In 1903, President Teddy Roosevelt took a 9 week tour by train across the American West. On the 5th of May, Cinco de Mayo, he crossed into the New Mexico Territory through the rugged pass at Raton. He gave speeches in Santa Fe and Albuquerque before heading west through Gallup and on to Arizona and California. When he arrived in Santa Cruz, California on 11 May, the native girls decorated his train with live flowers[1].



[1] *Keep it for Your Children, Theordore Roosevelt's 1903 Western Trip*, James Blasé, 2019, pgs 188 & 228

Teddy Roosevelt didn't pass through Alamogordo on his trip, but if he had….

He would have had to wait until the week of 20 August, when the new route from Santa Fe to El Paso was completed[2]. He might have found that Otero County residents certainly knew how to bedeck a train with flowers. In fact, trains leaving High Rolls were frequently covered in flowers as a thank you from grateful mountain residents honoring the work of the engineers on the Alamogordo and Sacramento Mountain Railroad[3].

Here, 30 April – 3 May (Cinco de Mayo week), the Toy Train Depot will decorate our 1865 miniature train just the way we imagine we would have, had Teddy Roosevelt taken a more southerly route through the New Mexico Territory. Come join us for this special photo opportunity.

[2] New Mexico's Railroads – A Historical Survey, David F. Myrick, 1970, pg. 55
[3] *Cloud-Climbing Railroad – A Story of Timber, Trestles, and Trains*, Dorothy Jensen Neal, 1966, pg. 49