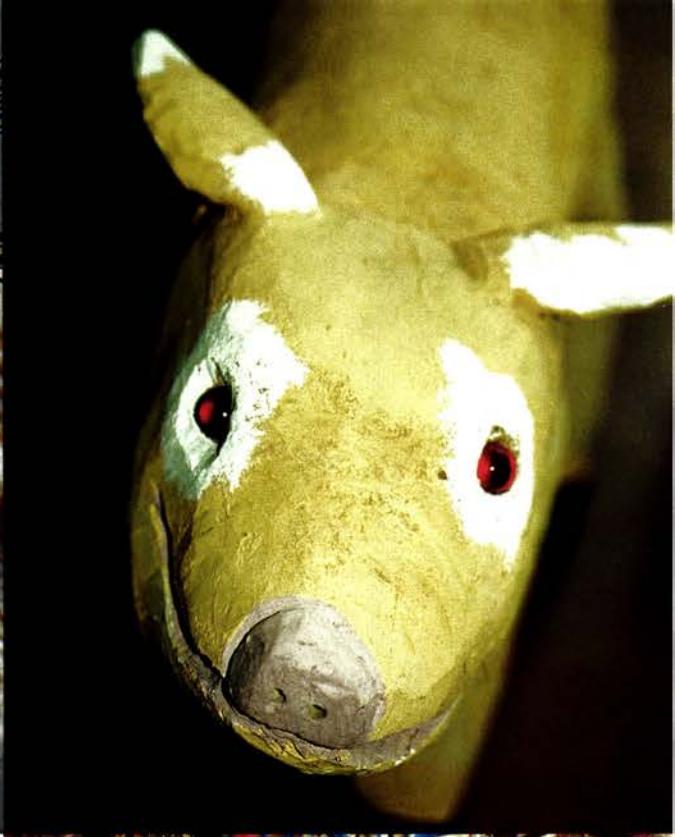
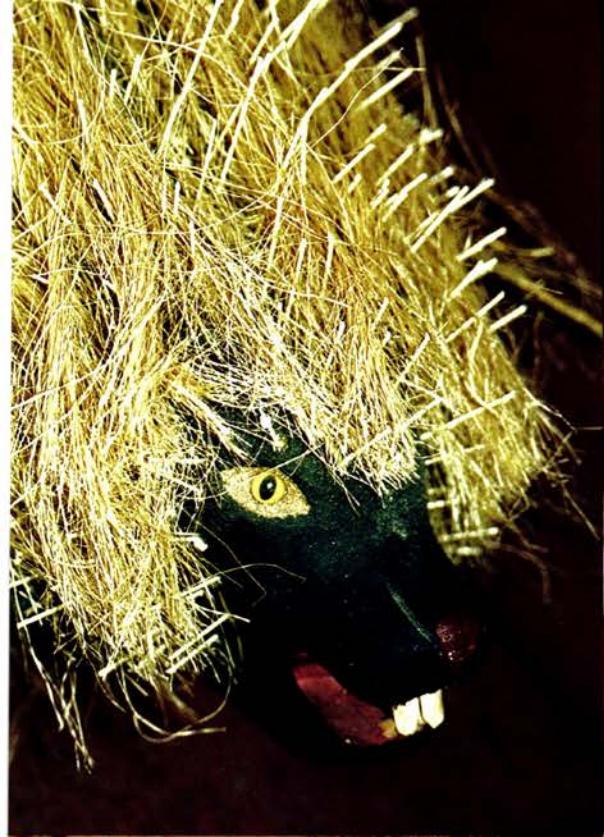




# **The June and Myron Goldfinger Folk Art Collection**

June and I have always been collectors of folk art and objects in our adult life travels. We have mostly taken trips avoiding the super highways and finding things of our interest along the remote roads as well as through towns and villages most travelers avoid. Our primary home in Waccabuc, New York was presented some thirty-eight years ago in House and Garden magazine as a unique example of minimalist architecture. It is now a Museum of Indigeneous Objects. And since we built our southwest vacation home we have been avid collectors, particularly of animal folk art created by both Hispanic and Indian artists.







## The Folk Artists



There are a number of very fine Navajo and Hispanic folk artists. Born in 1920 in Burnham, the Navajo Nation, New Mexico, Mamie Deschillie at eighty-eight years is still producing a distinct body of work including cardboard cut outs, collage paintings, and mud toys. Our one cutout shows the spirit, humor and brilliance of her work.

Delbert Buck, born 1976 in Gallegos Wash, the Navajo Nation, New Mexico is a young artist who does a variety of carvings assisted by family members. He also helps out on the family farm which raises sheep and goats, in addition to traveling to Colorado to pick potatoes in the winter. The man on a horse with the red shirt is his creation.

Tobias Anaya (1908 - 1988) was born near Galisteo, New Mexico and mostly worked in the gardens of rich people. He served briefly in the United States Army and played his home-made guitar in local cantinas. He created a variety of small sculptures of found objects. We love our minimalist horse of mostly wood sticks.

Richard "Jimbo" Davilla is fifty-three and lives in Santa Fe. He works in the construction industry and his unique snakes are in great, strong colors and patterns. He started these particularly striking and individual wall sculptures in 1978 with scrap wood from a construction project.

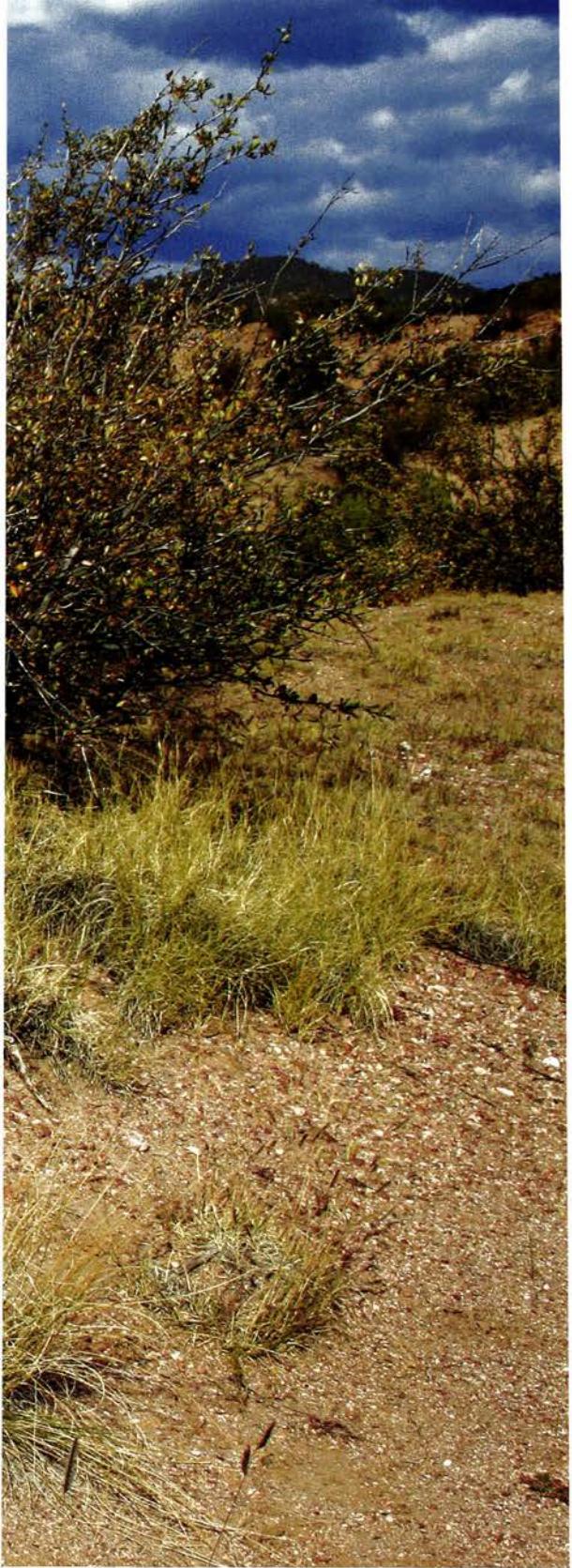
Unfortunately the level of quality of folk artists has declined in recent years. Many of the young people, Hispanic and Indian, are leaving their homes to improve their lives and achieve a better education and success in many areas. This leaves a vacuum in the traditional folk art of the past. However we have seen the beginnings of a new quality art created by these young people now trained in art schools and colleges. Based on the works of the older generation, as trained artists they hopefully will create new and interesting art.



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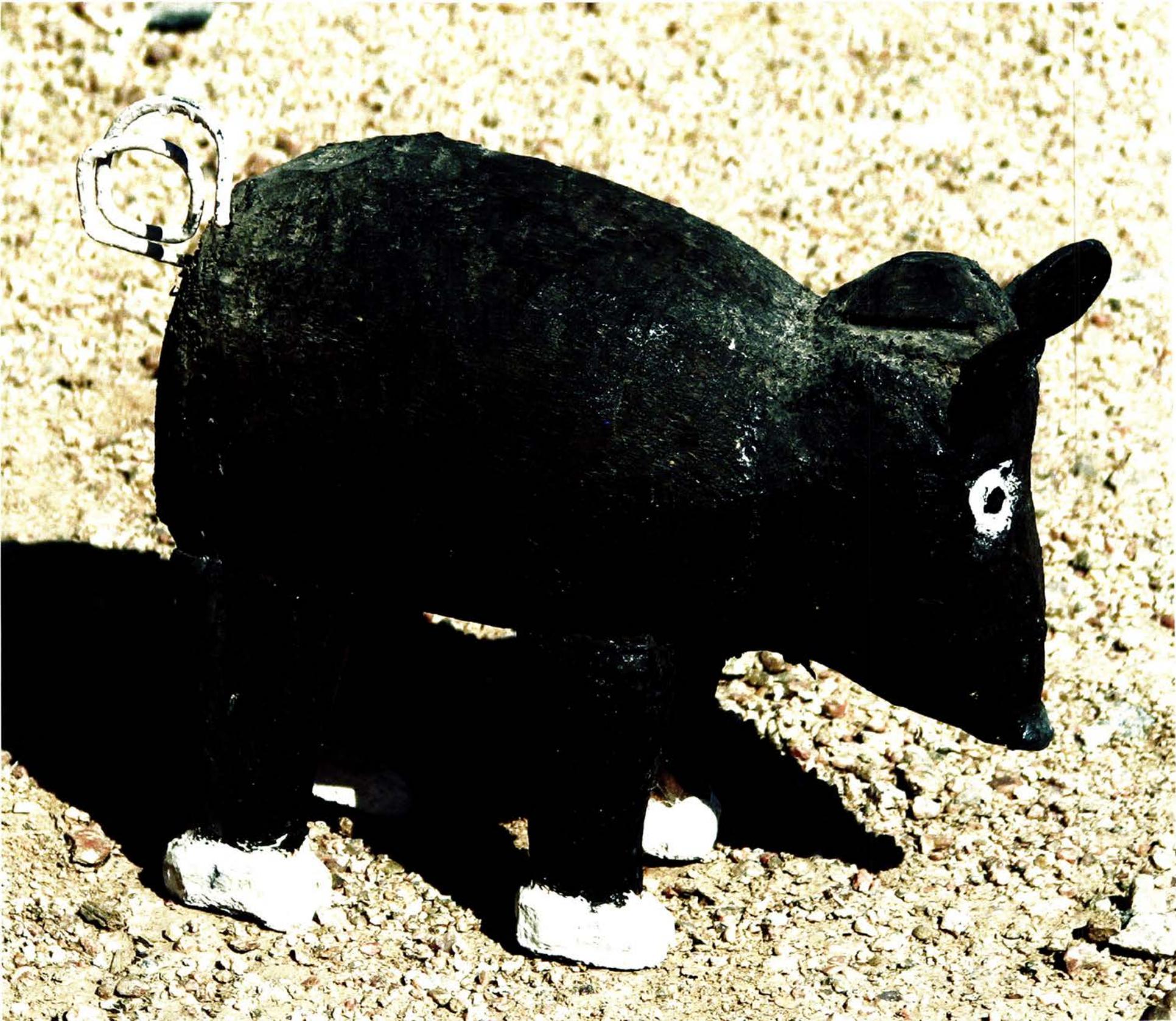




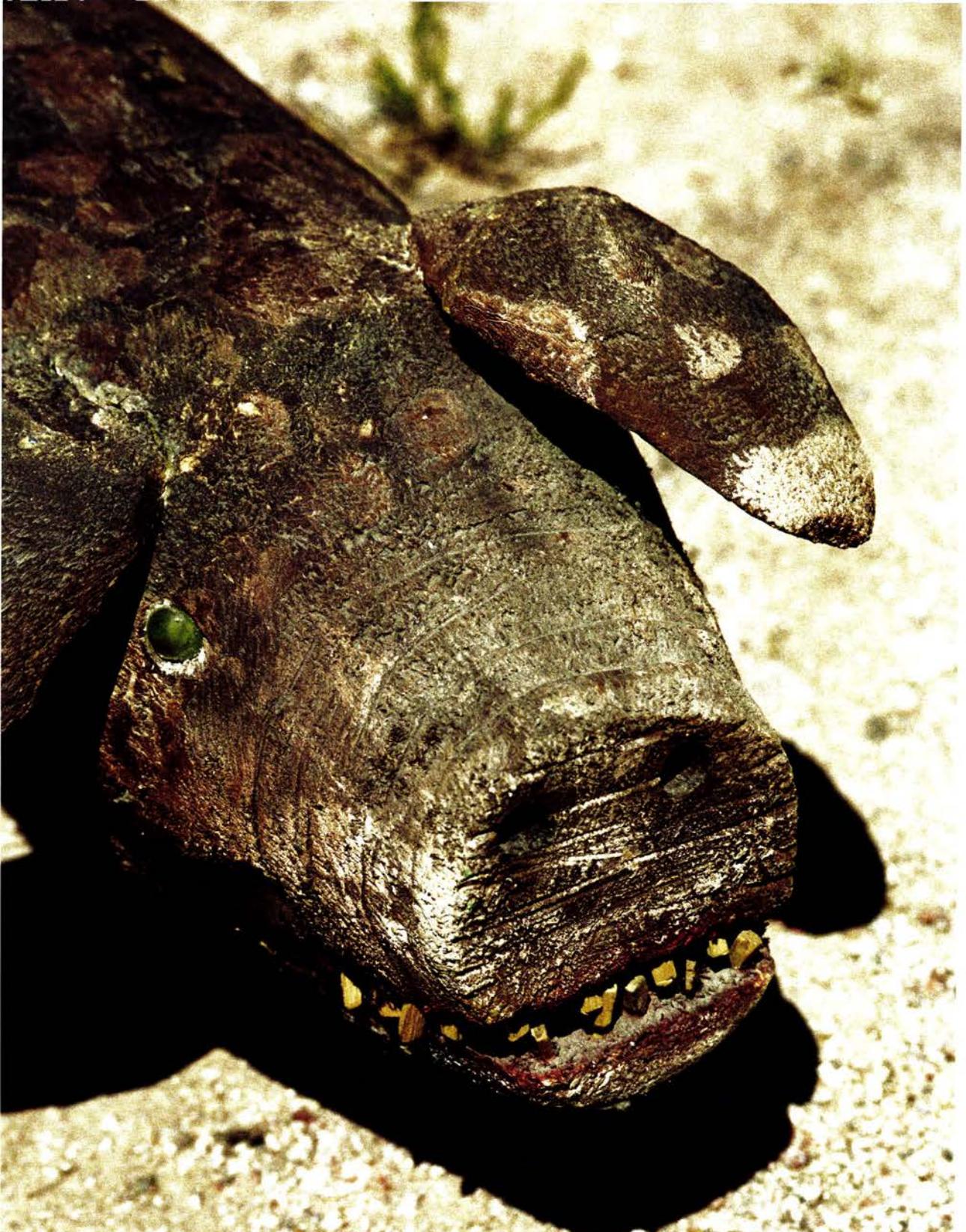










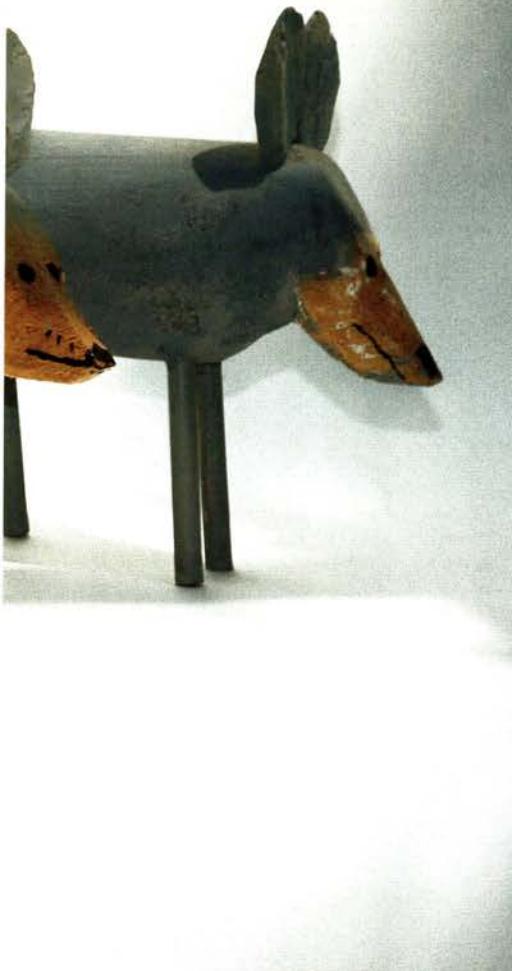






## Woody Herbert

Woody Herbert (1912-1994) was a very important Navajo folk art artist from Sweetwater, the Navajo Nation, Arizona. He carved the wonderful family of coyotes on our jacket cover. He was most famous for his Brahma bulls and other typical animals on the Navajo reservation. We treasure the very special carvings we have.



















# Felipe Archuleta

Felipe Archuleta (1910 - 1991) is considered the father of Hispanic animal wood carving art. Coming from a poor family in Santa Cruz, New Mexico he worked as a farm laborer, stone mason, cook, carpenter and framer. He settled in Tesuque and, unemployed and destitute, he claimed he prayed to God and was advised to carve animals.

As the patriarch of Hispanic New Mexican woodcarvers his work is owned by many museums around the country including the Smithsonian and the American Folk Art Museum in New York.

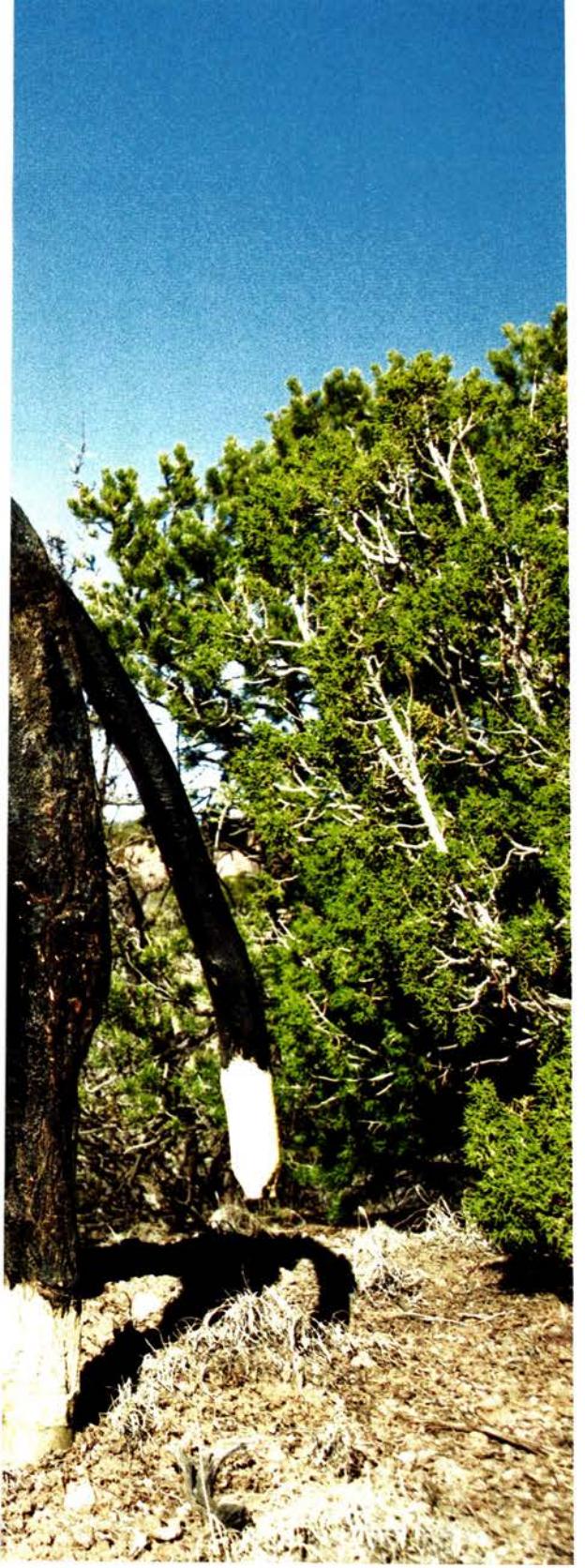
We are proud collectors of several of his early important works including an eight foot tall ostrich, a burro and a sheep which is a sister to one in the Smithsonian.

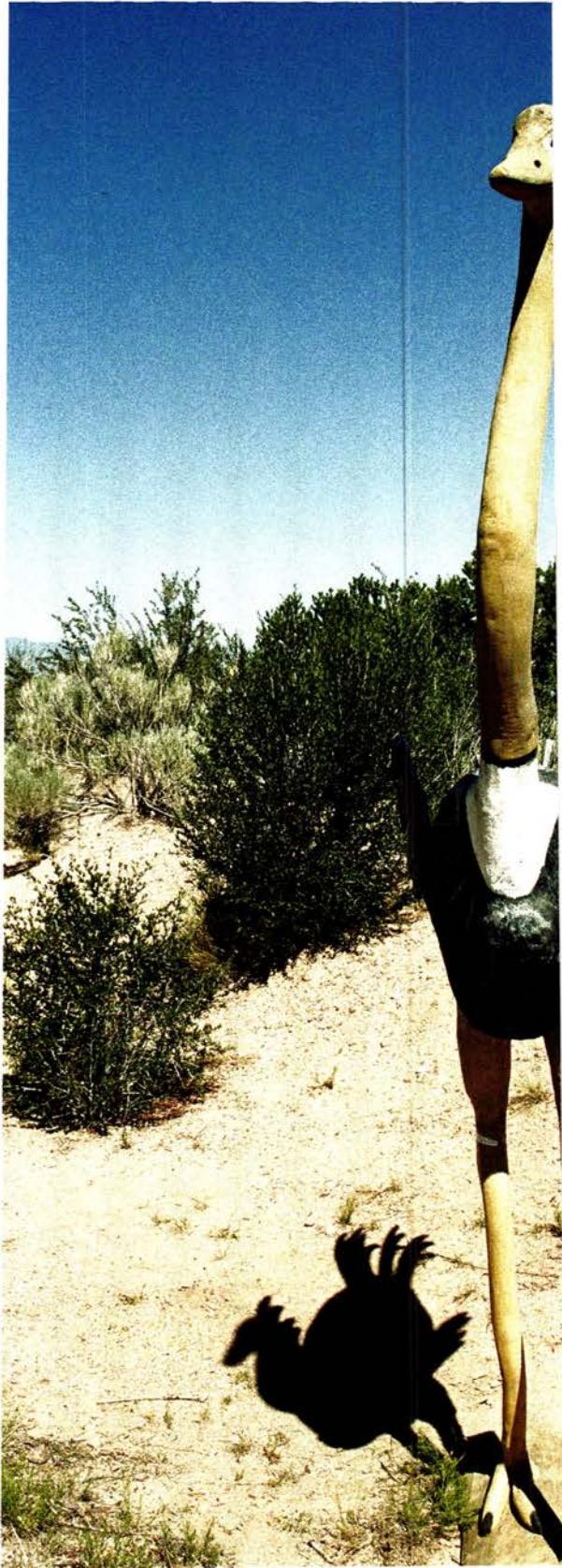


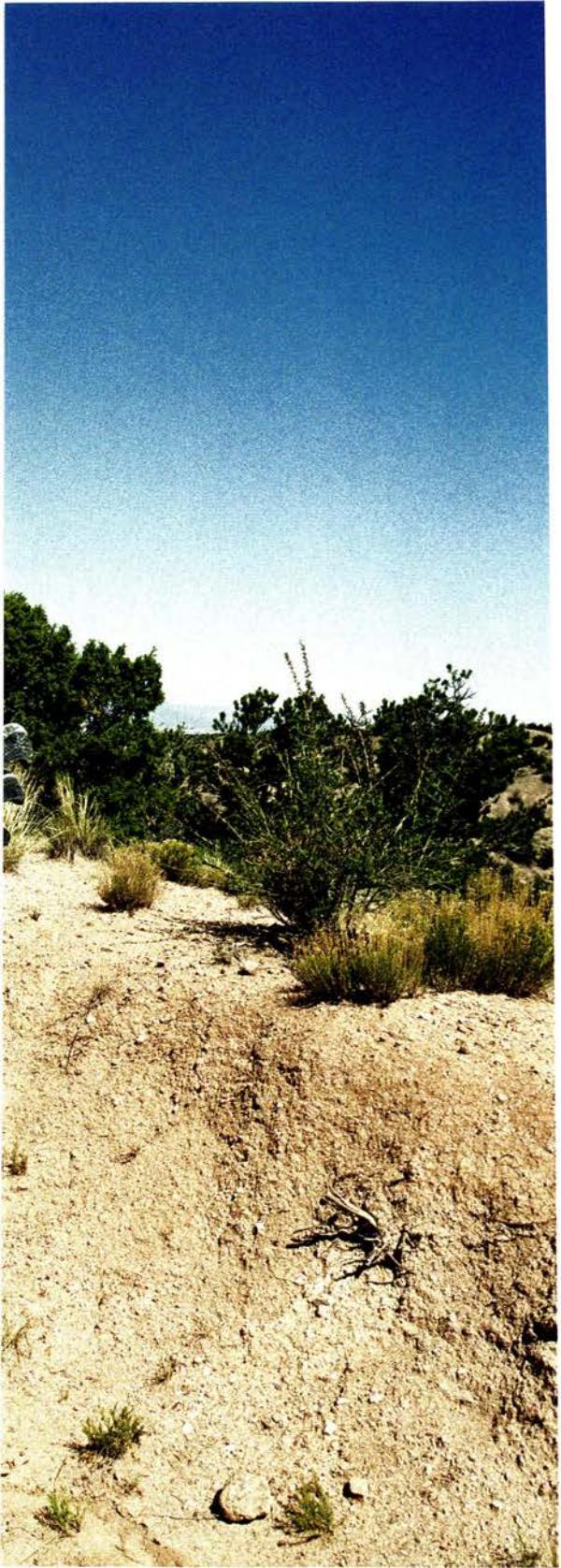










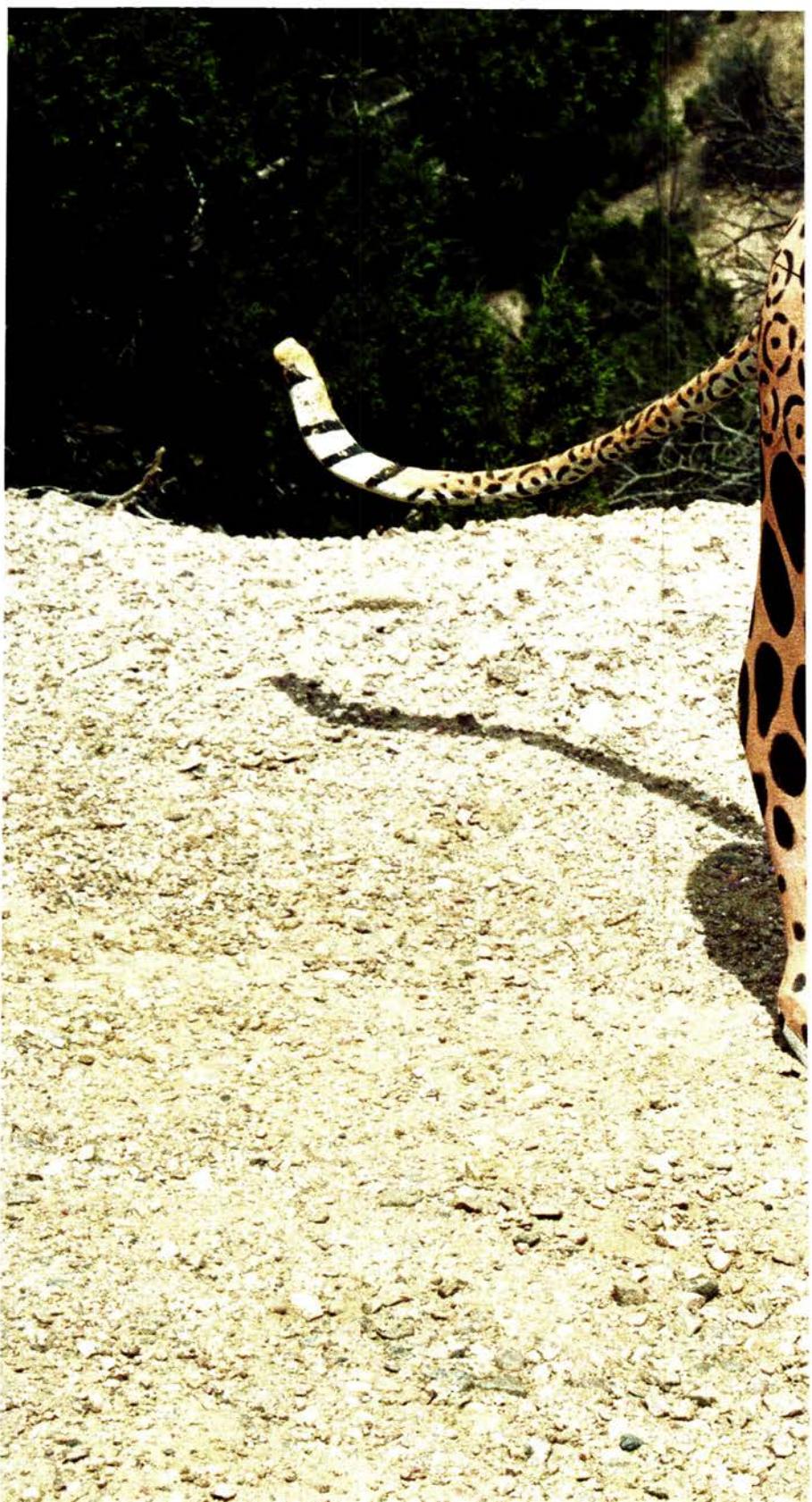






# Leroy Archuleta

Leroy Archuleta (1949-2002), the son of Felipe, carried on the spirit of the works of his father with his own style and skill. Early in life he was a tree cutter and laborer as well as a worker in a soda bottling plant in Colorado. He then moved back to Tesuque to help his father as well as hunt and fish in the area. He loved carving and we consider the cheetah and ram in our collection two of his best works.



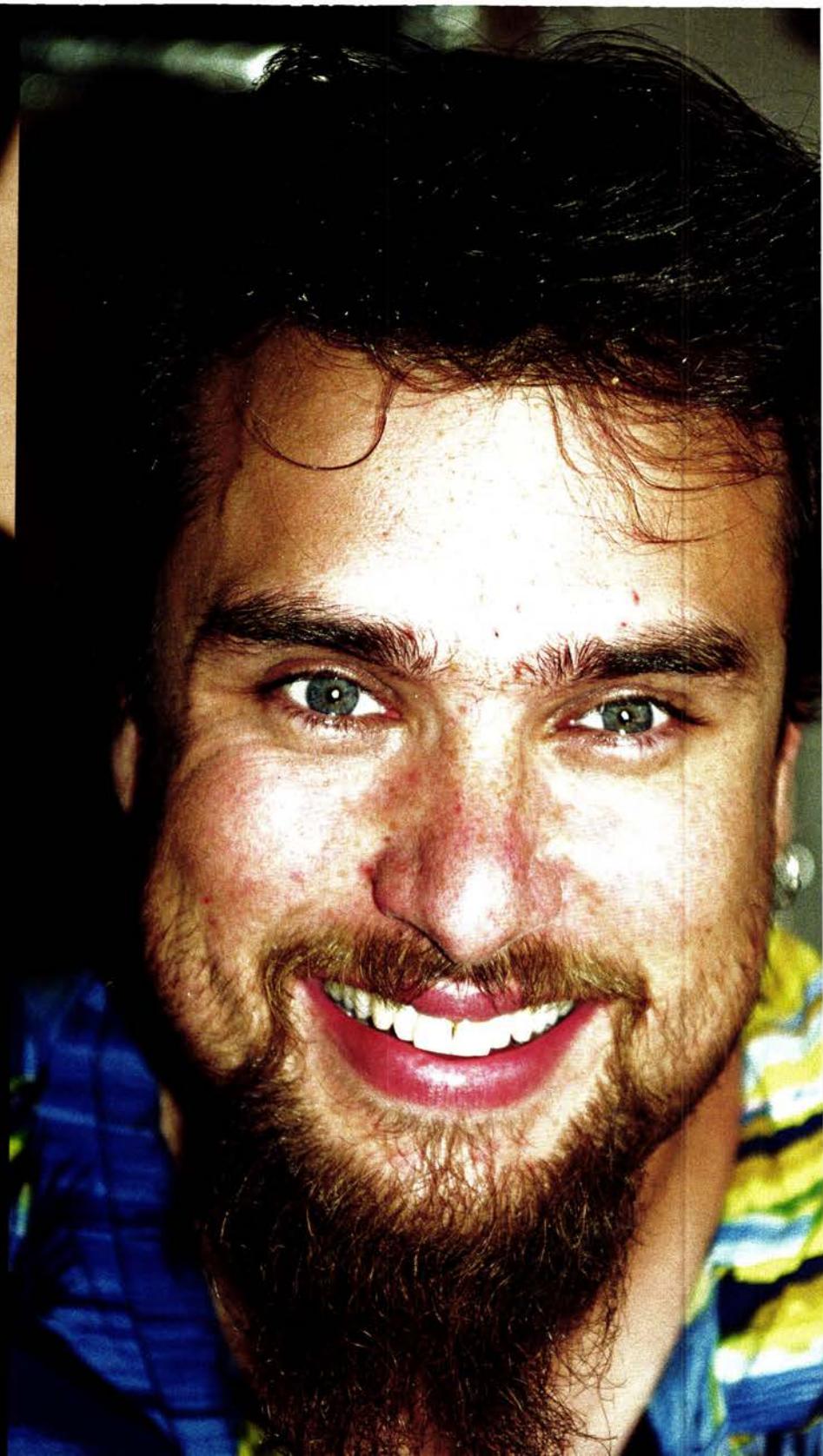






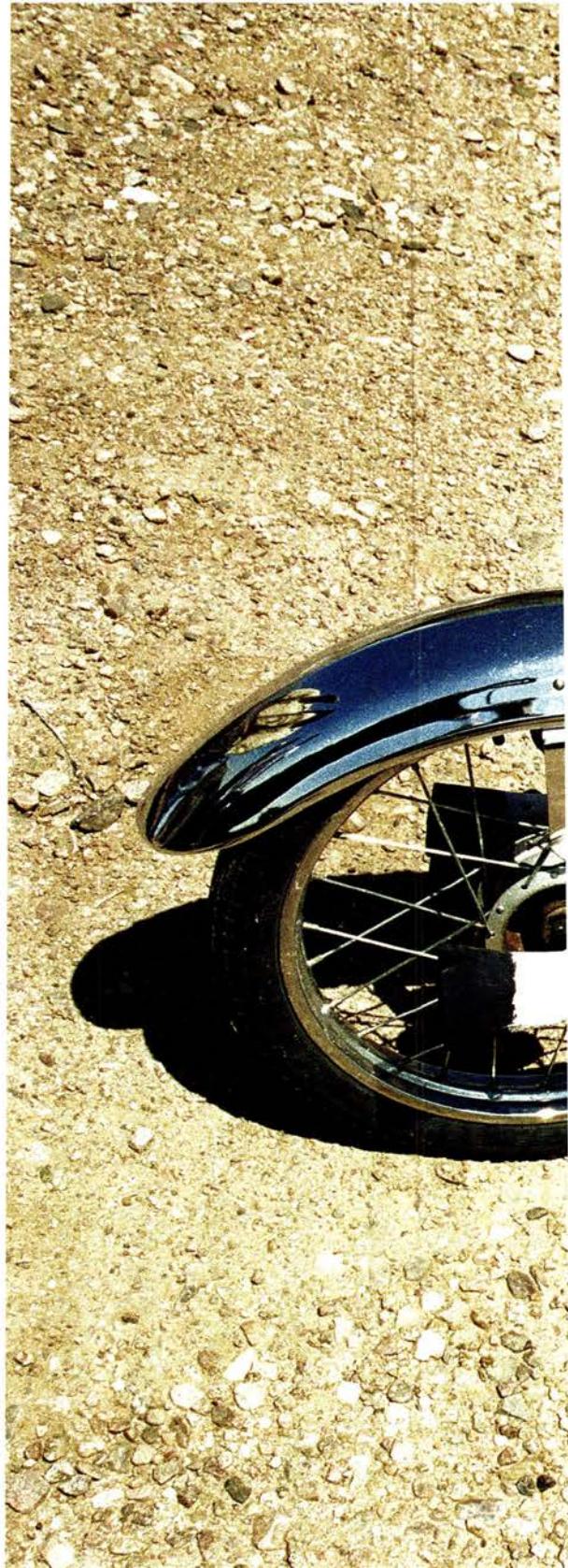
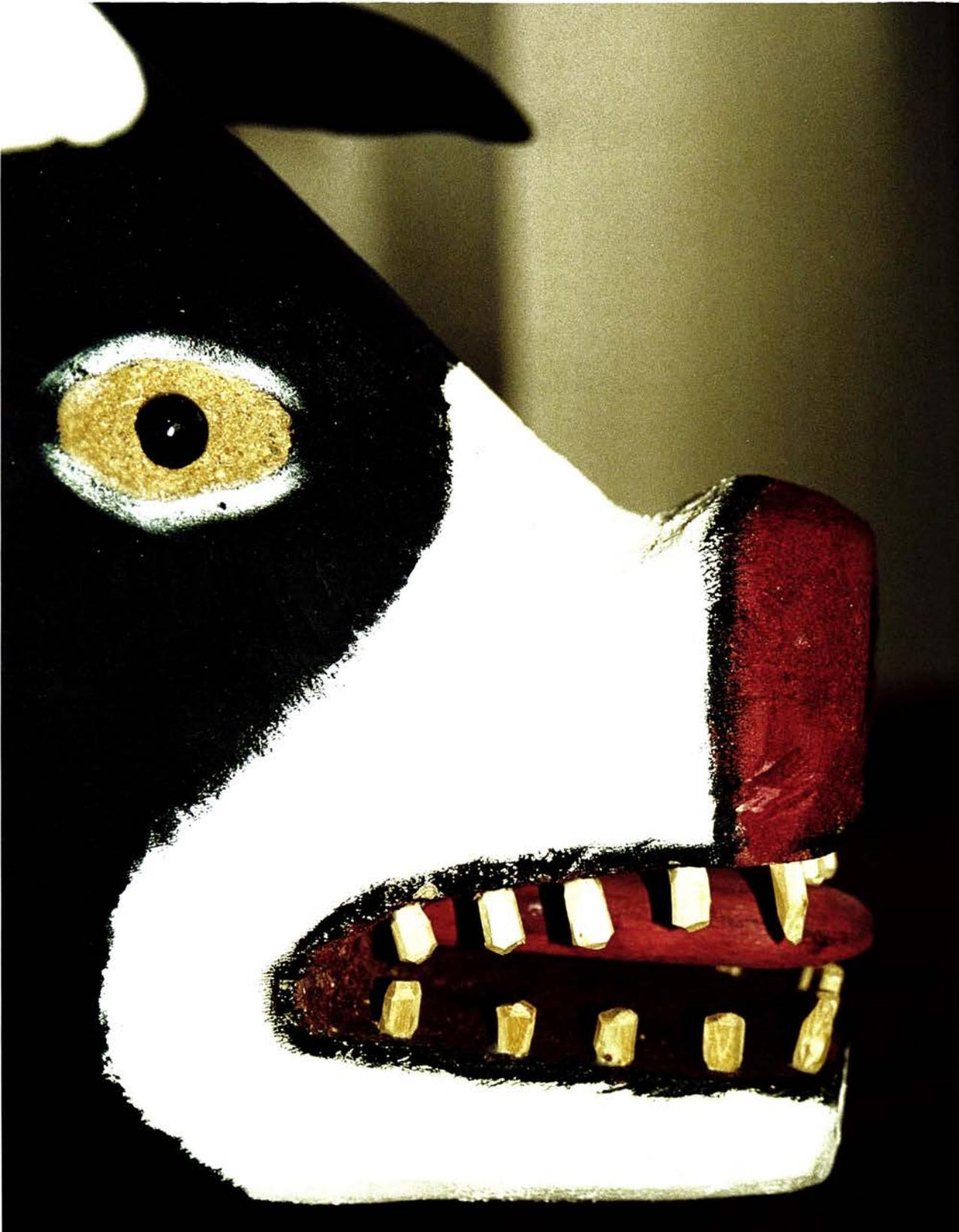






# Ron Rodriguez

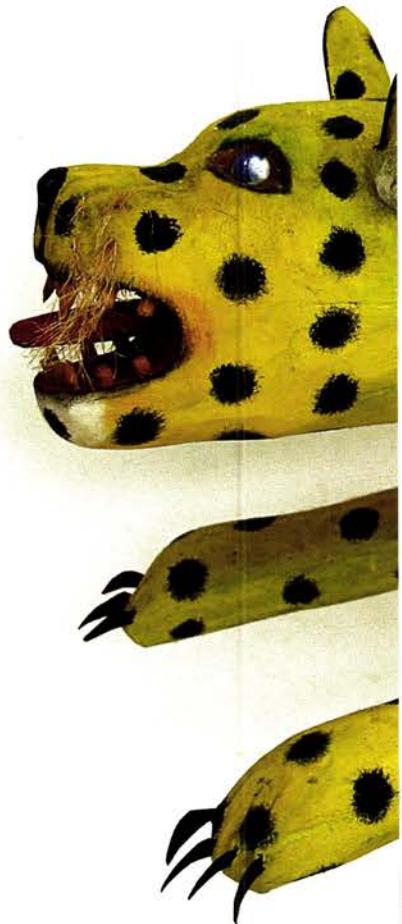
Ron Rodriguez (1968- ) is the third generation of the Archuleta family of wood carvers. Introduced to us by Bob and Marianne Kapoun of the Rainbow Man, we have been avid collectors of his works as well as a supporter of a new direction in his sculpture that combines the traditional family artistry with found objects. We have commissioned several major works and feel he is the premier Hispanic woodcarver artist of this time.









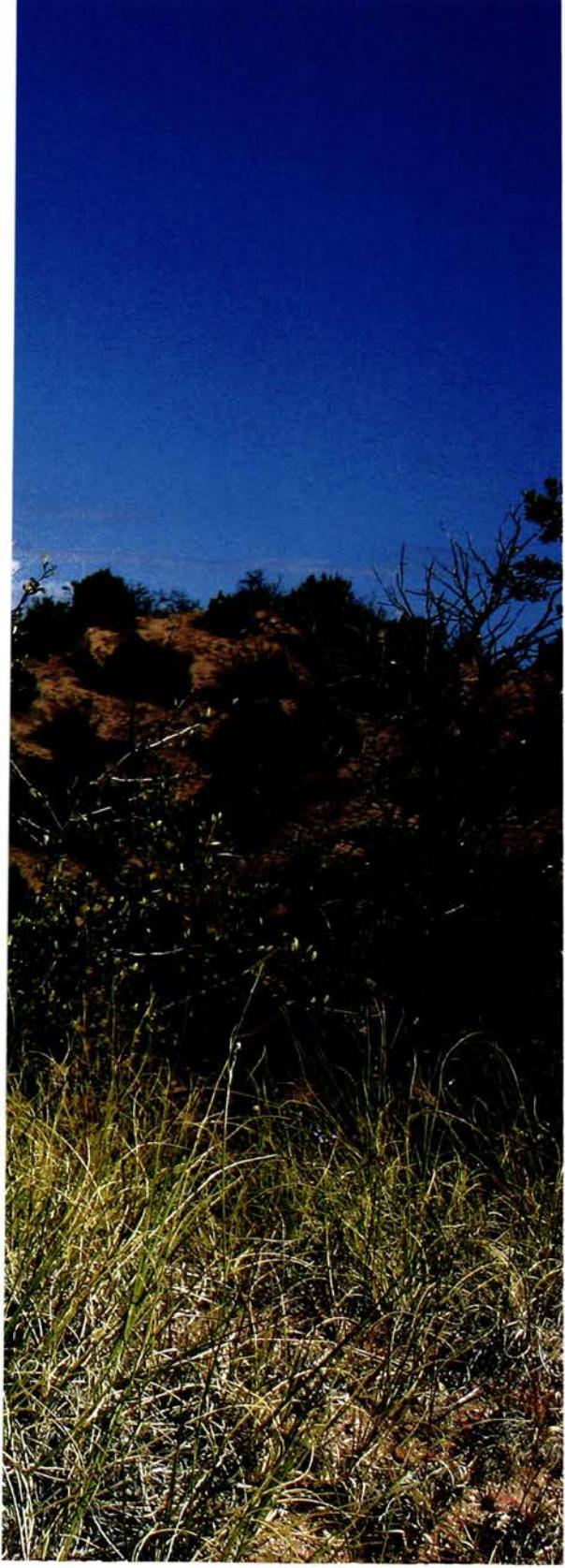












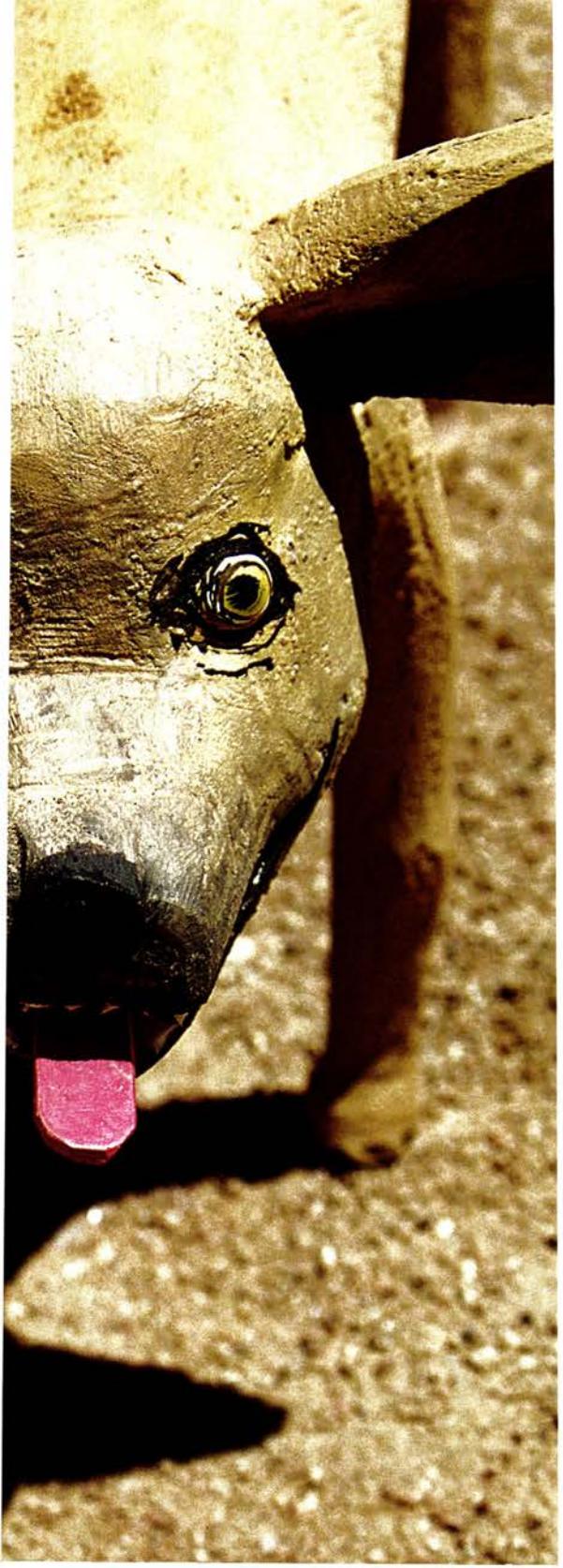
















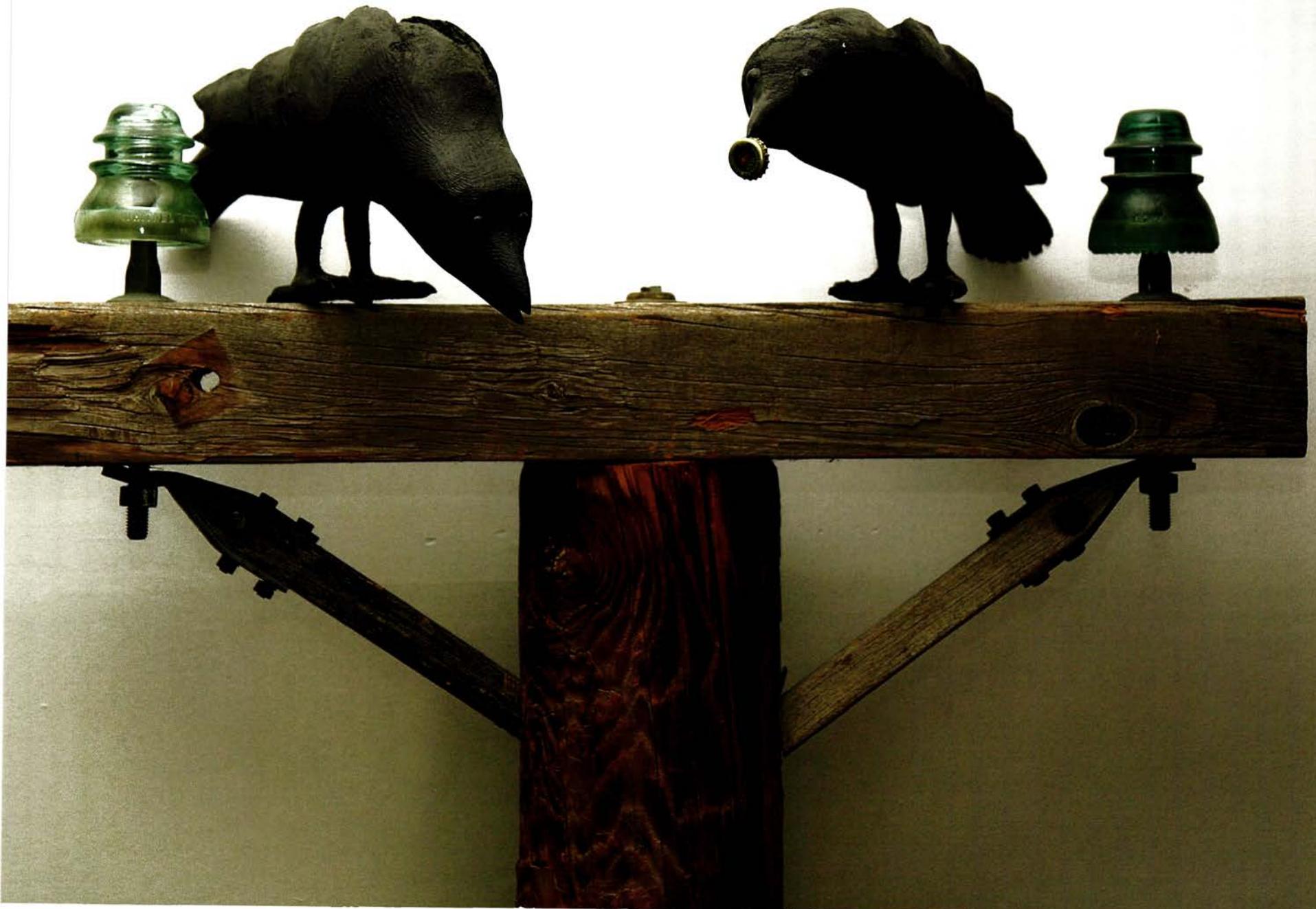


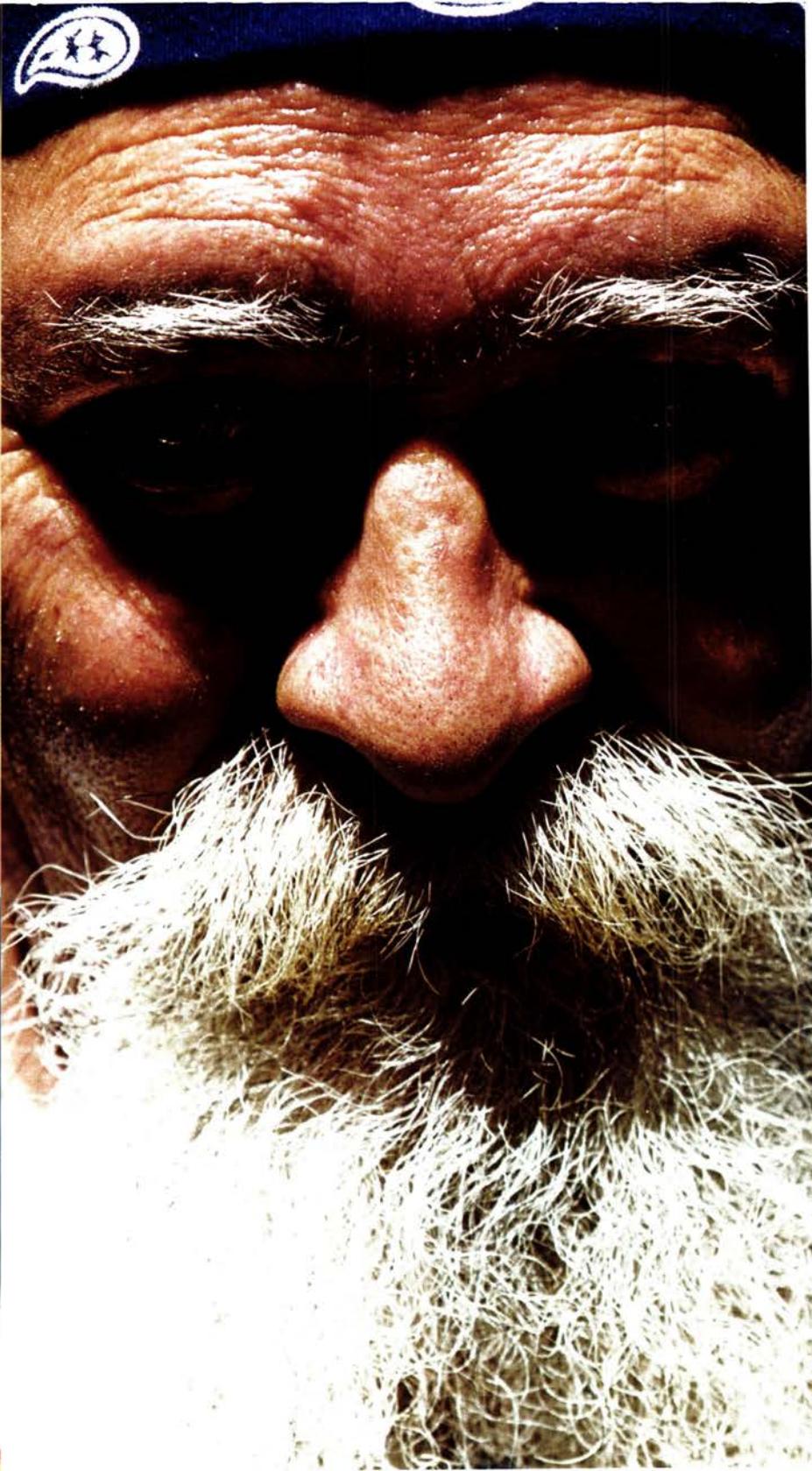
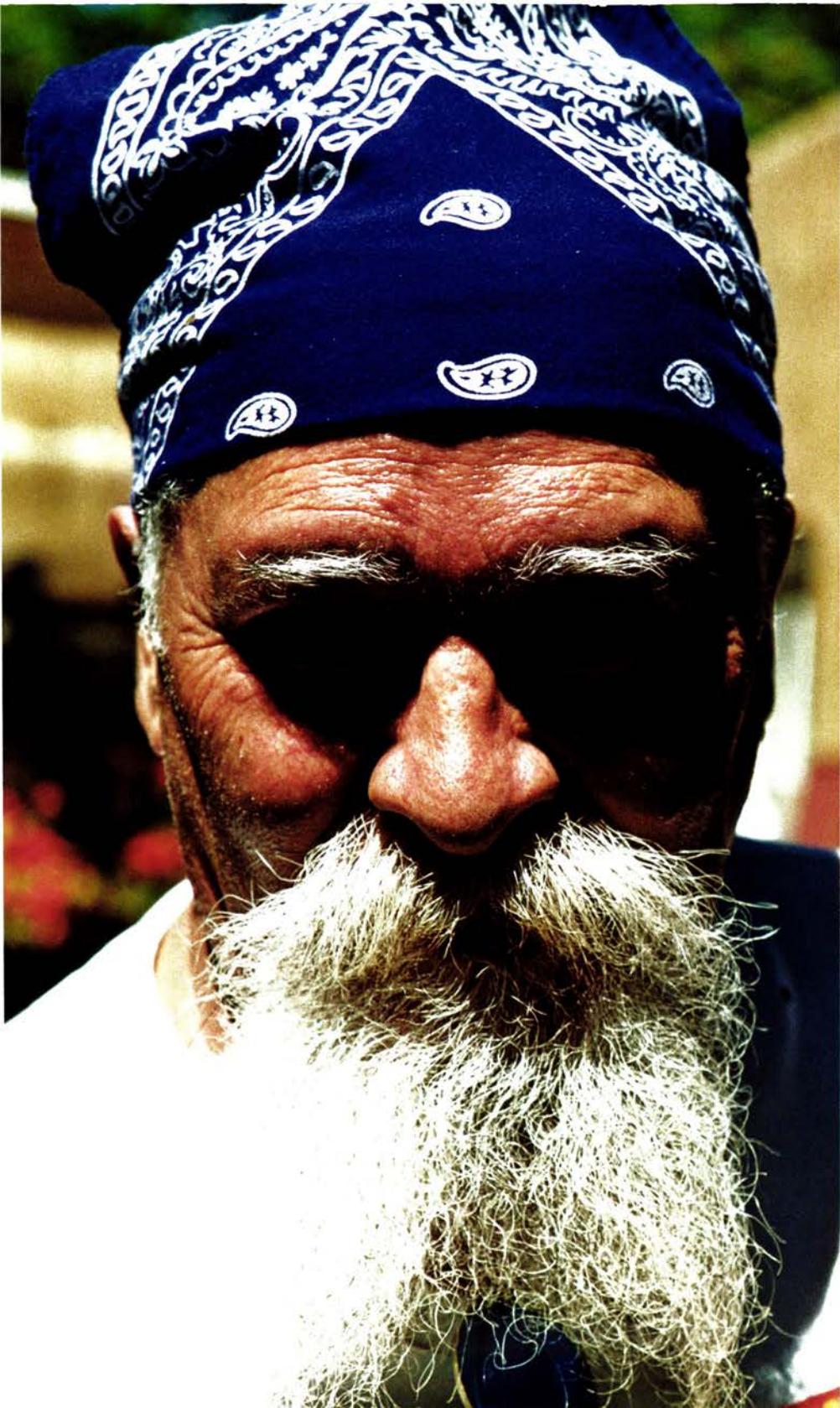






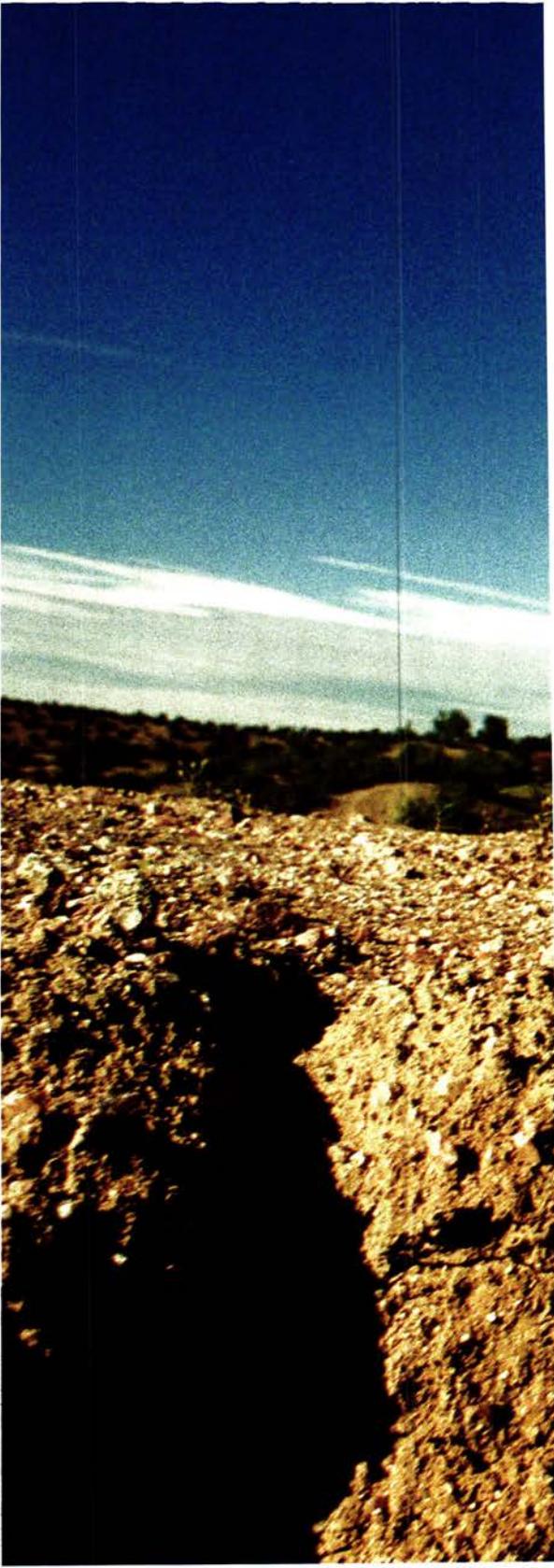
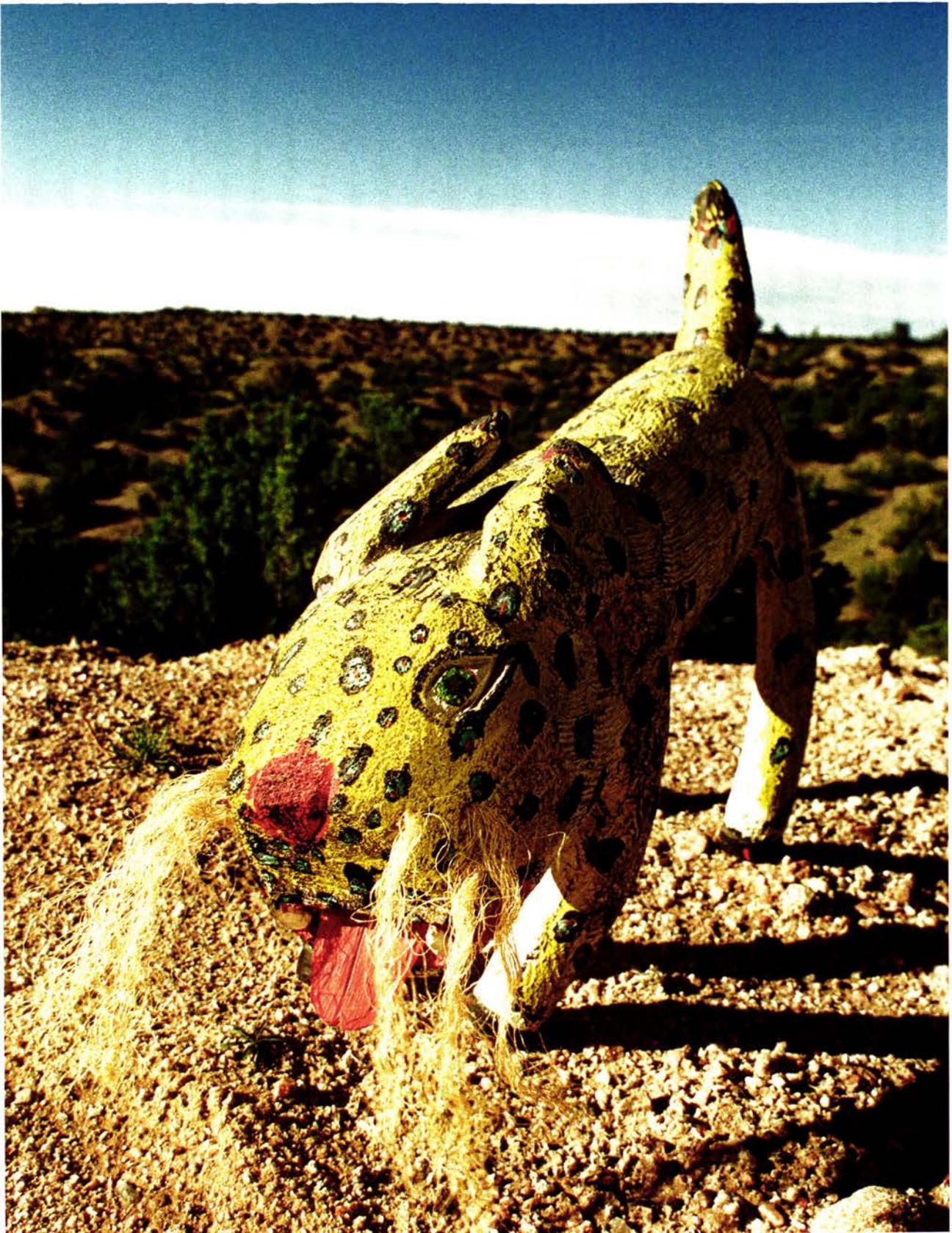






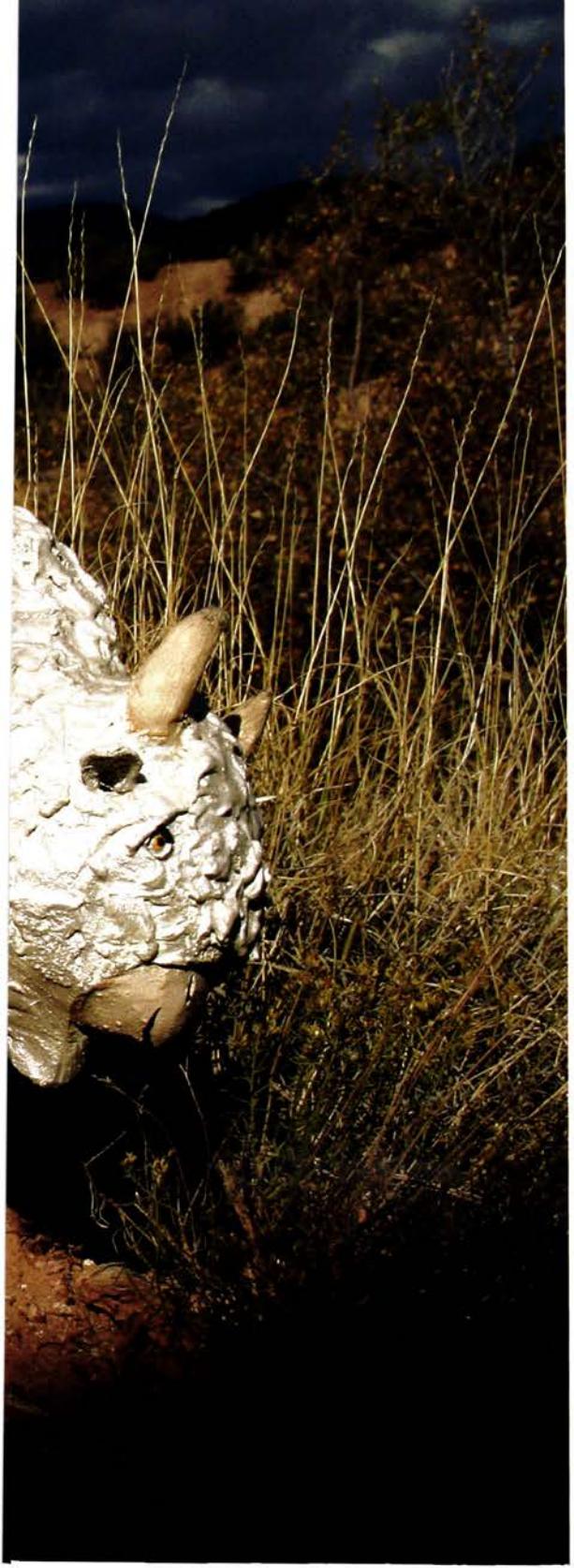
# **Miguel Rodriguez**

Miguel Rodriguez (1948-2005) was born in Santa Fe and worked in a series of jobs such as carpenter, plumber, gas station attendant, actor, etc. He began to create his fierce, dramatic, colorful animals while in his thirties and until his sad, untimely death at fifty-seven - only three years ago. June and I, who we are told have the largest collection of his works, grew to appreciate him as a very strong and special individual who had the most creative ideas with his unique humor. What an artist. His work speaks for itself on the following pages. We are fortunate to have known him. Thank You Miguel.

































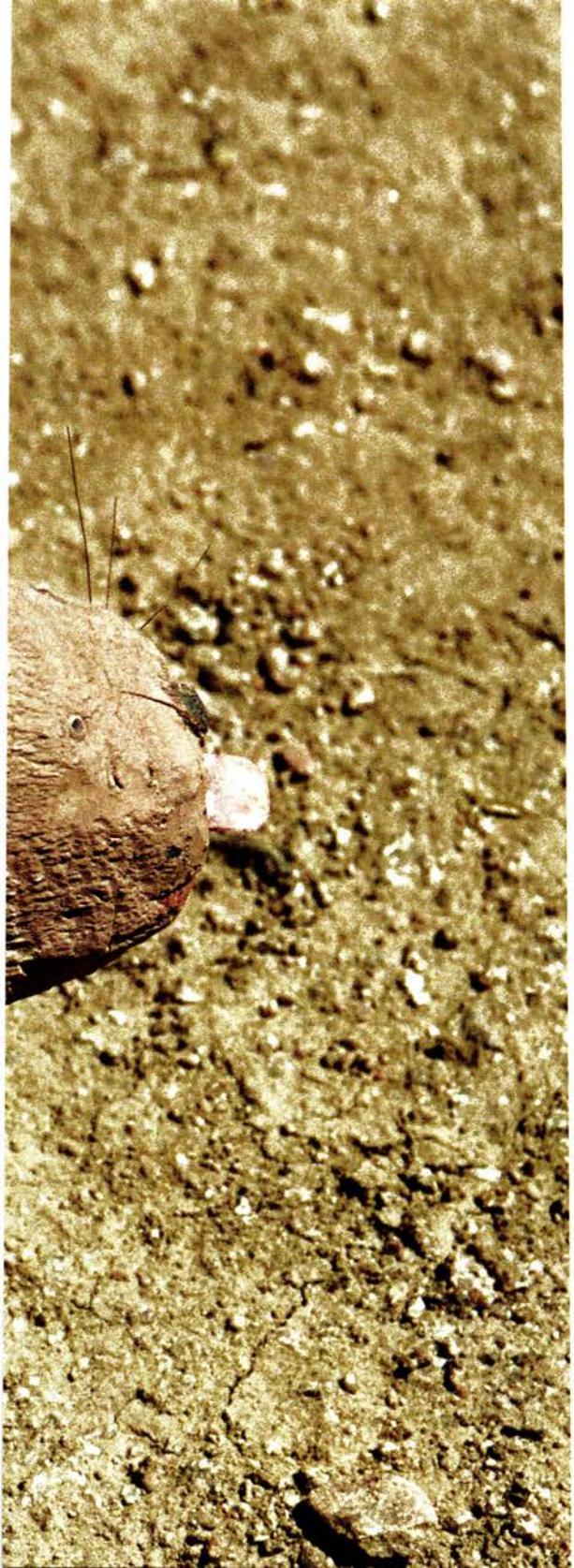




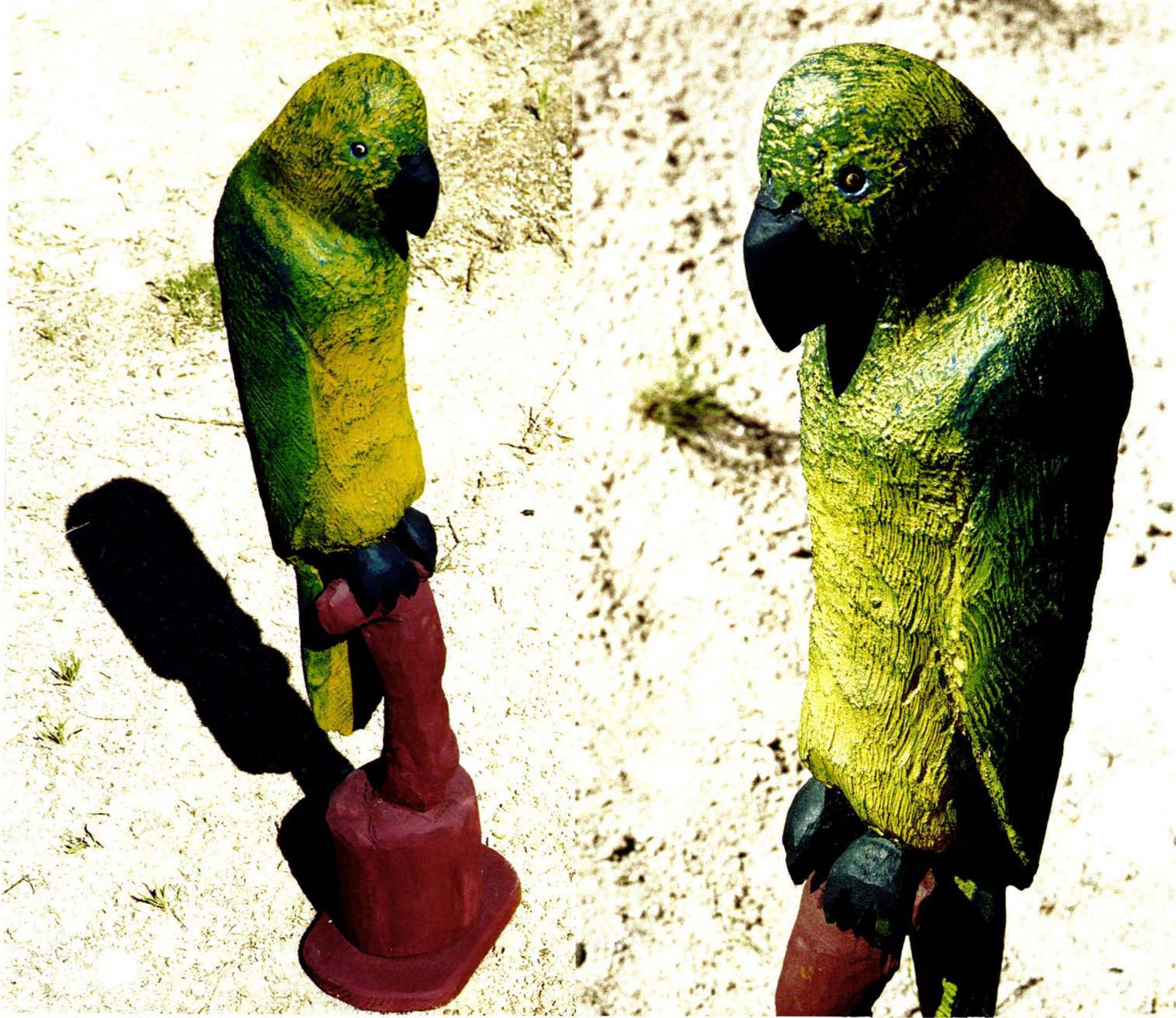






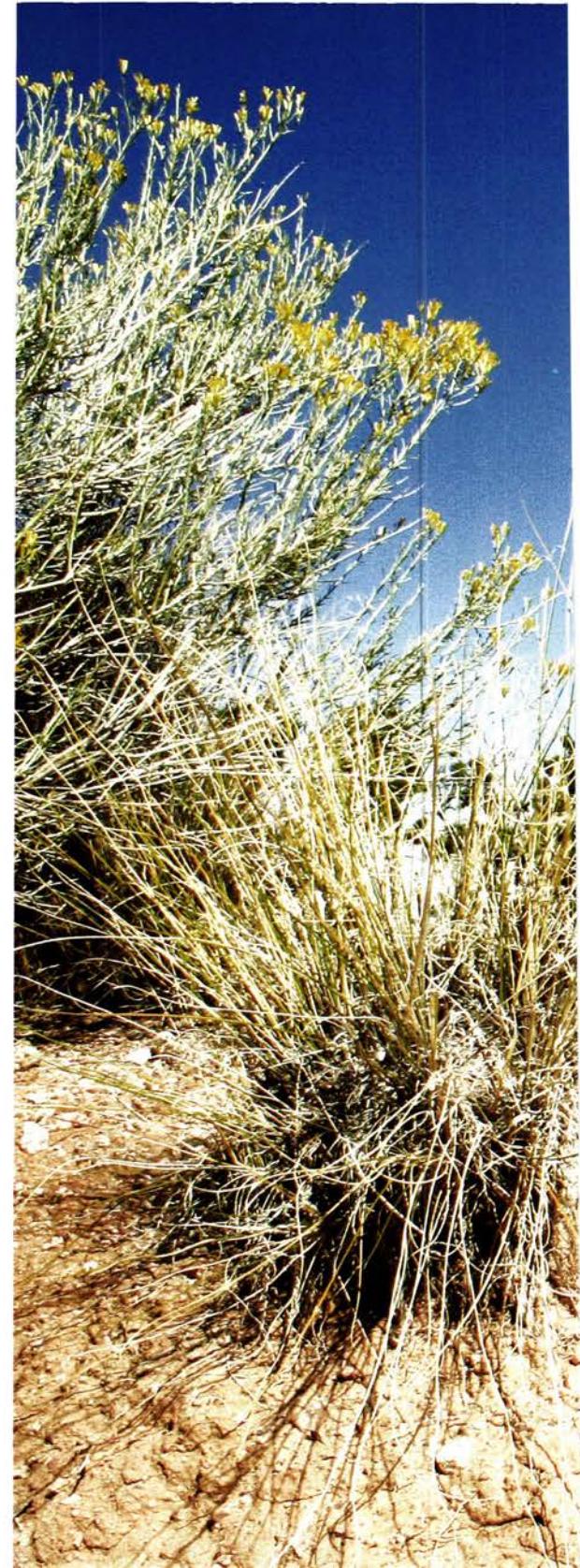






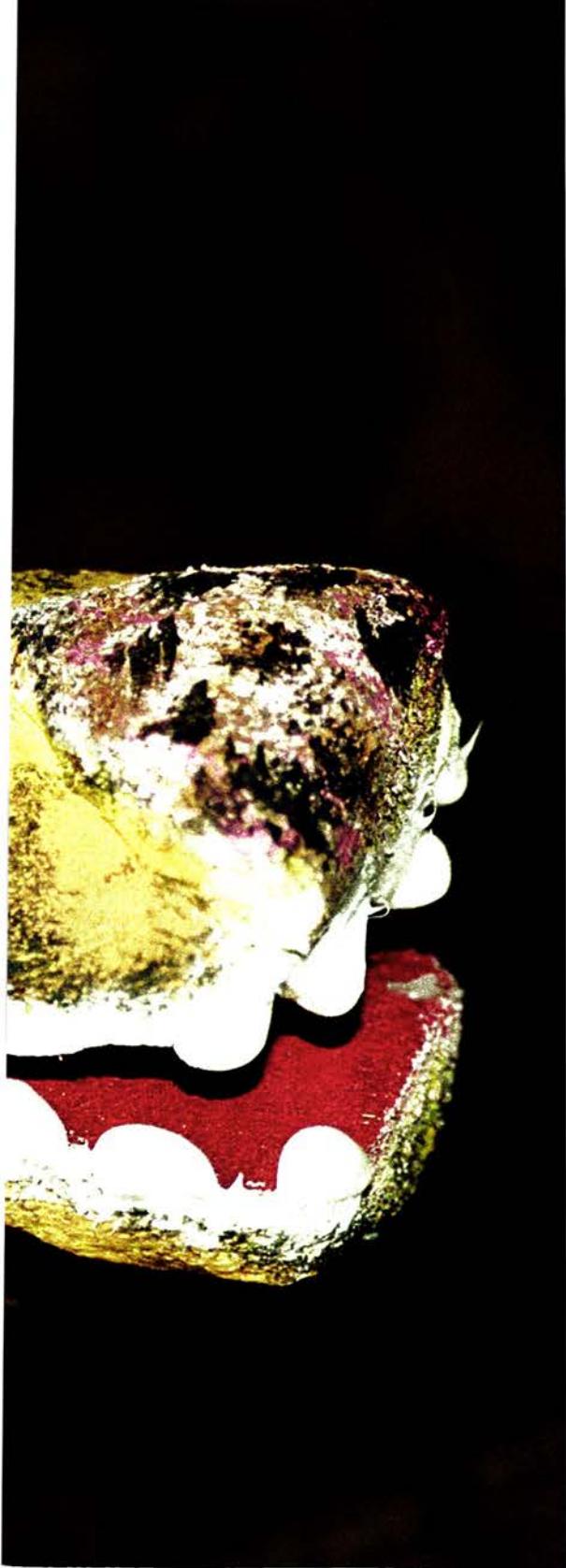




























# **Kindred Spirits Animal Sanctuary**

I hope you have enjoyed seeing the wonderful folk art animals created by these artists which are in our homes in New York and New Mexico.

I wish to conclude this pictorial book with a special place for special animals. Just south of Santa Fe a wonderful home was established for dogs and poultry, and a few horses, called Kindred Spirits Animal Sanctuary, which cares for mistreated and aging and unwanted animals.

June and I have adopted Salvadore the Pit Bull by full sponsorship. He was a victim as a warm up dog for Pit Bull fighting. Look at his permanently damaged front legs. Look at his kind face. He is very special.



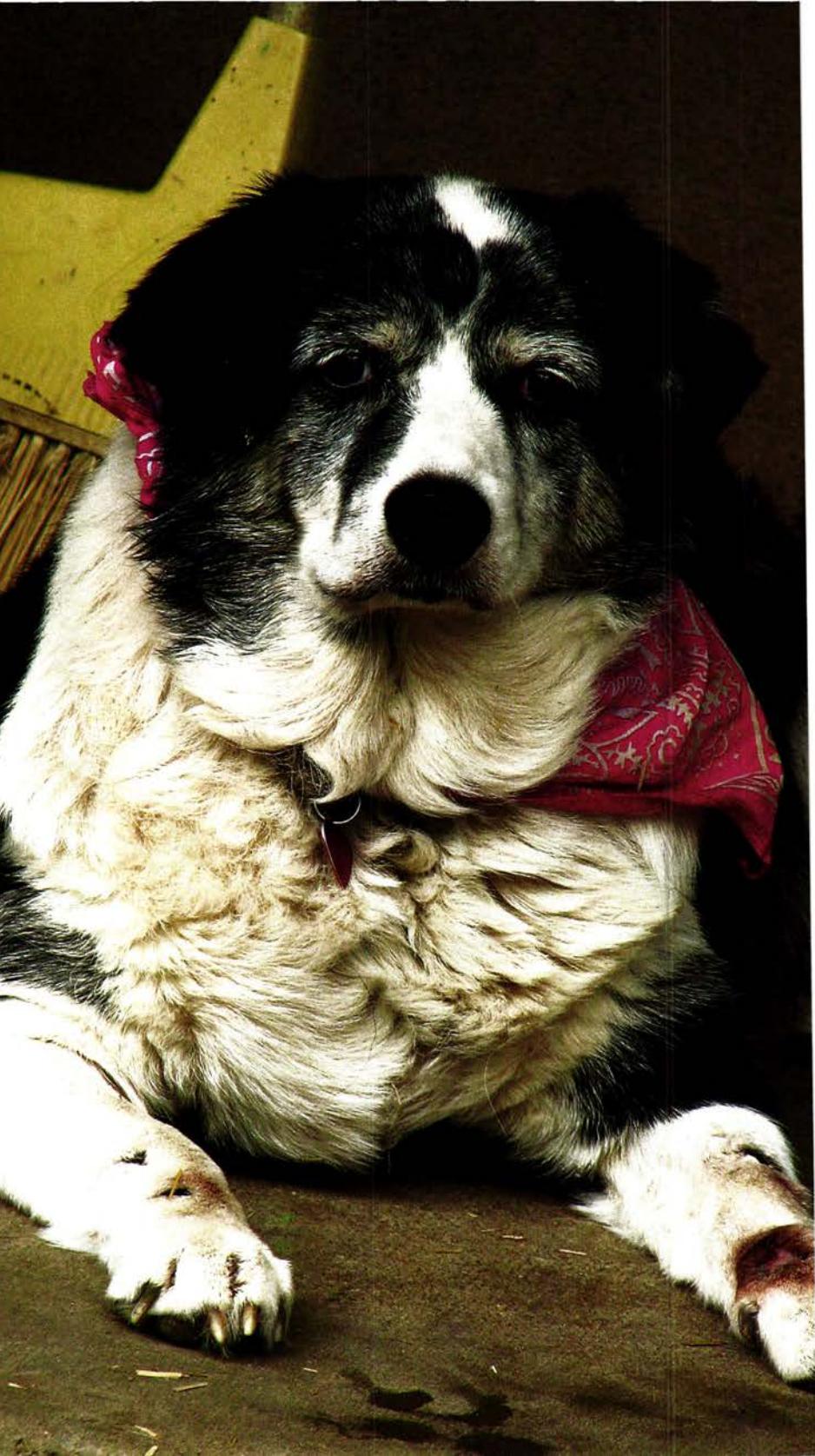
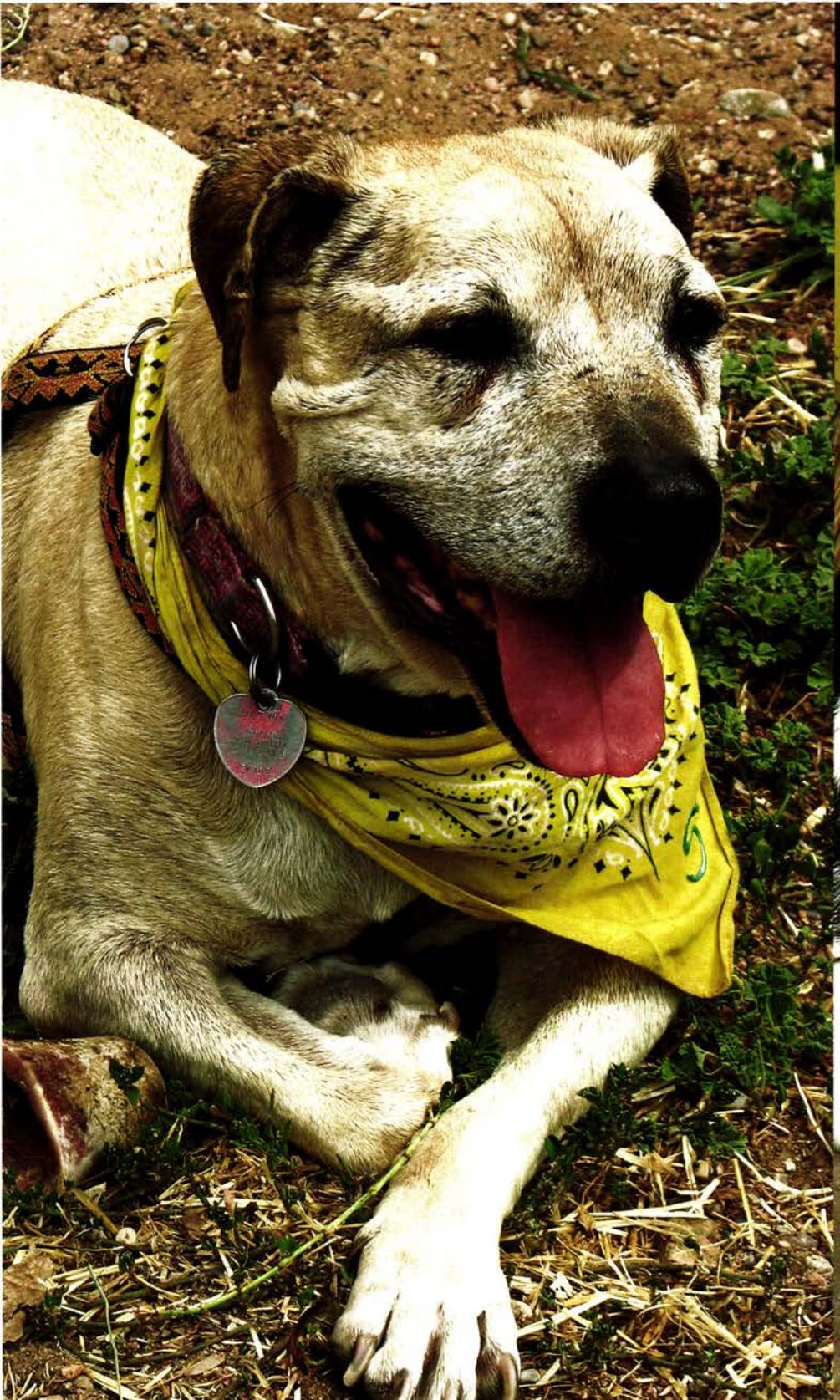


love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

Love bears all things,  
believes all things,  
hopes all things,  
endures all things.

I CORINTHIANS XIII







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I wish to thank Joseph Kiley, Thomas Kiley, Dawn Gonnella, and Claudia Suica for their dedication in the preparation of this book.

