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Mary and Joseph find shelter from the cold

By [Jackie Jadrnak / Journal North Reporter](#)

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Hotel officials are looking for clues about who created this Nativity scene, which is now on display in the lobby of La Fonda on the Plaza. (Courtesy of La Fonda)

SANTA FE, N.M. — Here's at least one instance when Mary and Joseph found a room at the inn.

A Nativity scene, which is close to life-size, has been installed in the lobby of La Fonda on the Plaza after more than a half-century of exposure to the elements as a display on the hotel's roof.

The damage that accumulated over the years was "extensively and expensively restored," board chair Jennifer Kimball said in a news release.

While the display can be enjoyed out of the weather this year, hotel officials are looking to solve a mystery connected with it. As they tell it, the hand-carved, hand-painted figures were found in a closet more than 50 years ago when Sam and Ethel Ballen bought the hotel.

But no one appears to know who the artist was who created the Christian religious figures. If you have any information about that, contact Jayne Weiske at jweiske@lafondasantafe.com or call 505-995-2377.

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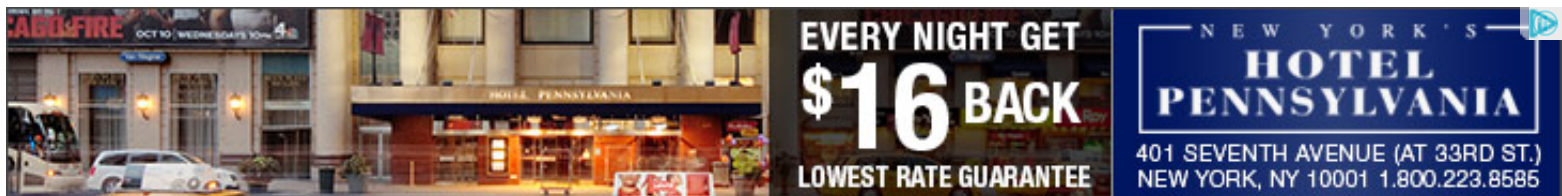
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