

CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

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**April 26 Annual CCHS Meeting
Lunch at Eagle Guest Ranch!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 22 Don Bullis' talk on American Valley Murders, Pie Town Community Center, 2 PM.

April 26 Bryan Turo's talk on Thomas B. Catron Meeting at Datil Community Center, 2 PM.
Come early for lunch at the Eagle Guest Ranch!

HOW TO RENEW, OR JOIN THE CCHS



Send a check or money order to:
CCHS, PO Box 263
Quemado NM 87829

Individual Membership \$20/year
Family Membership \$30/year
CCHS Business Membership \$50/year

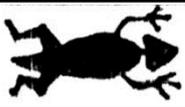
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2013/2014 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Sally Blum, 575-772-2539
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Shannon Donnelly • sdonnellyNM@gmail.com

DIRECTORS:
*Barb Adams, Bob Roland, Doris
Clymo, Nettie Carrejo,
Bonnie Armstrong*



FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I do this report I am struck by the continuing movement of members of CCHS and friends who have decided to leave and move to other parts of the country. Even today, as in the past, settlers and new immigrants move for various reasons: job opportunity, illness, a different life style, family, adventure, or many other reasons. Gary and I moved here thirteen years ago and the thought of moving at this time in our life would be overwhelming. So we are here to stay unless something unforeseen changes. We say good bye to those who are moving on and wish them the best in their new ventures. Our membership often reflects these changes as does the economy. At the end of 2013 our membership was 120 individual, family, and business members. We are mindful that we must endeavor even more to obtain new members and renew our previous members. We hope the board and program committee offer you a place to become part of the community through history and educational programs.

MUSEUM: Your board has looked at several buildings in the Quemado area and Wayne Ashby is locating buildings in the Reserve area for the storage of our historical documents. If you know of a building we should look at in the Quemado/Reserve area please contact me or any member of the board and we will investigate the possibility.

TREASURER: Mary Johnson has decided to step down as our treasurer. Mary and Phil will put all their efforts into finishing their home and pursuing other ventures. We will miss Mary as treasurer but we are hopeful that her talents can still be used in other areas of CCHS. Mary has always been there to help and give her thoughts on the Christmas party or other programs we have. She has worked on the website for many years and designed the rock art on our newsletter and on the website which is still in the process. Helen Cress has volunteered to take the position of treasurer and will be on the ballot for the 2014 term.

CABIN PROJECT: Becky is receiving pictures of log cabins and their location from several members. Lisa Blessing has volunteered to take pictures of log cabins you may know about, and Becky and I can also come out and help with cabins you may need photographed.

PROJECTOR: Lisa Blessing has finished her research on a projector and we have now ordered a projector and it will be here the first of March. Thank you, Lisa.



HOMESTEAD SERIES: HUBBELL FAMILY PART II

By Mark Hubbell

Fences were built and the sheep were turned loose. We still had some camps, and herders rode out in the pastures to check on the sheep. For the first couple of years all was fine. We had a 100% lamb crop. We also quit driving the sheep to Magdalena to load on the train and started loading them on trucks. Then we started losing lamb crops. We thought coyotes were getting them at first as there were a lot of coyotes. Coyotes would find and kill a lamb and you could tell lambs killed by coyotes. We had trappers and a government trapper.

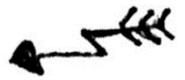
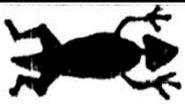


Photo from Maggie Hubbell

When we were kids, we got to into Albuquerque to the Swartzman packing plant to buy the cheapest wieners. We cut wienies small and put in the poison and scattered them out. My siblings and I never ate wieners as kids! They tried to control coyotes, but something happened that no one expected. Eagles started showing up. Eagles feasted on lambs. Literally when the lambs were born, they feasted on them. My dad had pictures of holes in heads of lambs from the eagles. Some of the men climbed up to a nest and found lamb bones. A ridge runs from the Sawtooths to the plains in the Malpais country. You could see eagles all the time sitting on the point looking to where the sheep were. At the time, it was illegal to kill eagles, not to say some were not shot, but it was illegal. This was also the beginning of debates on poison.

On the east side of the state, some sheep ranchers flew planes to hunt coyotes. My dad learned to fly and started hunting from an airplane and did for few years. But one morning, he and my brother crashed. That pretty well changed the family dynamics. The family kept on in sheep until 1970-71. I had a little group of sheep for a FFA project in those last sheep years. They were in the corner of the pasture when I left for school with eagles circling. I came home every afternoon from school and checked, and one or two lambs were gone each day. In a month, all were gone. The last year we only shipped a 20% lamb crop. The decision was

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 22 Don Bullis' Talk on "Unsolved New Mexico's American Valley Ranch Murders and other Mysteries" Pie Town Community Center at 2:00 PM.

APRIL 26 CCHS ANNUAL MEETING. Bryan Turo's Talk on "Thomas B. Catron and Business in New Mexico." He has been working on his doctorate on this subject for the past few years and will share his findings. THIS IS OUR ANNUAL MEETING WITH RESULTS OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND THE SILENT AUCTION. Datil Community Center at 2:00 PM. The Eagle Guest Ranch is available for lunch before the meeting. Cindy Picone and others have already donated items for our silent auction. If you have items to donate, please contact Sally Blum or Becky Bratten.

MAY Sawmills in Catron County. Time and place are still in the works.

JUNE Blum/Fischer Ranch MEMBERS ONLY. An outing to a newly excavated kiva site under Doug Fischer's direction. Doug will give us insight into the kiva and he may stop for all to see the site of the old Sunnyslope School and a lava wall that is mind boggling. Details to follow.

Other outings are in the process. Wayne Ashby is finalizing exciting outings south of Quemado. Details will follow.



STEVE CANDELARIA TRAPPING TALK

By Becky Bratten

China, Korea, perfume, pilgrims, sifters, and runway models. What do all of these have to do with trapping? Steve Candelaria told us at the Catron County Historical Society Program, January 10 at the Quemado Senior Center.

Steve Candelaria spoke on modern trappers. He presented facts on the history of trapping in the US, starting with the Pilgrims. He had an excellent display of trapping gear and coyote and bobcat pelts, each coyote pelt worth from \$30-40.

In the trapping process, Steve presented the many steps of trapping. Traps should not be held with the bare hand. All the traps on display were not usable until he "washed" them in his special way as they had been touched by the many who were around his display table. Steve went on to talk about location, location, location. At first you might have thought he was a real estate salesman, but location is the right real estate you need for setting your traps. There are a variety of traps, and Steve pointed out how to get out of a trap as he has had his hand caught in one. He says a book doesn't tell you how to remove your hand from one. At least the traps now don't do the damage older traps did. He had an example of one of the more damaging traps that cut off circulation. Setting the trap is a fine art, too. Getting it in the ground required equipment to hold the trap in place. All you have to do is dig a hole, in the right place and right way! My thought, as a relative newcomer to the area, was, "In this hard dirt, you need a backhoe!" I would think that the hole digging business would be the hard part!

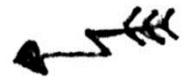
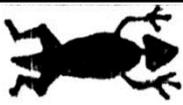
Lures were another interesting, if stinky, topic. Steve talked about how a skunk scent was wrapped in many layers of material for mailing, and you could still smell it at the post office. Another thought I had was, "If I worked at the post office, I'd pay Steve to tell me when it was coming and take the day off." But Steve assures us that a lot of the animal scents are shipped overseas to make perfumes. No wonder his wife, Pat, stands outside his man cave and won't go in. Smart wife.

Once the trap is set, you have to cover it and try to disguise it so the smart animals will step on it. You sift dirt over it



Photo by Kelly Gatlin
La Luz Photography

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HELEN CRESS “MURDERS MOST FOUL”

By Lisa Blessing

As the host venue for the Catron County Historical Society’s February presentation of Murders Most Foul, the Quemado Senior Center fed the multitudes. In keeping with the subject matter, the center was festooned with crime scene tape, a “corpse” under a sheet on the pool table, and crime scene tape of the outline of a victim. The sinister elements didn’t seem to dampen enjoyment of roast beef or roast pork.

Helen Cress played to a full house as she spun the tale of at least four murders surrounding Henry Coleman. Drawing on extensive research done by her mother, Eleanor Williams, Helen bolstered that information with research of her own including forays to the Goat Ranch.

As Helen teased a narrative out of disparate contemporary accounts from over 90 years ago, she made one thing abundantly clear—there were two versions of every story. Henry and his compadres told one tale, ranchers whose cattle magically gravitated to Henry’s herds wherever he was told another. The only indisputable facts were that Henry was a handsome man capable of great charm. Henry was also a dead shot and by all accounts willing to pull his .45 out of his holster if provoked, and that enabled him to escape from difficult situations more than once.

Henry was widely reputed to acquire cattle by illegal means. At one point he used a slaughterhouse in Deming on the railroad line which gave him a perfect place to dispose of the evidence of his theft while earning a hefty paycheck. When life would get too hot on the New Mexico side of the border, Henry would slip down to live among friends of his in Mexico. Around 1918, Henry and his wife, Clara, were divorced after she charged him with abandonment. He gave her their spread along Largo Creek where Clara continued to run cattle. Clara’s neighbor, Bourbonnaise, at one point tried to fence off the water, causing a contentious relationship to develop with Clara.

On the night of the December 11, 1918, Clara and Don Oliver who did some work for with Clara were in Clara’s house. Someone shot them to death. The bodies were discovered the next day by someone delivering cattle to Clara. The house itself is long gone but the fireplace remains to this day.

Henry was immediately suspected but he had an alibi, having driven with friends in the back of their truck to Magdalena. Many thought that Henry had gone out of his way to establish an alibi. One person who did not have an alibi was Ben Foster, a man hired by Henry just before the murders. Because Clara’s feud over water with Bourbonnaise was well known, Henry convinced the sheriff and deputies to arrest Bourbonnaise. Instead of taking him to Quemado, they took him to Clara’s house where Henry waited. When Bourbonnaise entered, Henry shot him dead and insisted it was self-defense. The lawmen all agreed, and this was not the only time Henry was saved by friends.

Despite the fact that the court had appointed Ray Morley as Clara’s executor, somehow Henry got himself appointed instead. Not surprisingly, Henry took everything that Clara had right down to \$15 in her bank account.

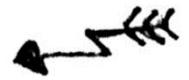
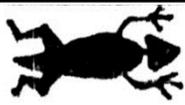
No one was ever tried for Clara’s murder, but Henry was tried for the shooting of Bourbonnaise and found not guilty. He remarried, and with his new wife moved into a house owned by an absentee landowner without his permission. From this ranch near Red Hill known as the Goat Ranch, Henry continued his rustling. At the age of 49, Henry was indeed a hard working rustler, and must have been feeling pretty invincible. Recognizing that Henry was not going to go to prison for murder, a number of local ranchers felt they had to do something to keep Henry from stealing more of their cattle. They formed a posse of five men led by CCHS member Burl Adams’ grandfather. It is thought the posse was deputized by Elfuego Baca.

On the night of October 10, 1921 the posse rode to Goat Ranch, tying their horses far away and hiking to get themselves into position for the sunrise when Henry was accustomed to come out of the house and head up to the top of the hill to look over his livestock. There are those who say Henry was told to put up his hands and come quietly, but others insist he was gunned down by the entire posse. He tumbled into a gully where he was mostly out of sight and there he remained for the day. The posse was afraid to go near him lest they be killed. Finally, one of them made his



Photo by Kelly Gatlin
La Luz Photography

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BOOK REVIEWS

A *Harvest of Reluctant Souls, Fray Alonso de Benevides's History of New Mexico, 1630,* translated by Baker H. Morrow—Reviewed by Laura Brush

This small book was written as a "memorial" (a lengthy official report) to King Philip IV of Spain on the state of a northern portion of New Spain. In common with other writings by Spaniards in that place and time, it tells of the native people found in the area, their eagerness to hear the teachings of the priests and to be converted and baptized, and their ready acceptance of the new lifestyle decreed by the Spanish. Fray Alonso devotes a short chapter to each of the nations present, mostly along the Rio Grande—Piros, Senecu, Socorro, Sevilleta, Tiwa, Queres, Tompiro, Tano, Pecos, Tewa, Jemez, Picuris, Taos, Acoma, Moqui (Hopi)—and farther afield, the Apache and Navajo. Little mention is made of the excesses of the Spanish and the resentments that would result in the Pueblo Revolt fifty years later. However, his descriptions are for the most part considered accurate, and he focuses on the Franciscan work of teaching and converting the natives and not on searching for gold and enslaving the men to work for the conquerors.

Fray Alonso also describes the bounties to be found in the land, including the fertile soil, abundant game, and already-established mines. He expresses his gratitude for the king's support of the missions in both priests and supplies, and suggests some areas in which the king might expand his holdings to the east, to gain financially as well as in souls saved from the devil and eternal damnation.

This translation does not suffer from the ornate wording and extended sentences popular at the time, and thus is much more readable to the modern reader. In addition to the original memorial written by Fray Alonso (and some chapters perhaps added by another writer), the book also contains a short cover letter from Fray Alonso; two letters from his superior in Mexico City, Fray Juan de Santander, an extensive introduction by the translator, notes, bibliography, and index. In addition there are photographs and drawings scattered throughout. Recommended for those interested in the early colonial history of New Mexico. ◆◆◆



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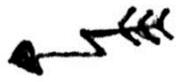
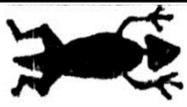
and do a variety of other disguising techniques. If you are lucky, when you check your traps, Mister or Miss Smart Animal has made a mistake and one at least has stepped in your trap and become ensnared. One thing you don't want to deal with is a mountain lion. They are bad actors. If you have caught an animal—fox, coyote, bobcat—you have to, of course, get it out. Maybe that is the hard part! To skin one you make a cut on the underside around the back legs and skin it inside out toward the head. The skin is dropped in a bag sprayed with flea spray and taken to the man cave where it is dried on a frame. Once all of the processes are complete, your hide is ready to sell. A lot of the fur is used in parkas and bought by the Chinese and Koreans. Even runway models wearing some of the bobcat fur around their necks may be wearing a Steve Candelaria fur! These were just the highlights of Steve's program, which was most interesting even if Steve did say he was considered just a beginner in trapping. ▶◆◀

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way behind Henry. He shot Henry in the back of the neck, taking no chances. The coroner later said the bullets Henry had taken to his groin and hip would have caused him to bleed out. A Grand Jury was convened and the posse was found to have acted appropriately.

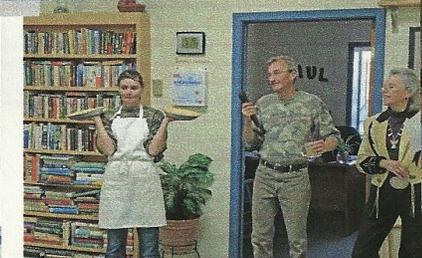
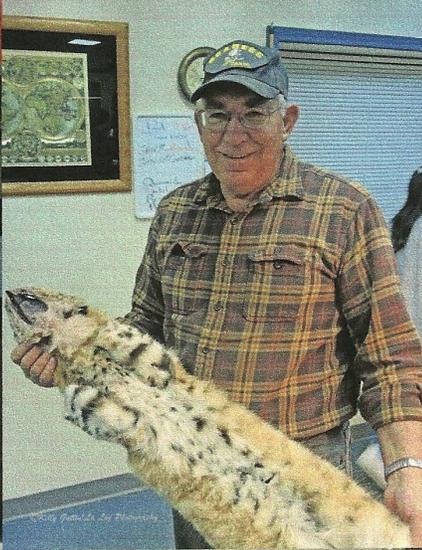
Eleanor Williams interviewed Marvin Ake of Magdalena in the 1950's and he remembered as a boy going to Henry's funeral and seeing him laid out in a crisp white shirt and fine boots. He particularly remembered the diamond ring on Henry's finger. To have such a fine funeral, clearly Henry had supporters in the community.

We are left with speculations. Certainly the only person who profited by Clara's death was Henry. Did Henry have Clara killed to get her property? Did he kill Bourbonnaise because he knew too much? Those who knew took their silence to the grave. What we do know with certainty 93 years later is that innocent or guilty, Henry's behavior over many years so outraged folks in the Quemado area that Henry was accorded the ultimate frontier justice from which there was no appeal. Helen believes the evidence overwhelmingly points to Henry Coleman as a charming rogue, an inveterate cattle thief and a cold blooded killer, and she marshalled a dazzling array of facts to support her contentions. She held the large audience spellbound as she unfolded the tangled tale of the Texan, Henry Hudspeth, known in New Mexico as Henry Coleman, and buried here in an unmarked grave. ◀▶



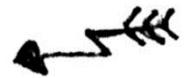
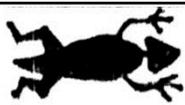
CCHS January and February Programs

Steve Candelaria on Trapping and He:en Cress on Henry Coleman



Candelaria Photos by Kelly Gatlin
Cress Photos by Becky Bratten





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TREASURER'S REPORT 2013

Previous Balance.....	\$ 7430.79
Expenses	
Supplies	445.27
Cash Box & QHS	932.00
Raffle Prize	380.00
Help	175.00
Pino Family	250.00
Deposits (dinners, raffle, CDs, membership)	2055.00
Balance December 31, 2013	<u>7303.52</u>
Previous Balance.....	\$ 7303.52
HSNM Membership	5.00
Supplies	35.08
Deposits (none).....	1380.00
Balance January 31, 2014	<u>8598.44</u>

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made to sell all the sheep. Cattle were already being added to the ranch. We sheared the sheep in the spring and then shipped them all out. Before that time, you could drive around our ranch any day, and if you saw less than five eagles, it was rare. Within three months after selling the sheep, there were no eagles left. If anyone says that we didn't remove the eagle's food source, they just don't understand the situation. Eagles were worse than coyotes as they are harder to control. After a storm, we might see 20-30 eagles. I remember reading that only 43 bald eagles were left in the US yet we would be seeing 15! If we had gone back to herding, we could have been successful but the time for sheep in this country had passed.

So we moved on to cattle. Rick, Steve, and I were in high school. Our grandfather was blind and senile and out of running the ranch. My grandmother decided to turn the ranch over to the uncle who had moved to Kansas. He traveled back and forth from Kansas about once a month and took over. He got into more of the speculative nature of the cattle business and in 15 years was in financial trouble. The Salt River project was trying to develop a coal mine and purchased the ranch and leased the ranch back to us for 20 years and we kept it for running livestock. We decided to split it up and take our part (my mother and us), and my uncle and Bill Green took the other part. We had the lease for 20 years, but Salt River didn't develop the coal, and sold the ranch to Pat Broe. In the meantime Rick, Maggie, and I had purchased two smaller ranches toward Salt Lake so we had a place to go. Rick and Maggie and I still have that. We bought those two little ranches and leased a place near St. Johns so we are still in the cattle business. That is pretty much the history of our families.



CCHS MISSION STATEMENT

The Catron County Historical Society was founded in January of 2008 and is an organization whose mission is to preserve, present, educate, and inform...by increasing the knowledge of Catron County history through outings, programs, oral history interviews, and a compilation of books pertaining to Catron County. We have recently become a non-profit corporation, and are in the process of locating a museum and visitor center, continuing with an oral history library and the book library, and constructing a website. The future of the CCHS is in the members and volunteers who help to preserve the history of Catron County.