



Tolliver Tales

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Los Alamos Old Days



At Los Alamos Old Days

*Flanked by a very large lemon, **R Lawson Gamble** sells his books while wife **Ann**, craftsperson of beautiful handcrafted bead jewelry, displays her collection.*

September ended with *Los Alamos Old Days*, a celebration of the valley and its history. My book ***Los Alamos Valley*** became a source for news articles leading up to the event. **Michael Hodgson**, News Editor of the *Santa Ynez Valley News* exchanged emails with me after he had read the book. He

then wrote a wonderfully fluid, thorough and accurate article about the event which found its way into three local newspapers.

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Where in the West is This?



These columns have usually contained reports about various events involving sales and signings of my books, or talks and presentations, and they will continue to do so. This time, however, I have preempted this space to talk about my *Zack Tolliver* novels and how I go about writing them. Many authors in my genre establish their protagonists within a particular location, town or community. Their crimes and mysteries develop therein. Unlike them, I send my central characters hither and yon across the great Southwest. I do this because it is the beauty and mystery of the land that inspires me. What are its secrets? Like *Zack* and *Eagle Feather*, I travel to these places, go out into their wild spaces and coax out the secrets hidden there. I am never disappointed. There are always mysteries and anomalies sufficient to suggest great plots. Such is true of the story currently in process. This location provided so much material it can scarcely

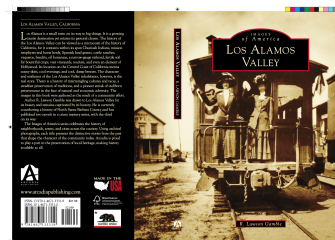
be contained within a single novel. Unique landscapes seem to induce complex societies and powerful relationships, whether close or hostile.



Or This?

While I do not wish to seem ingenuous, my ulterior purpose with this message is to present a mystery within a mystery, and at the same time whet your appetite for the next novel, due sometime before Christmas. Where will *Zack* and *Eagle Feather* find themselves now, and what plot elements does this environment suggest? Will the land inspire you in the same manner? I wonder.

(Next Newsletter December 2, 2017)



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The Zack Tolliver, FBI Murder Mystery Series

Each novel is part of the series, yet is a stand-alone and takes place in a different area of the Southwest. In each novel Zack and Eagle Feather face a new set of dangers and mysteries, meet new friends and foes, learn new history and new cultures, and must deal with mythologies, rituals, and beings from beyond our understanding.