

# CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY/AUGUST 2014

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## URGENT!

CABIN PICTURES ARE NEEDED NOW  
Please email to [beckylbratten@gmail.com](mailto:beckylbratten@gmail.com)

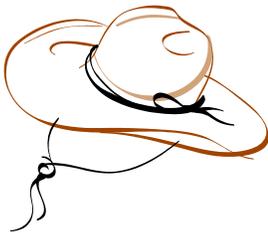
### UPCOMING EVENTS

September 26—Bob Roland

October 17—Norm Maisel

November 1—Ron Henderson

### 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

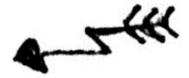
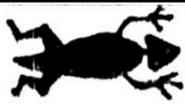
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### 2013/2014 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Sally Blum, 575-772-2539  
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DIRECTORS:  
*Barb Adams, Bob Roland, Doris  
Clymo, Nettie Carrejo,  
Bonnie Armstrong*



**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

On July 26, the program was a tribute to the Hispanic Heritage and Influence. Our speaker, Robert Torrez, was excellent and the presentation by Leonard Padilla and Tommy Padilla added to the program. Placey Padilla has agreed to lead us on a tour of the Town of Mangas in 2015. In our next newsletter we will have pictures from Tommy Padilla and a copy of the genealogy chart that Leonard had on display. Read Lisa Blessings excellent write up of the event.

On August 29 Barb Adams gave a slide show about Surviving Homesteader Days. Not long after this talk, I had the chance to know firsthand a little about the thinking and resourcefulness of the homesteaders when Gary and I helped a friend move his treasurers to his new place. Every time I thought a board or a piece of material was not useful, I was told how that could be used. Our friend could have survived during the homesteader's time. He made do with what he had and did not throw away what may be critical in his life.

September 13 found our CCHS Board at the Pie Town Festival and this time we did not have rain. The day was perfect with many visitors from all over the country and local attendees stopping by our table to chat and share stories. The Festival was an overall success and we were able to sign up two new members. The local vendors had unique items for sale and the board enjoyed visiting and shopping.

We are putting together shortly a trip to the Rock Art Ranch in Holbrook. We will let you know what date may work. I have been asked to also do an outing to Veteado Peak again to view the rock art on that mountain. Wayne Ashby will lead the tour. If either of these trips interest you, please contact me at [sallyb44@hughes.net](mailto:sallyb44@hughes.net) so we can determine the interest.

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR CCHS**

We are desperately in need of a person who has competence in computers, projectors, and copying to a DVD from our video programs. At this point we are only able to sell you the programs that are from our tape recorder (voice only). I have on my computer four or five programs that have not been moved to DVD. For our last program we were fortunate to have Tim Angelus set up our slide show. Thank you so much to QHS and Tim for his help.

The Christmas Committee met on September 10 to plan the Christmas Program for December of 2014. Becky Bratten started the planning before last year's Christmas party was over. She sure gets things done ahead of time. She is a true asset and without her CCHS would not exist. You will be delighted with what she has in store for this year's Christmas Party.

Wayne Ashby gave me a copy of *Cowboy Country* and there is an article by John Larson, El Defensor-Chieftain that I need to get for our homestead series. The article is entitled "Homesteading Living Life One Day at a Time." This is about the Farr family and much more. The complete oral histories with photographs are on file at the BLM Socorro Field Office, 901 S Highway 85 in Socorro.



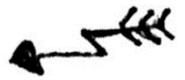
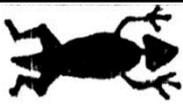
**BARB ADAMS PRESENTATION**

by Lisa Blessing

On August 29, after a fine roasted pork dinner hosted by the Quemado Senior Center, Barb Adams took the mike to talk about homesteading days here in Quemado. Tim Angelus was kind enough to bring some equipment from Quemado High School and get it set up so all the photographs that Barb had taken of the vestiges from those days could be shared with the audience. Barb's unerring eye captured everything from cisterns, rusting homemade farm equipment, cabins with logs tightly hewn with an outside deck for the ice box that actually held ice, hollowed out logs for watering troughs, and of course, adobe blocks that are still standing, and the iconic corrals.

The "romance of the past" is definitely provided by historical distance as Barb laid out the incredible difficulties of homesteading in those days. To survive one had to have enormous grit and stamina and a large dose of ingenuity. Nothing was ever wasted, not even bath water that had seen five bodies pass thru it as it could still water the garden, as would rinse water from washing floors. Nettie and Dorothy Carrejo pointed out that their family had only gotten electricity in 1961 and they were quite familiar with the family bathtub regimen. One wonders how the last person in the tub got clean at all!

(Continued on page 3)



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Our September 26** meeting will be held at the Quemado Senior Center with dinner at 5:00 and talk at 6:00. Our very own board member, Bob Roland, has prepared with the help of Becky Bratten, a slide show on the history of the Apache raid—Placida Romero.

**Our October 17** meeting will be held at the Quemado Senior Center with dinner at 5:00 and program at 6:00. Norm Maisel will talk about his family's migration to New Mexico.

**Our November 1** meeting will be held at the Quemado Senior Center with lunch at noon and talk at 1:00 PM. Our speaker will be the famous historian, Ron Henderson. His talk is titled 'Family Struggles and Apache Hostilities.'

*(Continued from page 2)*

One clever, patient and hardworking man took old oil cans and opened them up to make shingles for his roof, something hard to believe without Barb's pictures of the roof. Folks made do with what they had and no piece of wood no matter how twisted was ever wasted. Equipment was cannibalized to bolt onto something new more likely to get a particular job done, and the iterations were endlessly inventive as Barb's slides showed.

Barb filled a table at the back of the Senior Center with pieces of equipment that had been used over 100 years ago for us to see and pick up. Homesteaders had to be well diggers, carpenters, welders, machine builders, loggers and wood cutters, engineers, ranchers, farmers—all jobs requiring heavy labor, endless toil and no small amount of creativity. As fascinating as Barb's tales of the Kalburg, Hogsteff, Adams, Simpson and Curtis families were, I must say it made this old gal mighty grateful to be living today in a Quemado with amenities unimaginable to its homesteading families. Certainly Barb's presentation reminded us all of the enormous difficulties endured and surmounted by Quemado's homesteaders and we all went to our comfortable homes filled with a deeper respect and profound appreciation for those who came before.

We will be making copies of Barbs slides on a DVD available for purchase at this year's Christmas party. These book reviews were done in previous issues of our newsletters but they add to Barb Adams wonderful talk.

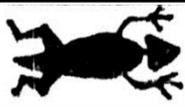
**Pioneer Pride, by Jim Hogg—Contributed by Jack List**

If you have read the writings from Kathryn McKee Roberts, then Pioneer Pride will fill in some more valuable history of the "true grit" pioneers who came to Catron County during the homestead era. On the book's cover, under a drawing of a cabin, are three lines: WE CAME...WE STRUGGLED... WE SURVIVED. After reading the book, I realized these terms are not exaggerated. The hardships of living off the land, and doing without, are a true testimony of the hardiness and willingness to make a go of it. I found the book heartwarming and a tribute to faith in God, and of the ever-can-do attitude that made our country great. I would recommend this to all of the young folks of today to give them a rare glimpse of life without the TV, laptop, and the shopping malls

**Homesteading on Grasshopper Flats, by Etta Rose Knox—Contributed by Laura Brush**

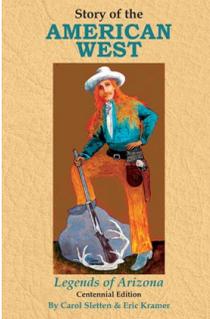
"All of the occurrences in this book are true," the author assures us. "They are my own recollections of life on a New Mexico homestead." The story is of a young farm girl who is swept off her feet by the handsome and dashing older brother of a friend. Soon she, her husband, and infant son are homesteading near Salt Lake, about 35 miles north-west of Quemado, in the 1930's. We know how well that goes. It's not surprising that this book has been listed as one of the top 100 New Mexico books of all time. In the next few years they deal with building a home, several times. They try planting beans and corn, operating a small store, collecting piñon nuts, operating a trucking service for others or whatever else comes along to make a living. Their neighbors—some family and some strangers until they arrived—are a source of support and community. Their improvised pleasures and entertainments help brighten what could otherwise have been a very bleak existence. Another aspect of this story is the relationship between the young wife and her husband. He was what would today be called a controlling, abusive man; she was immature enough to be controlled, but strong enough to resent it. How she deals with the situation—or fails to—is a major part of this book.





## BOOK REVIEWS

**S**tory of the American West: Legends of Arizona, by Carol Sletten & Eric Kramer—Reviewed by Laura Brush



This book tells the history of the White Mountains of Arizona, just to the west of Catron County. It starts with the geology of 280 million years ago and the breakup of Pangaea and continues through the fossil record of the area, the expansion of humans into the area, what they found and what they did here, and what they left behind. The first thirty-five pages of the book covers the period of prehistory, before Coronado and other Spaniards arrived in the area. Then, as the book's title page claims, the area's story is "told through the lives of Apaches, mountain men, Hispanics, soldiers, Mormons, cowboys, blacks, outlaws and others, who struggled in Arizona's White Mountains, one of the last untamed regions of the West." The book ends in the middle of the Twentieth century, touching on the Depression and World War II.

In discussing the arrival of "cattle culture" from Texas, the authors tell how the Slaughter family brought a herd from Texas across New Mexico, crossing the Rio Grande below Socorro and continuing through Magdalena, the Plains of San Augustin, Datil, and Luna before arriving in the White Mountains area. Cattle culture here, of course, involved the usual elements of rustlers and vigilantes that it did elsewhere. The lynching that inspired the book *The Ox-Bow Incident* are said to have taken place near Heber, near Show Low.

Most of the book focuses on events of the Nineteenth century—Apaches, soldiers, cattlemen, sheepmen, settlers, and the like. That is, after all, the fabled period of The American West. The stories are well told and backed up by five pages of biography and nine pages of index in the book (there is a more extensive index at the book's website ([StoryoftheAmericanWest.com](http://StoryoftheAmericanWest.com)), where selected chapters can be read), and illustrated by pen and ink drawings and a map.



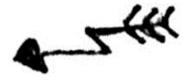
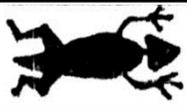
## CCHS AT PIE FESTIVAL



Gary Blum at the CCHS booth.

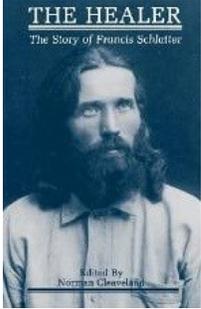
Pie Festival Attendees





## **BOOK REVIEWS**

**T**he Healer: The Story of Francis Schlatter, edited by Norman Cleaveland —Reviewed by Laura Brush



In 1895 Francis Schlatter appeared in Albuquerque after two years of wandering about the country from Kansas to California, much of it bareheaded and barefooted. He generally ate only once every two or three days and then often only bread and water. In Albuquerque he finished with a forty day fast. All this was done at the direction of the "Father" and served as his preparation for healing. In Albuquerque, and later in Denver, hundreds and then thousands came to him to seek his blessing and healing. Newspaper and other accounts of the day vary in some details, but the outline is consistent. Many were in fact healed (blind, deaf, paralyzed, palsied) and the healings appeared durable. In Denver by one account he blessed 87,000 people in less than three months (the population was then 90,000). People traveled from far and wide to see him, though not all were healed. He then disappeared from sight, to reappear two months later at the ranch of Ada McPherson Morley near Datil (the ranch Agnes Morley Cleaveland grew up on). During the three months he spent there, recovering and preparing for his next step, he dictated to Mrs. Morley a record of his "Two Years' Pilgrimage." She also recorded his "Teachings in Retirement" as she called them—his call for political, social, and spiritual reform in the world and his assurance that it would soon come to pass. After he left Datil for Mexico, she published these records in his name along with material written by others covering his time in Albuquerque and Denver as *The Life of the Harp in the Hand of the Harper*. That book forms the bulk of *The Healer*, augmented by a chapter from Agnes Morley Cleaveland's *No Life for a Lady* and an excerpt from Edgar L. Hewett's *Campfire and Trail*.

To quote the editor: "Francis Schlatter was like a comet – he burst upon the scene, burned brightly for a short time and then was gone." This is not a thrilling account of derring-do and momentous events. It is, however, a clear insight into an aspect of the life of that time. Much of the Healer's call for reform in the world still applies. ◆◆◆



## **ROBERT TORREZ PRESENTATION**

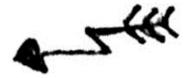
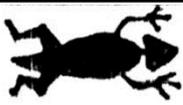
by Lisa Blessing

**R**obert Torrez, well respected New Mexico historian, brought his energy and expertise to the Quemado Senior Center to talk about the lasting effects of the Spanish expeditions into the area. Paul Templeton provided a delicious meal to attendees and to set a welcoming atmosphere for the Catron County Historical Society. Mr. Torrez began by noting the lasting influence of the Spanish language and culture that can be traced back directly to Don Juan Onate and his hearty band of settlers who arrived in 1598. In a wry aside he mentioned the Hundai has a model Santa Fe and that atheists and agnostics driving it might be shocked to know they were driving around in a vehicle named Holy Faith! Mr. Torrez read from the original charter given to Onate by the Viceroy of Mexico on behalf of the King of Spain directing the primary purpose of the expedition was to be the conversion of all natives encountered.

There are those who have written that the Pueblos were caught by surprise at the arrival of the Spaniards but a partial inventory of the thousands of cattle, sheep, goats and horses they brought would have sent a dust cloud to the heavens visible endless miles away. Mr. Torrez asked us to imagine what the Pueblo peoples must have thought seeing all of these domesticated animals for the first time to say nothing of black men and men in shining armor riding these four legged beasts. Not too different from a close encounter with a UFO for any of us today. He pointed out an expedition that planned on waging war did not travel with animals and supplies. He did not mention what the Spanish did to the Acomas nor did he mention that Don Juan Onate was recalled to Spain for cruelty to the natives although that was irrelevant to the thrust of his tale.

Water, while more plentiful back then, nevertheless was critical to the survival of the settlers and they established the equivalent of water boards to determine usage and ownership especially of the *acequias*. Many of those rulings continue to this day in the Spanish process and no discussion would be complete without touching on the Spanish land grants to the early settlers. Mr. Torrez touched on our county's namesake, Thomas Benton Catron, who amassed his fortune through lands he acquired through means nefarious and underhanded.

(continued on page 6)



**SPONSORS**

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 The Adobe Café and Bakery/Hidden Springs Inn  
 Williams Windmill Inc.  
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**TREASURER'S REPORT 2013**

Previous Balance .....	\$ 8831.29
Income (membership) .....	80.00
Income (cd's) .....	20.00
<b>Balance July 31, 2014 .....</b>	<b><u>8931.29</u></b>
Previous Balance .....	\$ 8931.29
Expenses .....	501.67
Supplies .....	169.42
Food .....	332.25
Income:	
Memberships .....	120.00
(2 business, 1 individual)	
<b>Balance August 31, 2014 .....</b>	<b><u>8549.62</u></b>



*(Continued from page 5)*

There are places in New Mexico where the Castilian Spanish is still spoken and most of our towns and terrains have Spanish names. Catholicism remains the number one religion in the state and festivals and fiestas attest to New Mexico's Spanish heritage. Robert gave us the big picture of Spanish conquest and colonization, and the Padilla brothers, Leonard and Tommy, brought it home to our neck of the woods. Leonard, an Administrative Law Judge in Albuquerque handling Worker Compensation issues, prepared a genealogy of four of the families who founded Quemado and whose descendants are here today. He told stories of the difficulties of finding ways to homestead, ranch and survive. Leonard had drawn the genealogies and posted them on the wall so folks could follow the early families.

Tommy, a New Mexico Brand Inspector for many years, brought along some of the original brand registrations so people could see and hold the lifeblood of the community nearly 100 years ago. He also had photographs of early families that he shared. Tommy told the story of how he was raised here and on feast days the women all got together and cooked up a storm and had the men come to the table. Only after they had finished did the women eat, a long Spanish tradition that the men saw no reason to change. One Thanksgiving Tommy's bride mentioned to Tommy's grandmother who was in charge of the feast that things really didn't have to stay the same. Grandmother thought about that and then stuck out her arm to show the way for all the women to come to the table. And men and women have feasted together in the Padilla household ever since. The Catron County Historical Society values our local Spanish community and wants to preserve their memories. This meeting was a wonderful beginning and we look forward to having another meeting that focuses on sharing even more local stories. ◆◆◆

**CCHS MISSION STATEMENT**

**T**he 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.

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