

•LITERARY ARTS•

OF CLAY AND MYSTERY

Book signing with talk, exhibition opening, open house on tap

By Tempo staff

The Couse-Sharp Historic Site will host a free talk and book signing by E. Jane Burns, author of a book just published by the Couse Foundation. Her talk, "Adventures in the Archives: The Process of Researching and Writing The Couse Collection of Pueblo Pottery," is set for Saturday (July 1), 3:30 p.m., at the Couse House, 146 Kit Carson Road. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.

Burns' presentation coincides with the opening of an exhibition in the site's Luna Chapel called "Seldom Seen: Archival Stories," illustrating the important role archives play in the research and interpretation of the Taos Society of Artists (TSA).

The public can also take advantage of the site's regular first Saturday 3-5 p.m. open house to tour the home and studio of E. I. Couse. "You'll be able to see the Pueblo pots in Couse's collection, arrayed in the artist's painting studio, largely as he left them in 1936," said Davison Koenig, CSHS executive director and curator.

Also open for viewing will be Virginia Couse's Heritage Garden and the newly restored studio and exhibition "Joseph Henry Sharp: The Life and Work of an American Legend."

The Couse Collection of Pueblo Pottery book, which will be available for sale at the event, provides a specialized view of the Pueblo pots collected by Couse, founding member of the TSA, many of which appear in his paintings. The author's talk will chronicle her two-year journey of



PUEBLO INDIAN POTTERY is displayed in the newly renovated Sharp studio in Taos.

research and writing.

"My work progressed from an initial study of the Pueblo pots to an examination of key archival materials," Burns said in a prepared statement. "Couse's photo studies of Native American models posed among Native pots became an organizing principle for the book."

Full-page color photos with informative captions detail more than 70 of the largest pots in the collection, many of which are also shown in previously unpublished photo studies made by Couse. The photo studies document the artist's abiding interest in the creative processes of Pueblo pottery and show how Couse staged Native pottery-making in his paintings. The book also shows Pueblo Pottery and Tesuque tiles incorporated into the architecture of the house. A complete inventory of all pots in the collection, including smaller

pieces and miniatures, is included.

The "Seldom Seen: Archival Stories" exhibition demonstrates how seemingly insignificant objects and materials can have the ability to tell profound stories. The exhibition, which highlights recently donated or promised archival materials and artwork of the TSA, will be on view through Oct. 28.

"The Couse Foundation has embarked on a capital campaign to fund the building of an archive and research facility for the TSA at the Couse-Sharp Historic Site," Koenig noted. "This exhibition will help raise awareness of the importance of archives in our understanding of these American visionaries."

"The archive will provide the resources necessary for students and scholars to interpret and relate the history of one of the most important artist colonies in the history of the United States,"



COURTESY DAVISON KOENIG

ENTRANCE TO ONE of the studios on the property

Koenig said.

Schedule of events

Saturday (July 1)

3-5 p.m. Exhibition opening: "Seldom Seen: Archival Stories," Luna Chapel building. Open house with docents: E. I. Couse Home and Studio, Virginia Couse Heritage Garden, and "Joseph Henry Sharp: The Life and Work of an American Legend" exhibition in Sharp's second studio

3:30 p.m. Informal talk by author E. Jane Burns: "Adventures in the Archives: The Process of Researching and Writing The Couse Collection of Pueblo Pottery," booksigning to follow.

Things to know if you go: The Friday events at the Couse-Sharp Historic Site are free to the public; donations accepted. Ample parking is available at the free municipal lot about a half block east of the site on Kit Carson Road. Because of the site's nature as a place of historic preservation, the buildings and grounds are not ADA accessible.