

# CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY/AUGUST 2015

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See the Photos of Old  
Pie Town on Page 4

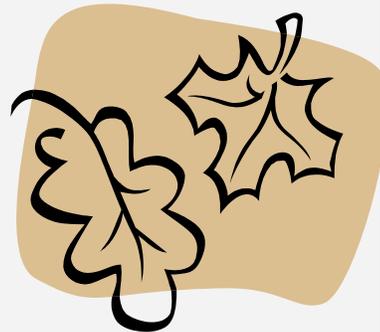
## UPCOMING EVENTS

October — Charlie McCarty

November — open

December — Christmas Party

January 2016 — Preparedness



## 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

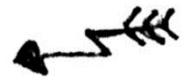
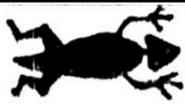
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## 2015 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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, Doris Clymo, Nettie  
Carrejo, Bonnie Armstrong,  
Wayne Ashby



**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**A**s we capture the stories of many families who came to Catron County, I think of the memories I have when we settled in Catron County. Coming from the city in California and arriving in November to the ranch was an experience but I will never be able to imagine what life was like for the families coming to a land with all their possessions in a covered wagon, not knowing what to expect and what lay ahead. They were courageous and brave and we will continue to capture their stories through programs and outings.

**CALENDARS.** We were not able to finalize the calendars for sale at the Pie Town Festival, but we will be in a positive position for 2017 and may still want to pursue the calendars for 2016. The board will meet shortly and prioritize our goals.

**MUSEUM.** Wayne Ashby and Gary Blum have been in contact with Steve Nash, who is a curator of archaeology at the Department of Anthropology in Denver. He was also our speaker for July. He has a lead on storage cabinets for our museum. These are of excellent quality, and they are willing to donate as many cabinets as we can use. They will get back to us with the dimensions of the cabinets to see how many we need or want. We are currently awaiting confirmation from Dia Art on proceeding with the installation of new windows for the Lightning Field Operation. That should happen soon.

**WEBSITE.** We did not hear from anyone willing to help us with the website. Please let me know if you would be willing to take on this task.

**BIOGRAPHIES.** When we have a speaker and speakers furnish us biographies or historical material is sent to CCHS, we preserve this information for our museum historical archives and include this in our newsletters.

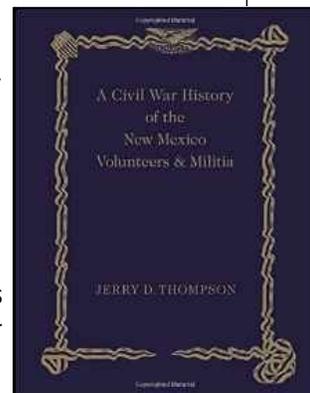
**PROGRAMS**

**JULY 31, 2015.** Stephen Nash gave an informative talk entitled "Many Roads to the Truth: Paul Sidney Martin and the Archaeology of the Reserve Region". About thirty people attended this presentation. The slide show was excellent showing the work that the Denver Museum of Nature & Science does in our area and throughout the Southwest. Stephen Nash has been conducting field research in the Reserve region since 2011 and is writing a book on the Field Museum's research in the region.

**AUGUST 8, 2015.** Jerry Thompson spoke at the Quemado Reunion about the recent discoveries he made at the National Archives and the New Mexico State Archives and Record Center while doing research for his recently published book on Civil War New Mexico entitled "A Civil War History of the New Mexico Volunteers and Militia" from the University of New Mexico Press. Below is Jerry's Biography.

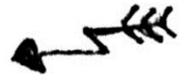
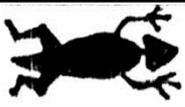
**BIO ON JERRY THOMPSON**

Jerry Thompson is a proud graduate of Pie Town Elementary School and Quemado High School. He received a BA from Western New Mexico University, a MA from the University of New Mexico, and a doctorate from Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, all in history. He has authored or edited twenty-four books on the Civil War on the southwestern borderlands. A former president of the Texas State Historical Association, Thompson has received a number of prestigious awards from the New Mexico Historical Society, the Arizona Historical Association, the Texas State Historical Association, and he has twice won the prestigious best non-fiction book award from the Texas Institute of Letters. At the present, Thompson is Regents Professor of History at Texas A&M International University at Laredo where he has taught for the past forty-seven years.



**SEPTEMBER 12, 2015.** CCHS was at the Pie Town Festival with our membership table. We met new attendees of the Festival and reconnected with friends we knew or met at the last Festival. As always, the event was well attended and vendors also set up along the road outside the Festival grounds. Long lines formed to get seats at the historic Pioneer and the new business called The Gettin' Place was crowded. A beautiful day and a great event..

*(Continued on page 4)*



UPCOMING EVENTS

The programs for the remainder of the year are still in the planning stages. As soon as the dates, times, and location are determined, we will let the membership know the exact information. ♦♦♦

BIBO CABIN RUINS: PART II

Two middens and one plaza area adjacent to Roomblock 5 have been investigated during this project. Two distinct surfaces were identified in the midden in the plaza area adjacent to Roomblock 5. More work is planned in this area. Forrester excavated three areas in the West Midden and documented three burials; an infant, young adult and adult male. Two hearths adjacent to one another were found in the West Midden area below Roomblock 3. One is a slab-line box hearth and the second a circular stone-lined hearth that is typically found in plaza areas

Artifacts are typical of the time period consisting mainly of ceramics, but arrowpoints, bone awls and various ground stone artifacts have been recovered. A stone slab with an engraved double spiral was found in the wall fall of room 4.1. Nine vessels or partial vessels have been recovered, five of which were utility, one St. Johns BR, one St. Johns Polychrome and one ladle and one bowl with Red Mesa design.

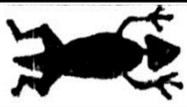
Burned timbers have been submitted for tree-ring dating and should provide a reliable date for Roomblock 5 but for now occupation dates are estimated using architecture and Dittert's Dissertation on the Cebolleta Mesa Region ceramic complex. The architecture and unit pueblo arrangement of roomblock with associated midden is consistent with Pueblo times (ca 900-1150 AD). Ruppe (Acoma Culture Province) indicates that by 1050 at the beginning of the Pilares Phase (1050-1200) established for this area "...the architecture is outstanding with blocks that are pecked on all surfaces and are a uniform size." The architecture at Bibo Cabin is in line with his description of the Cebollita Phase (950-1050) architecture.



Looking at the ceramics the situation is more complex. Intrasite differences seem to be suggesting multiple short term occupations of the pueblo units by peoples who left a slightly different ceramic signature. Other events that might affect the interpretation would be that the unit pueblos were constructed at different times or much of the ceramics have been collected during prehistoric and/or historic periods. The notable amount of Red Mesa BW and with a smaller amount Kiatuthlanna BW must be associated with Dittert's Red Mesa Phase (870-950). His Cebolleta Phase (950-1050) ceramic complex has no Red Mesa BW but includes Escavada BW and Reserve BW and otherwise fits nicely with the Bibo Cabin assemblage. His later phase, the Pilares Phase (1050-1200), includes Tularosa BW and St. Johns which are found at the site. Finally, the very minor presence of Springerville and Pinnawa Polychromes are included in Dittert's Kowina Phase (1200-1400).

A date sometime before 1050 seems plausible for the initial masonry construction. That fits with the presence of Red Mesa BW but the ceramic assemblage at Bibo Cabin indicates multiple occupations during a span of perhaps 400 to 500 years. It is interesting that Socorro BW essentially is only present in the Roomblock 5 area and the later St. Johns is primarily located to the west around Roomblock 3. Continued investigation may disprove this observation or answer the question of why.

(Continued on page 6)



*(Continued from page 2)*



*Arch & Grandmother McPhaul,  
1940 Pie Town Postmaster*

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2015.** James McPhaul at the Pie Town Community Center had the place abuzz with current members of CCHS and heirs of many homestead families and friends of the McPhaul family. James McPhaul gave a well-researched, slide-show presentation with many pictures of the McPhaul family. It became readily apparent the McPhauls traveled an arduous and colorful trail to finally arrive in Catron County. Originally from Scotland and then to North Carolina prior to the American Revolution (1775-1783) and then on to Texas. From Texas they settled in Pie Town. This venture left a lasting impression on the current heirs.

Laughter and comments from family during the presentation left the attendees continuously entertained. It quickly became apparent that James McPhaul thoroughly enjoyed researching and proudly presenting the McPhaul history. He is committed to continue his research into

other prominent family members for a later presentation. Who knows, we might even be enlightened to the life and adventure of our own Jerry McPhaul.

In the next newsletter we will do much more on the life of the McPhauls.

**BIO ON JAMES McPHAUL**

I was born in Socorro, NM on July 20, 1947 to Ellis Evander McPhaul and Marguerite E. Harvey McPhaul. I was raised on my parents' cattle ranch located ten miles north of Pie Town. I attended Pie Town School from my first to mid-term fifth grade. I completed my fifth grade through sophomore year of high school at Quemado School. I attended my junior and senior year of high school at New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, NM (fall of 1963 through spring of 1965). I attended New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM for my freshman

through senior year (fall of 1965 through spring of 1969), where I earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in accounting. After graduating from NMSU, I was employed in the Albuquerque office of Peat Marwick & Mitchell—a national based accounting firm—1969 through May, 1971. In June, 1971 through 1973 I was employed by Navajo Forest Products Industries in Navajo, NM where I served as their comptroller. NFPI was a large lumber mill owned by the Navajo Indians and employed over 500 employees and produced

over 50 million board feet of lumber per year. Beginning in 1974, I opened a sole practitioner accounting firm in Gallup, NM and have practiced as a Certified Public Accountant in Gallup and Socorro for over forty years.

I live in Socorro, NM with my wife Elizabeth Black McPhaul. We will be married forty-four years this September 23. Together we raised two daughters Carolie E. McPhaul Rozell of Blanchard, OK & Merelie E. McPhaul Knisley of Colorado Springs, CO.



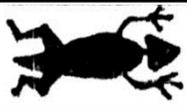
*McPhaul Brothers & Addie & Nancy*



*Arch & Grandmother McPhaul*



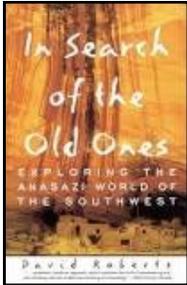
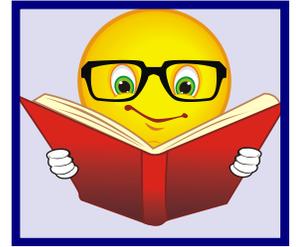
*Pie Town 1940's*



**BOOK REVIEWS**

*In Search of the Old Ones: Exploring the Anasazi World of the Southwest* by David Roberts—

Reviewed by Laura Brush



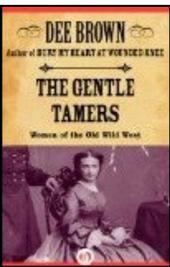
The Anasazi or, as they are more often called now, the Ancestral Puebloans, once occupied an extensive swath of the Southwest in what is now New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado. They organized communities of thousands of inhabitants, housed in four and five story buildings, and built paved road systems of hundreds of miles. Their trading extended to the Pacific Ocean, the Sea of Cortez, and well into tropical Mexico. And they then disappeared.

This exploration focuses on the author’s travels through the area of the Old Ones, alone and with others, to discover and study the ruins and artifacts left behind. It also relates his attempts, and those of professionals and amateurs in the area, to understand the history of this once-great people. There is much discussion of the primary mystery surrounding the Anasazi: why did they suddenly disappear and where did they go? Various theories have been put forth—drought, arroyo-cutting, illness, warfare, and others—but no one really knows. The author has talked with many experts in the field and examines various theories and the arguments pro and con for each theory.

There is a great deal of description of the author’s own excursions, hiking and camping in the canyons, mesas, and rivers of this land, including some technical rock climbing, requiring skill and equipment beyond that of most people, yet which was apparently routine for the Old Ones. He describes the rock art, ruins, potsherds and arrowpoints, hand and toe trails across sheer cliffs, and other artifacts he saw in his travels. Among the most impressive finds was a pot wedged in a crevice, still intact after more than 700 years, and more remarkably a basket, much older than the pot and still intact. He left both in place but provides photographs.

This book is midway between a technical, scholarly work and a casual, popular work. There is a great deal of history and archeology here, but presented in an easy-to-read manner. The book includes an Anasazi chronology, bibliography, index, and photographs. While there’s not much mention of New Mexico, let alone Catron County, I learned quite a bit about Southwest history and would recommend the book.

*The Gentle Tamers: Women of the Old West* by Dee Brown—Reviewed by Laura Brush

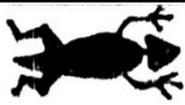


In the mid to latter part of the Nineteenth Century, first a trickle and then an increasing flow of women went west and dealt with the frontier, from the plains to the coast. For much of that time, women were enough of a rarity to be a treasured novelty. There’s not much taming described until the last couple chapters, but there are plenty of stories of women making a life for themselves in a new world.

There were Army wives, who followed their (usually officer) husbands from fort to camp to field. Elizabeth Custer accompanied her husband George on all but the most dangerous of operations. Annie Sokalski assisted her husband in his courts martial; he was convicted, but the decision was later overturned.

There was Julia Bulette of Virginia City, Nevada, described as the archetype of the fallen woman with a heart of gold. A wealthy and successful businesswoman, she was made an honorary member of the local fire company and was so delighted that she rushed to fire scenes and, if one burned for long, would brew and serve coffee to the fire fighters. She also regularly donated money for new equipment.

Going west was not easy. One family set out from Springfield, Illinois, in a two-story wagon: beds in an upper level, “a cozy living room” in the lower. This was abandoned along the way when the oxen pulling it began dying from lack of water and the family had to transfer to a smaller wagon. While most of the westward travelers went by covered wagon, others traveled by stagecoach, by ship to Panama, across the Isthmus, and then by ship to California, or by ship all the way around the Horn, by riverboat (up the Missouri), by railroad, and even by handcarts. None of these methods was for the faint of heart or health. There are lots of other women whose stories are told—suffragettes, temperance leaders, theatrical entertainers, businesswomen, schoolmarms, and more. The book’s viewpoint is quite narrow (Anglos are the only people of importance) and the tone is often condescending; probably a result of when it was written. Despite that, the stories are ones that are worthy of telling, and reading. ◆◆◆



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**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Previous Balance May, 2015..... \$9549.71  
 Expenses ..... \$610.70  
 (Marcial, 584.28; Socorro Electric, 26.42 )  
 Income ..... 190.00  
 Balance..... \$8939.01  
 (Checks still out so actual balance ..... \$8566.83)

Balance June, 2015 ..... \$8539.01  
 Expenses ..... \$345.76  
 (supplies, 258.75; electricity, 37.01; PO Box, 50.00)  
 Income..... \$814.28  
 (refund Marcial's work, 584.28; memberships,  
 130.00; 50.00 from silent auction)  
 Ending balance: ..... \$9407.53



*(Continued from page 3)*

Room 5.2 burned leaving most of the artifacts found at the site in the room fill and floor. Six vessels including a utility jar with burned corn were recovered from the room. Available water sources included natural catchment basins some of which were dammed up to retain more water. A crevice between two large pillars at the base of the mesa was walled up and possibly used as a granary. Upslope from Roomblock 5 is a series of "walls" most running east-west parallel to the mesa that may have been constructed to protect the room unit from water run-off. These do not appear to be room walls.

On top of the mesa are five contemporary pueblos none of which are more than 200 yards apart. They date from late Pueblo III to Pueblo IV times. The largest of these is Los Phares which is approximately 1 mile north-northwest of the Bibo Cabin Ruins. They date from late Pueblo III to Pueblo IV times. The largest of these is Los Pilares which is approximately 1 mile north-northwest of the Bibo Cabin Ruins. It is one possibility that inhabitants of the later pueblos may have used existing structures (like 6.1) to tend fields in the flats below Bibo Cabin Ruins.



**CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 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. } } }