

# THE ASPEN TIMES

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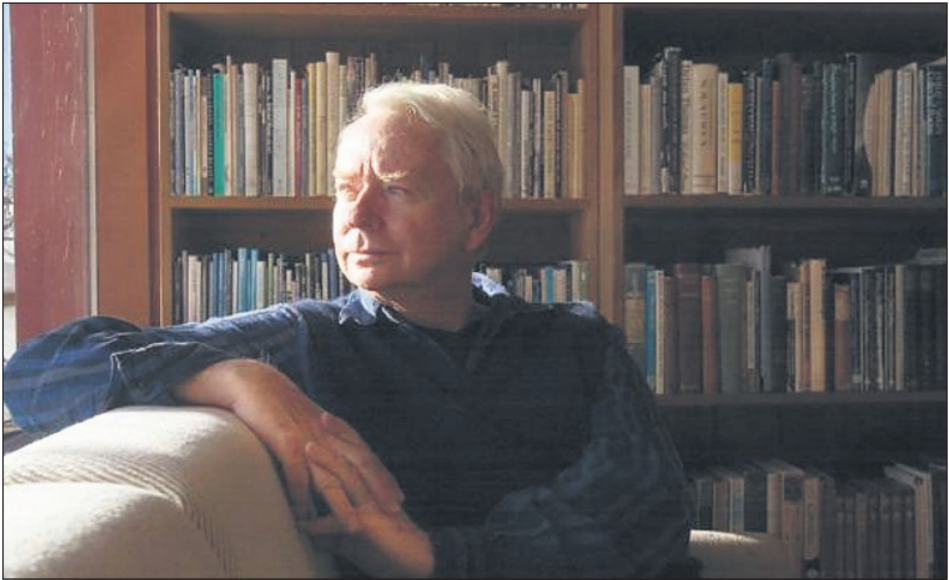
## Aspen author Bruce Berger elevates to national stage

80-year-old author gets first major deal, will discuss 'A Desert Harvest' in town Wednesday

Andrew Travers  
The Aspen Times

Bruce Berger has been a fixture in Aspen for the past half-century, but the mountains are his second love. Celebrated locally as the author of "The Complete Half-Aspenite" and the Aspen Music Festival history "Music in the Mountains," and as the host of salon-like dinner parties at his hidden-away cabin off the west side of Main Street overlooking Castle Creek, Berger is best known beyond the roundabout as a bard of the American desert. His collections of essays "The Telling Distance" (1990), "There Was a River" (1994), and "Almost an Island" (1998) are on the bookshelves of desert rats around the world, poetically capturing the landscapes, life and lack thereof in the arid stretches of the West. In a major new release from publisher Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, Berger, 80, has collected

his favorite works from those earlier books and added new essays. Titled "A Desert Harvest," the book will be published Tuesday. Berger will celebrate the release with a talk and book-signing at Aspen's Explore Booksellers on Wednesday. His earlier desert books were published by small presses and university presses, and inspired a cult following. The new one, from a major New York publisher, brings Berger to a wider national audience aided by a publicity campaign, early review from Publishers Weekly and Kirkus Reviews and a seven-stop book tour of the West that launches Tuesday at Tattered Cover in Denver and also includes stops in Salt Lake City; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Phoenix and Portland, Oregon. "It's really exciting," Berger said in a phone interview on his way to the Tucson Festival



ASPEN TIMES FILE

BERGER, A7 Bruce Berger at home in Aspen in 2005.

## BRINGING COLOR TO THE STAGE



ANNA STONEHOUSE/THE ASPEN TIMES

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet Folklorico dancers perform Saturday night at The Arts Campus at Willits.

### INSIDE

All that glitters may not be Telluride

Just as companies today name their products to try to inspire their customers, Tim Willoughby talks of miners naming their towns and claims Telluride or Ophir in hopes the names would reflect their findings.  
**Story on PAGE A8**

Avalanche closes Castle Creek Road

An avalanche closed Castle Creek Road Saturday morning for most of the day until crews reopened it around 8 p.m.  
**Read more on PAGE A5**

### Spring forward

Set your clocks ahead one hour before bed on Sunday.

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