

CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

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CABIN PICTURES ARE STILL NEEDED!

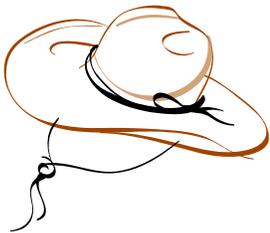
Please email to beckylbratten@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 13—Christmas Extravaganza! Save the date.

January—To be Determined
(possible Movie Night of PBS' 'Mountain Men')

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

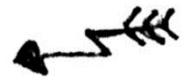
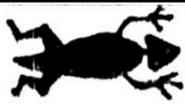
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2013/2014 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Sally Blum, 575-772-2539
VICE PRESIDENT: Lisa Blessing, 575-773-4633
SECRETARY: Becky Bratten • TREASURER: Helen Cress
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Shannon Donnelly • sdonnellyNM@gmail.com

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



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Museum Site: The board has been in pursuit of a museum building to house our archives of historical tape recordings and videos of important figures in Catron County, donations of historical memorabilia, a place to hold fund raisers, and a place to have meetings. When we ask people to donate their family treasures, they are reluctant to give us their treasures without having a secure museum building. We can report that we have two options to secure a museum site. As we progress, we will keep the membership informed.

It is our supportive members through annual dues and donations that make CCHS a thriving community organization. This is a reminder that annual dues begin January 1 and Becky will send out notifications shortly.

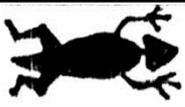
Our programs for September, October, and November were interesting. Our very talented Lisa Blessing was not available to do the write ups for us, but our multi-talented Becky helped with the write ups. I can tell you, if you did not attend, you missed something special. All three presentations were captured on video and we have the DVDs for sale.

September 26, Bob Roland gave a remarkable slide presentation on the history of an Apache raid and kidnapping of Placida Romero. This kidnapping occurred at their Cibola Springs Ranch where her husband, Domingo Gallegos, was killed by an Apache war party. Nana, the Apache leader, raided into south and central New Mexico in 1881. Placida did escape and returned to her family in Cubero, New Mexico. The story does not end there. In fact, Bob Roland and Arty Bibo had scheduled an interview with Trinidad Colorado, Placida's daughter in the summer of 1970. The whole story is written in the New Mexico Historical Review. Laura Brush also did a review of this article in the September/October 2013 Newsletter.

October 17, Norm Maisel gave a slide-show presentation on his family's migration to New Mexico. True to form, Norm delighted the audience. Norm is a third-generation New Mexican. His grandparents came from Russia and Austria. When his grandfather disappeared from New York City, his fiancée, Norm's grandmother, followed him. Norm's grandfather had found out he had tuberculosis and his doctor told him he might live a year if he moved to this area. So off he went as he did not want to marry with this "death axe" over his head. But he out-lived the doctor's prediction by 60 years. Norm's grandmother was not about to let this good-looking man get away so she tracked him down. Upon her arrival in Silver City, Norm's grandfather asked to take off fifteen minutes from Western Union for the wedding. Norm's grandparents passed on to the family that America is a great place and a place where one could truly live the "American Dream." Norm's grandfather thought the biggest problem with Americans was that they did not appreciate how great America is. Norm opened a business in Albuquerque and also was a part of law enforcement. He and his wife, Lindalee, bought a ranch in Quemado and Norm realized that ranching was the life for him. In fact, the log house he built is still standing much to Norm's delight. The highlight of his talk came from readings from his published books. The stories were humorous and very interesting. We knew many of the people he talked about and we could not help but laugh. I highly recommend his books. Norm sold his books at the meeting and donated a portion of the proceeds to the Senior Center.

November 1, Ron Henderson gave a skit with his wife, Kay, on Devils Park. The skit was about a family that moved with their two small daughters from Texas to the Gila Region. This was a hardship for the mother especially as she felt as if they were in an uncivilized area and they were. The two small girls saw no children for the two years they lived there. After an Indian raid, the survivors moved back to Texas. They were escorted by an army sergeant. Ron and his wife dressed in period costumes and gave us the feeling of that time period. They told the story as if they were the actual people with Ron as the army sergeant and his wife as one of the children. We will have him back again for another presentation.

In January the program committee will meet to plan an exciting year of outings and programs. Wayne Ashby has volunteered to join this committee to help plan outings which include rock art, Indian ruins, and hikes to historical sites in Catron County. This is the time to let us know what programs and outings you would like for 2015. This is also the time for Becky to put your name on the ballot as an officer or director. So please let us know if you would be willing to volunteer for a position. Bob Roland is moving to Grants and has decided to resign as one of our directors. But he has agreed to be a consultant or advisor to CCHS. He has been invaluable to CCHS and we will highlight his contributions in our next Newsletter.



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 13 is our annual Christmas Party Extravaganza and Becky Bratten, event leader, has gone all out to make this year's event the best yet. It promises to be an event not to miss and will be talked about long after the event is over. Below is a poem and information about the Christmas Party.

CCHS 2014 CHRISTMAS PARTY

By Becky Bratten

A year or so ago,
This story I must tell
I went out on a limb
A 2014 Christmas Theme to sell.
The CCHS Christmas Committee agreed
To plant that theme seed and make a great CD.

Oh, Jingle Bells, plan for so long
Making decorations right or wrong
Oh, what fun it is
To get ready for that day.

A day or two ago,
Sally and I thought we'd take a ride
In her sleek silver bullet truck.
I was seated by her side.
We took off for the big city (ABQ)
Laughing at remarks so witty.

Squealing tires, beeping horn,
Shopping for which we were born.
Oh, what fun it is to ride
With Sally at the wheel.

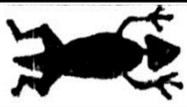
Dashing through the aisles,
With a shopping cart to fill
Thru the rows we go
Grabbing stuff all the way.

Wheels on the cart would rattle
As we filled it to the brim
With items for the CCHS Party
And the theme we will not tattle.

Oh, rattling wheels, beeping horns,
Oh what fun it is to attend the CCHS Christmas Party.
So send in your RSVP when you get it mid-November
We've been working hard ALL year long to make this a time to remember.

Oh yes, the Christmas Committee has been at work since the 2013 Christmas Party ended. Invitations will go out

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HOMESTEAD SERIES

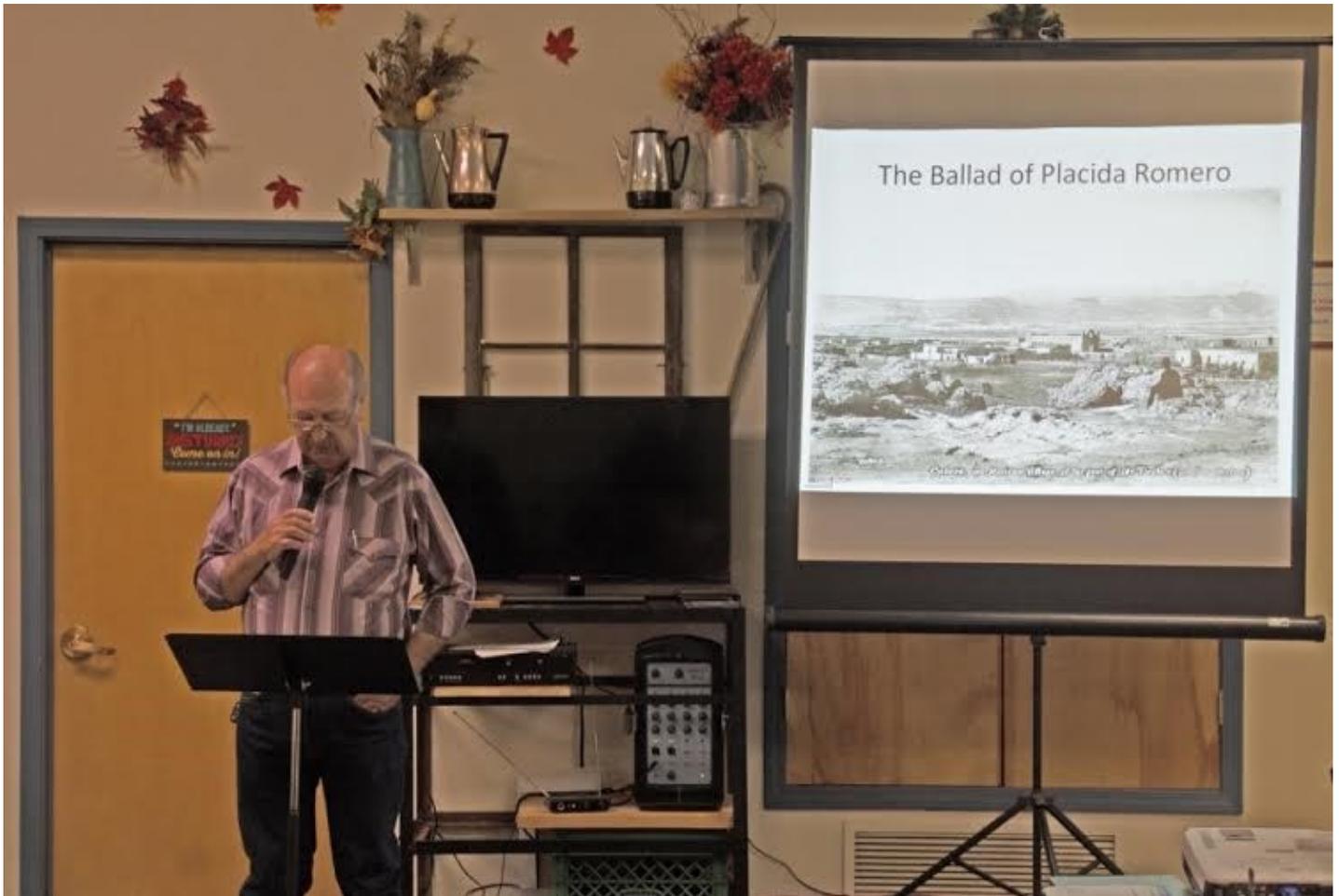
Charlie McCarthy from Reserve furnished this article for CCHS. We thank him for his contribution. He found this article mixed in with some old papers and it was written just before Charlie's eighth birthday by, he believes, Mary L. Snyder.

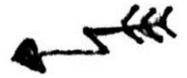
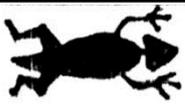
Mary L. Snyder lived across from the Reserve Post Office and got involved in all the community projects. Doctor Foster opened his practice two doors away in what most of us call the Frank Balke house. It went through the mail with no box number or zip code and only a one-cent stamp. Earl Guy Kiehne, mentioned here, passed away a few months ago. His wife was Lydia Thacher. Her sister, Tony, was John McKeen's wife, Phyllis Klumker's mother.

Owen McCarthy, my father, was one of the volunteers who drove around the county collecting the donations. A certain percent of local money had to be raised to access funding from a private foundation that built the first hospital. His aunt, Hattie Jones, donated the land where that hospital, Dr. Foster's home and the present clinic stand. People my age and older can stir up history from every name on that list.



Bob Roland's Talk on Placida Romero—Photo by Kelly Gatlin of LaLuz Photography

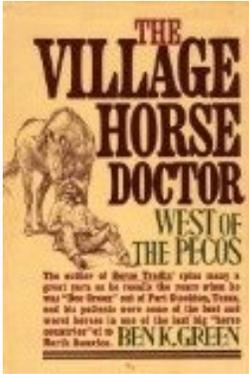




BOOK REVIEWS

The *Village Horse Doctor: West of the Pecos*, by Ben Green —Reviewed by Laura Brush

Ben K. Green (1912-1974) settled in Fort Stockton in 1944 as the first veterinarian there, serving in the triangular bit of Texas that juts south of New Mexico called the Trans-Pecos region. (He referred frequently to the Far Southwest, which I guess that area is if you're only concerned with Texas.) After a rough start, due to a mixture of bad luck and arrogance, he settled in well. Having been a cowboy and horse trader for a number of years before studying to be a vet, he fit into the community quite comfortably.

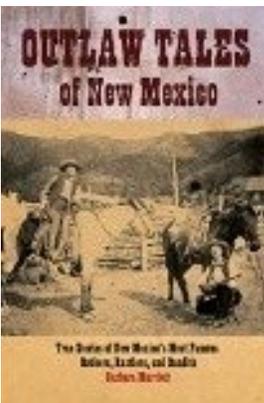


He did extensive research, both laboratory and library, on common poisonous plants in the alkali soil of the area. He set up a lab in his office and was able to isolate the specific toxins and mechanisms of death in each plant studied (implying that he was the first to do so in some cases) and to develop treatments for the livestock, particularly sheep, which ate the plants. As his reputation for success in that area spread, he was called to consult on or treat animals in the Panhandle, Mexico, New Mexico, and Arizona. He made specific mention of having been called to the Hubble Ranch Company for help with some sheep north of Quemado and Pie Town.

The book is a well-written collection of anecdotes about animals he treated, ranchers and others that he dealt with, and the means he used to solve puzzling problems. He often referred to himself as “more detective than doctor” when he had to discover the cause of livestock sickness and death before he could treat it. As a cowboy and rancher at heart he understood the needs of his clients, their pain (both emotional and financial) when their animals were sick and dying, and the hardship of dealing with a multi-year drought. The book contains twenty black and white illustrations by Lorence Bjorklund, and a map. Well recommended for a view, and in the voice, of that time and place.



Outlaw Tales of New Mexico: True Stories of New Mexico's Most Famous Robbers, Rustlers, and Bandits, by Barbara Marriot—Reviewed by Laura Brush

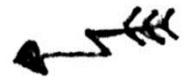
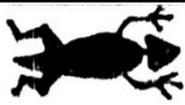


New Mexico's law enforcement and legal system in the nineteenth century had a very poor reputation, and well-deservedly so. This book offers information on a baker's dozen of the men—and one woman—who took advantage of that laxity. Many of them drifted in and out of the New Mexico Territory, leaving when an area got too hot and moving on from the next place for the same reason, coming back when they thought things would have cooled down sufficiently.

Ada Hulmes was one of the few women convicted and sent to prison in those days. In her case, it was due to having shot her lover in Silver City when he wished to transfer his affections to her roommate. The chapter on Billy the Kid (how could any book on New Mexico outlaws not include Billy!) describes only his death, although his earlier activities are mentioned in other chapters. Mysterious Dave Mather, Clay Allison, Milton Yarberr (whose eventual hanging was an event to which a hundred invitations were issued and a thousand spectators arrived), and Vincent Silva were among the outlaws who at times operated on the other side of the law as owners of more or less legitimate businesses or ranches or even as lawmen. Dirty Dave Rudabaugh, who also spent time as both lawman and outlaw, was said to be a drifter because as a man who didn't have much use for washing himself or his clothes, “he was a hard man to be around for any length of time. People always knew when Dirty Dave was coming; his scent preceded him.”

As a research resource this book has mixed value. Dates are scattered rather sparsely throughout. On the other hand, there are nine photographs (plus the ones on front and back cover) and two sketches of people and places involved, and eight pages of bibliography for further reading. As historical entertainment, however, it is just fine.





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TREASURER'S REPORT 2014

Previous Balance \$ 8549.62
 Expenses (postage) 32.66
Balance September 30, 2014 8516.96

Previous Balance \$ 8516.96
 Expenses (supplies) 104.20
 Stamps 49.00
 Income:
 Memberships 100.00
 Donation..... 300.00
 CD's..... 80.00
Balance October 31, 2014 8914.76



(Continued from page 2)

If we do not hear from anyone, the slate will be: Sally Blum, President; Lisa Blessing, Vice President; Becky Bratten, Secretary; Helen Cress, Treasurer; Barb Adams, Director; Doris Clymo, Director; Nettie Carrejo, Director; Bonnie Armstrong, Director.

In April we will have our annual meeting with a silent auction, a program, and the announcement of winners from the ballots.



(Continued from page 3)

mid-November and you will then KNOW the theme for your spectacular Christmas event. So save December 13 for this year's party. We will also have a small silent auction as we **need to raise money**.

If you have items to donate, please contact Sally at sallyb44@hughes.net or 575-772-2539 or me (Becky) at becky-bratten@gmail.com or 575-773-4790. AND I want you to know I have worked hard on this year's "GIVING TREE" so please save some money for this also.



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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