

CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 23 Movie "Night" — come for lunch and stay for a showing PBS' "Mountain Men"
Quemado Senior Center

Don't forget to renew or this will be your last newsletter!

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

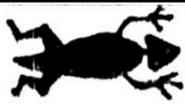
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2013/2014 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

Happy New Year and may 2015 be a prosperous, healthy and happy year for all.

I want to give a huge, and I mean a huge, thank you to all the officers, volunteers and board members, including Laura Brush for her book reviews and Shannon Donnelly for being the best newsletter editor. CCHS is so thankful to the Quemado Senior Center, Paul Templeton and his staff, for always providing great meals and decorations for our events.

Our Christmas Extravaganza Party on December 13 was one of the best. Becky Bratten as usual put 110 percent into the party as chairperson for the event. She began working on her cabins in early 2014. The cabins were masterful and Becky had an eye for detail. The cabins were spectacular as well as the pictures on the wall. Don Goodman and the drama department did an excellent meal and the students helped wherever needed. The problem was that it began to snow just as members and their guests were heading to the event. Fifty brave souls did attend. The silent auction helped in fund raising for CCHS. The giving cabin was filled with generous donations for distribution to families in the community. As always Barb Adams decorated her tree with handmade decorations. Lisa Blessing has written about the event in this issue.

January the program committee will meet and they will plan outings and events for 2015. If anyone would like to make suggestions or join this committee, please let me know. Wayne Ashby has contributed ideas and suggestions for 2015 and has agreed to become a member of this committee.

OUR PROGRAM FOR JANUARY is "Movie Night-DVD" entitled "Mountain Men." Hope you will join us at the Senior Center on January 23 at noon for lunch and a movie. I have seen this movie and it is excellent.

FROM SECRETARY-BECKY BRATTEN: We have 62 members as of 1/4/15. If you have not paid your dues, please do so as soon as possible as memberships run January 1 thru December 31. This will be your last newsletter unless dues are paid soon. Thanks for your past membership and we look forward to a great new year with you participating in CCHS. We *NEED* you.

RESIGNATION OF BOB ROLAND: Bob Roland tendered his resignation as a board member in December due to the fact that the Rolands will be moving out of Catron County. He was one of the beginning founders of CCHS and has helped CCHS with ideas and suggestions since being on the board. The outing to his house near Grants (former Bibo Ranch) was enjoyed by all who attended. Bob is retired now from the mining industry as an engineer. He grew up and received his formal education in Albuquerque where he developed a love for history of the area. He came to Albuquerque with his family when he was eight years old in 1949. One of Bob's historically researched stories from the Catron County area has recently been published in the NM Historical Review, entitled "The Ballad of Placida Romero." Bob was instrumental in introducing us to the Albuquerque contact for the Dia Art Foundation building which we hope will become our new museum. We will miss Bob but he has agreed to help us whenever possible.

Wayne Ashby has agreed to replace Bob and we are thankful to Wayne. His name will be on the Ballot for 2015.

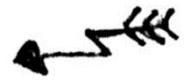
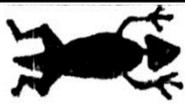
MUSEUM: We are closer to finalizing the acquisition of the Lightning Field Office Building for our museum. Already we have been approached by citizens who want to donate substantial historical artifacts when we are the owners of the building. The building does need work but since the building will be donated to CCHS, we will reach out to the community for help with money or volunteers to make the museum a success. ◆◆◆

FROM THE EDITOR

Catron County often hides its history—or at least puts a lot of it on the back roads. One of the places to go for a bit of history is the WS Ranch Cemetery. Located west of Hwy 180 and a mile north of Alma, about a fourth of a mile on the dirt ranch road, the cemetery sits on a steep hill to the left of the ranch road (about 50 yards to the south). The cemetery is fenced with a metal gate, and the hillside is steep enough to make a goat thing twice. Four men are buried here in a common grave, along with an army surgeon, Dr. Maddox. The graves all date from the mid 1880's and the Apache wars, with several men who severed in the cavalry and two who were murdered during those rough years.

Other cemeteries tucked away in Catron County include the Cooney Cemetery, Divide Cemetery, Forest Hill Cemetery, Greens Gap Cemetery, the Johnson Cemetery, the Mogollon Cemetery, and the Morelos Cemetery, just to name a few.





DAVE FARR ORAL HISTORY: FARR RANCH, EAST OF HORSE SPRINGS

Collected by Brenda Wilkinson, BLM Socorro Field Office

With roots in Germany and Scotland, the Farr family has been in the United States since the early 1800s, and in New Mexico since the late 1800s. George Farr, Dave Farr's great grandfather, was born in Germany in 1818 and received American citizenship in Cole County, Missouri in 1854. The family had left Scotland for Germany in the 1600s and trace their roots to a town named Farr in the northern tip of Scotland.

Farr's great grandmother, Ida Murray, was born in Bisbee, Arizona. Her mother was a French Canadian who migrated through New Orleans to the mines in Arizona, where Ida was born. Dave Farr's grandfather (also David Farr) homesteaded at Patterson Cutoff, and his father (also George Farr, with his wife Edith Funk) homesteaded on the Plains of San Agustín, east of Horse Springs, where Dave and Karen Farr still live. They built up the large ranch the family operates today by acquiring additional land over the years. The ranching family tradition continues with Roy Farr, Dave and Karen's son, who also lives on the ranch with his family, and daughter Amy, who lives on another company ranch near Crownpoint, New Mexico.

The interviews took place at the Farr home east of Horse Springs in February 2008, with clarifications provided in January and February, 2010.

Brenda Wilkinson: When did your family get here (to the ranch)?

DF: Well, 1904. And this is that old ranch in Patterson Cutoff. Sheep. Well, they had sheep and cattle from the very beginning. They added on here; there's two log rooms, and then they built a rock commissary there. Well, the rock commissary was much later. They just had two log rooms there for quite a few years.

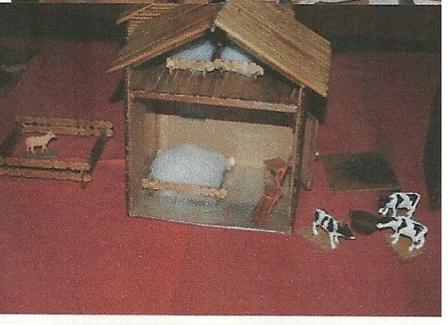
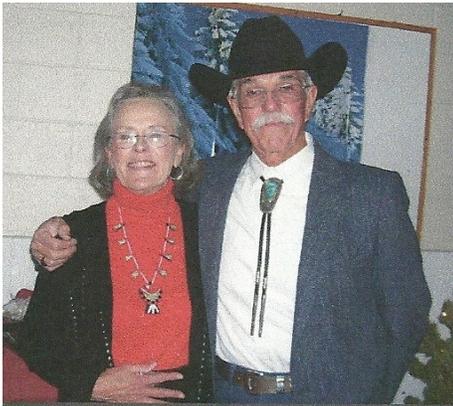
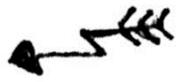
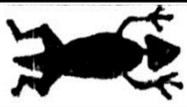
R. C. Patterson, over here, other side of Horse Springs, had the contract to furnish beef for the Cavalry at Warm Springs, Ojo Caliente. So he'd either drive or haul the beef all the way up here, over the Divide. This is Patterson Cutoff, you get over the Divide and go down another canyon. Yeah, went by Paddy's Hole. Went off here and then probably Patterson cutoff here, and that goes on down to Warm Springs.

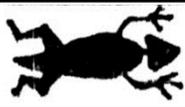
Then they were in the ranching business other places in New Mexico before here, by the Manzano mountains. My father was born on a ranch there, at a place called Las Moyas, a ranch in the Manzano Mountains. And then they had another ranch by Rosedale...southwest of Magdalena. I don't know the exact place. My grandmother'd tell me, they were a day's wagon trip out of Magdalena, and everybody'd stop and spend the night, and turn their team loose, same thing going on. They'd buy supplies, and all she did was cook all the time for all these travelers. Yeah, so she didn't like Rosedale.

They gradually acquired more country; here there was nothin'. The homesteads, there was an old V Cross T camp over where Roy lives, a two room adobe house. And then maybe, only other place that I can think of would have been Fullerton Ranch, and they bought that in '27. But I think Fullerton, he built his houses out on the flat. He said that's so he could see the Indians comin'. So this was back when there was Indian trouble. Did you know that Fullerton was the captain of the first mounted police in New Mexico? I've got a book but it's loaned out now. They formed a mounted police and there was only ten, twelve men that eventually turned into the state police. He was the captain for one year. It was a political deal you know, so somebody else was elected and they kicked him out and got somebody else to run it. They were mainly after cattle thieves.

We sheared here and Hubbles sheared here and Fullerton, and Juan Garcia, and it was really an efficient deal. They had an old Fairbanks Morse engine, and then they had ten troughs or ten shearers. And they'd bring the sheep in here to a sweat shed and - I don't even know, do sheep sweat?

My mother's family owned that hotel and she worked there as the waitress and making up beds and everything. And I think I've told Mark that we'd go to Magdalena and rent a room and my mother would be there, demanding "no rooms over the saloon" (laughter) because she'd seen too many pistol shots through the roof of their saloon. And I don't think it's of any importance, see they were all German, and the hotel was named Swastika. And then WWII or WWI started, and they changed the name real quick. Well that's the two names it had. And they all spoke German among the family at home. So that was the reason they originally used that name, before it was a bad thing, which it really was during the world wars. And you know the Indians used the swastika on their blankets but it. (cont'd p.6)

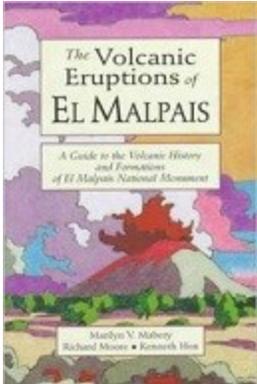




BOOK REVIEWS

The Volcanic Eruptions of El Malpais, by Marilyne V. Maybery—Reviewed by Laura Brush

“Hidden within the boundaries of El Malpais National Monument and the conservation area are some of the most beautiful cinder cones, lava flows, and lava tube caves found in the United States. El Malpais National Monument includes the products of at least fifteen separate volcanic eruptions, which formed eleven cinder cones, four shield volcanoes, and at least fifteen distinct lava flows.” The authors not only want you to understand how El Malpais was formed, but also want you to be able to view some of those beautiful features.



This book offers a quick introduction to volcanism—how eruptions form, composition of lava, types of lava, cinder and spatter cones, ash, bombs, lava rivers and tubes, shield volcanoes—and the methods and results of dating eruptions. Those within the National Monument range from 120,000 to a mere 3,000 years ago, while some in the surrounding area date back as much as 750,000 years. This is not a dense, technical description—it’s not a very long book, after all—but an overview of how lava works. The book also provides directions on where to observe some of the described formations

within the National Monument and the adjacent National Conservation Area, emphasizing the precautions necessary for hiking in that environment. Part geology guide and part hiking guide, the book includes maps, black and white as well as color photographs, glossary, references, and index. Overall it is a fine very basic introduction to the subject.



CHRISTMAS 2014

By Lisa Blessing

The snow began to dump at four PM on December 13, an hour before the doors of the Quemado cafeteria, transformed by thickets of fragrant twinkling pinons, opened to welcome the Catron County Historical Society for its annual Christmas dinner and celebration. Last minute preparations were in full swing with hopes that members' sleighs along with Santa's would make it through the swirling flakes.

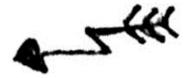
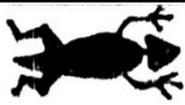
Sure enough, while the CCHS began celebrating the heritage of our amazing forbearers, intrepid members arrived shaking off the snow to wassail and regale, munch on appetizers provided by the Board and warm up on spiced cider and coffee. As the snow howled down obliterating landmarks, I felt certain Rudolph must have been helping nudge folks in the right direction to bring so many to the party.

This year's theme "A Legacy of Log Cabins" used the still standing bones of cabins built long ago to showcase our ancestors' ingenuity, grit and courage. Large photos of existing structures adorned the walls while a DVD of many more cabins and early dwellers played.

Tables were covered with festive cloths and lit by oil lanterns. In the center of each was a log homestead, each table unique, all fashioned by Becky Bratten. In addition to the cabins, Becky fashioned animal shelters, fire pits, twig brooms, stacked logs and even had animals in pens with some homesteads getting flour sacks as well. One homestead had a large stone fireplace with mantle with tiny benches to warm on. As much intricate work that went into these many scenes and buildings, the consensus was that the outhouses—complete with tiny toilet paper rolls—were the favorite. There were one-holers and two-holers with half moons on doors that closed and even some marked by gender. It is impossible to overstate the sheer delight and wonder Becky's homesteads evoked (or to begin to grasp her tremendous year long efforts). We hope to have a permanent display of the homesteads when we move into our new building. Barbara Adams once again decorated a theme tree and hung pictures of the cabins surrounded by little lariats, cabins and churches baked and painted, and all kinds of imaginative treasures around the evening's theme. Every year we wonder just how she does it as she surprises and delights us once again.

Don Goodman and his elves prepared beef briskets with sauces and baked hams as well—the cherry sauce was particularly delicious—with fresh green beans, oven roasted potatoes, baked yams, and homemade cornbread, more food than plates could hold. CCHS members provided the desserts and plentiful and delicious they were with only a

(Continued on page 6)



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TREASURER'S REPORT

Previous Balance	\$ 8914.76
Expenses (decorating supplies).....	326.94
Income (memberships).....	100.00
Balance November 30, 2014	<u>8687.82</u>
Previous Balance	\$ 868782
Expenses (Christmas Party)	338.25
Income:	
Memberships	1580.00
Donation	137.00
CD's.....	120.00
Silent Auction	783.00
Meals.....	196.00
Misc.....	725.00
Balance December 31, 2014	<u>11,890.57</u>

(Continued from page 5)

few crumbs left to tell the tale.

After the leisurely dinner, the silent auction was concluded and folks bundled up against the wintery blasts and headed home full of Christmas cheer, glad that warm rigs were awaiting them and not the wagons of the pioneers we celebrated.



(Continued from page 3)

was usually made backwards from the way the Germans printed it. My mother and father were married in 1923, and so she was part of the family that run the hotel, so she worked there and then over at the old bank . We had two big snow storms that I can remember here. I think one was in 1968 and the next one was exactly 20 years later. And we had to break trails for the cattle to go up in the mountains and get to the south slope where the snow had melted. The south slopes were melted off. So big snow storms are somethin' we're afraid of. Now there's been more here that I never saw, but they're pretty infrequent, fortunately.



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.

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