FOR SALE HISTORIC LA VENTANA



[near mile post 50 on US 550]

- 158.7845 +/- Acres with Stunning Views of the Magnificent Southwest
- Opportunity to Own Piece of History Dating back to the 1800s
- Features Wide-open Views, Including Views of Cabazon
- A River Runs Through it the Rio Puerco
- Borders Federal Lands
- Approx. 60 Minutes to Albuquerque
- NOTE: Although a couple of the structures on the property may be usable, the property is being marketed as vacant land, with no value attributed to the buildings.

 *NOTE: Sale "As Is, Where Is"

Sale Price: \$595,000 \$495,000

Rod Smith 5 0 5 . 7 9 2 . 3 7 1 3

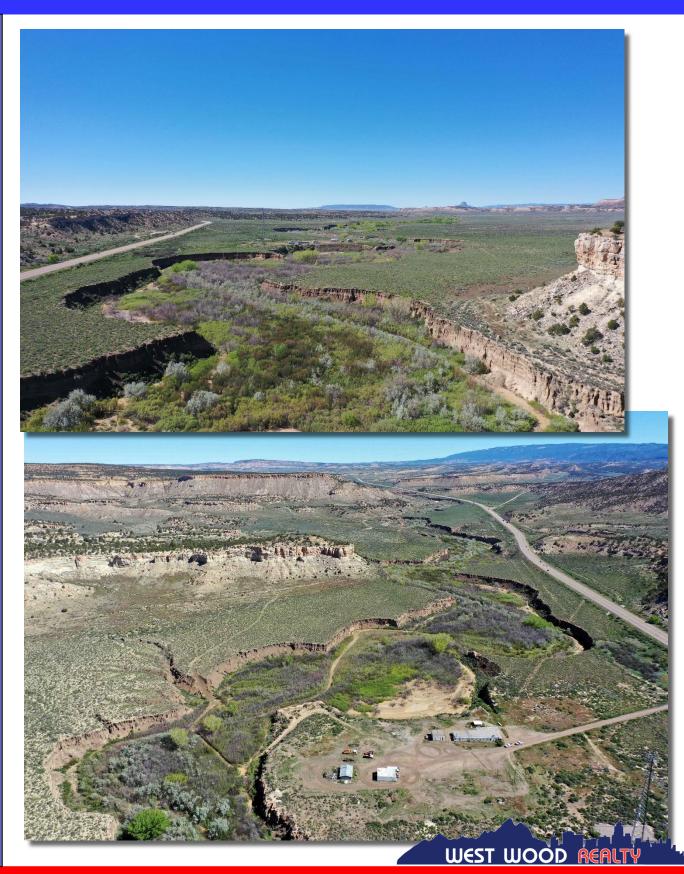
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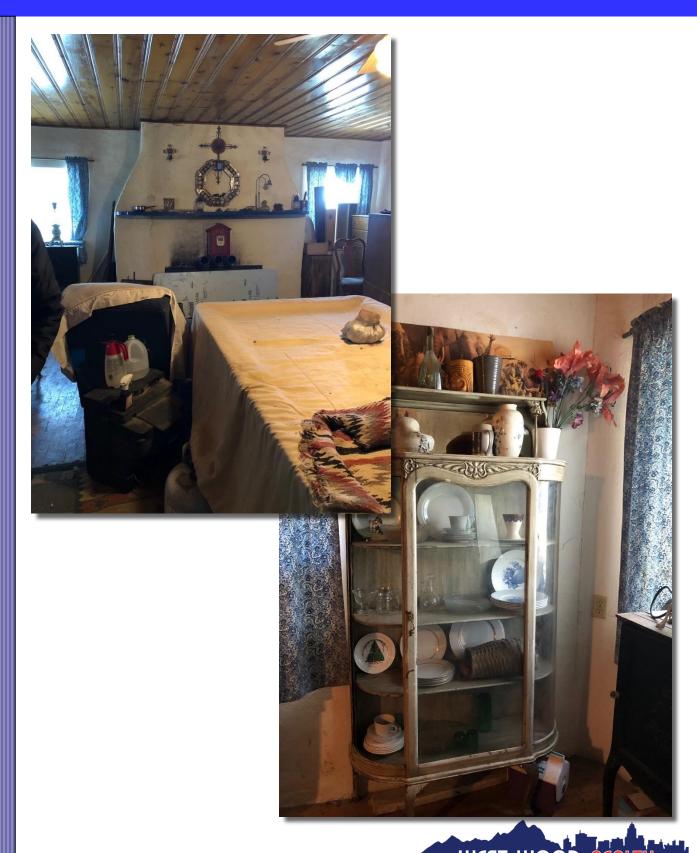












WEST WOOD NEHLIY

WE'VE HEARD THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE (& OTHER SUSPECT SOURCES) ...

La Ventana was founded in the 1870s by Spanish-speaking people who farmed the fertile land along the Rio Puerco. This was Navajo country, which stirred conflict between the Indians and the farmers, forcing abandonment of the town for a few years.

The main living area was a stagecoach stop built in 1884 [still standing]. Eleven rooms were added to create a hotel in about 1925. Up until 1977, there was a market, post office and the Naciemento Hotel.

The settlement of La Ventana became an active little town in the late 1920s. Max Baca ran a store, which also housed the post office. The El Nido Hotel, a restaurant, a dance hall, and a pool hall catered to the needs of miners, travelers, and railroaders alike. The stores operated by Fred Maboub and Joe Marchetti completed the commercial section of town. It was said that La Ventana was a "wide open" place, featuring all the usual vices — including a "red light" district. This could well have been true, for it was a long way from there to the Sheriff's office in Bernalillo.

The Railroad & Mining Operations at La Ventana. The promised grand celebration of the completion of the railroad track to La Ventana took place on Thursday, July 7, 1927. Governor R. C. Dillon and a handful of state officials came down by auto from Santa Fe to Bernalillo for the occasion. An eight-car special train, it was reported, took them on the SFNW to San Ysidro, and then over the new track of the Santa Fe Northern to La Ventana. The celebration took place at the end of track. As the small crowd looked on, Governor Dillon drove a gold spike to mark the completion of the track.

The coal at La Ventana had been used to fire the boilers and the smelting furnaces of the copper mines located a few miles to the northeast in the foothills of the Sierra Nacimiento. Records indicate that most of the copper production there occurred between 1880 and 1900, though there was a brief revival in 1919 and 1920. The chief producing copper mines in the district were the San Miguel, the Copper Glance, and the Eureka. For a time in the 1880s, a small smelter of 25 tons-per-day capacity operated at the village of Copper City near Senorita. It appears that in addition to the copper, the ores also contained a substantial amount of silver as well.

Unfortunately, the broken and scattered nature of the deposits, as well as the absence of rail transportation, seems to have halted any extensive development of the district.



