

CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

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**Elections & the CCHS
Museum Coming Soon!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 23—ANNUAL MEETING with Karl Laumbach on
“Massai: New Mexico’s Apache Kid”

May 21—Outing to Mogollon—a members-only
event

June 25—Annual BBQ—a members-only event

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

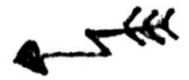
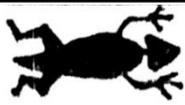
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2015 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

DIRECTORS:
Barb Adams, Doris Clymo, Nettie
Carrejo, Bonnie Armstrong,
Wayne Ashby



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Today as I write this report, the wind is blowing and the land needs rain. The saga of the ages goes on and as they say in New Mexico, Wait a minute and the weather will change. What a beautiful place we live. Our outings will take advantage of what New Mexico has to offer. So mark your calendars. Outings and programs are in the planning stages.

It is that time of year when our new board will be elected. Becky Bratten has decided, with much prodding and begging, to run for The Treasurer's Position. And our very own Helen Cress will run for the Secretary Position. Helen likes writing much more than taking other people's money. So look for the ballots to come out shortly. Please vote and return the ballots as soon as possible. We need them back before our April 23 meeting. Linda Yancy has agreed to help with facilities. She will help me set up the rooms for the programs. Thank you to everyone who agreed to serve. We need you and appreciate what you do for CCHS.

MUSEUM—The windows are here, and on March 16 the construction began. We would love to have our April meeting in the museum but that would be pushing it. Maybe just maybe we can have a grand opening in May. We'll keep everyone informed. The cabinets that were donated by the Museum of Natural Science are on a stock trailer and Nettie's son will let us know when they arrive so we can meet at the museum and unload the cabinets, and Wayne Ashby will bring a donated desk and shelves at the same time to be placed in the museum.



PAST PROGRAMS

At the February 19, 2016 CCHS meeting, we had Cosmic Campground International Dark Sky Sanctuary (CCIDSS) presentation from Dr. Albert D Grauer. The International Dark Sky Association (IDA) designated (by unanimous decision!) the Cosmic Campground as the first International Dark Sky Sanctuary (CCIDSS) in the US, Gila National Forest, Catron County, New Mexico. The IDA issued an international press release January 14, 2016.

The campground is located via Highway 180 between mile markers 37 to 38. A Forest Service Cosmic Campground sign marks the entrance. Drive across the orange cattle guard, continue 1.3 miles on the hard-surface road, and arrive at the campground. There are 3 RV pull-throughs, an observing area with four pads for telescopes, and a FS CXT , two place vault toilet.

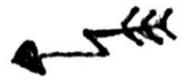
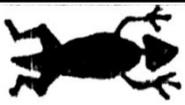
The natural night sky is among the darkest in the world. A distant 360-degree unobstructed horizon allows a remarkable view of the dome of a natural night sky. The only visible artificial light is a faint glow from distant Morenci, AZ. The occasional lights of passing cars on Highway 180 at night is naturally blocked by low hills between the campground and the road. Observers night vision remains undisturbed. Visitors enjoy cell/Wi-Fi via a mountain top tower 15 miles south of Cosmic Campground.

Dr. Grauer brought a state-of-the-art, full cut-off lamp that puts all its light downward where people need it. The lamp uses a fraction of the power used by the fixtures now in place, and produces none of the glare associated with them. This lamp protects the natural night sky for us to enjoy without light pollution.

On March 11, 2015, the CCHS held a Survival Program Presentation by Becky Bratten. This was a fast paced slide show of survival techniques and equipment for those that want to survive after a nuclear or electrical magnetic pulse attack which prepares anyone for almost any survival need. Her presentation and booklet helped those interested in survival on the how, where, and what to do. The booklet she put together had checklists of items needed, amounts, and how and what to store along with a list of books to help the per-

(Continued on page 4)





UPCOMING EVENTS

April 23, 2016—ANNUAL MEETING at the Quemado Senior Center 4:00 p.m. for dinner and a presentation at 4:30 from the very popular speaker Karl Laumbach, a native of New Mexico who has been pursuing the state's archaeology and history since graduating from NM State University in 1974. As Principal Investigator and Associate Director for Human Systems Research, Inc., a non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of New Mexico's past, Karl has directed hundreds of projects. His interests include land grants, Hispanic/Anglo assimilation, Apache history, and the pueblo archaeology of southern New Mexico. His wife Toni is Deputy Director of the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum.

Karl's talk is on Massai: New Mexico's Apache Kid. The name "Apache Kid" has a fearsome and romantic ring, looming large in the folklore of Sierra and Socorro Counties. This is the story of how the "Apache Kid" was hunted down and killed. A wilderness area in the San Mateo Mountains bears his name. However the man killed in the San Mateos was not the famed Arizona Apache Kid but rather a Warm Springs Chiricahua Apache named Massai with a story of his own. Using a combination of documents, oral history and images, Karl Laumbach tells that story. We will also have a silent auction and election results.

May 21, 2016—Outing to Mogollon. Wayne Ashby is preparing the information and we will have the details shortly.

June 25, 2016—Annual BBQ at the Veteado Peak Ranch, hosted by Gary and Sally Blum. Our entertainer will be Chautauqua Performer Steve Cormier with Music From the Ranch and the Open Range. ♦♦♦

HOMESTEAD SERIES: MCPHAULS - PART III

The Homestead Act of 1862 was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on May 20, 1862. Several additional laws were enacted in the latter half of the 19th and early 20th centuries: Southern Homestead Act of 1866, Timber Culture Act of 1873, Kincaid Amendment of 1904, Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909, Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916.

The sand was blowing and the drought was on in West Texas. The cotton crop and grass needed rain. In addition, the cold northern winter storms—known as Blue Northerners—were making it difficult to raise cattle and farm. The fast moving freezing cold wind took its toll on the cattle and crop. The move from Bastrop to Gomez had not been good. If a trip was planned right one could drive cattle from watering to watering and make the trip across West Texas to the Pecos River and on to Catron County.

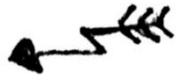
The McPhauls had been in Brownfield/Gomez area for only seven to eleven years when they realized better ranching conditions could be found. They also were not natural farmers. They just did not understand farming cotton. With FREE land in the West the McPhauls moved their cattle and made Homestead claims in New Mexico. Not everyone moved at one time.

Uncle Eddie filed a claim under the 1909 Act for 320 acres in S34 T2N R11W. He had to be twenty-one years old to file. It is assumed he filed around 1911-1915—the first of the McPhauls to file.

The next filings of record are under the 1916 Act: Arch McPhaul, 640 acres in Sec 22 T2N R11W; Edward McPhaul, 287 acres in Sec 6 T2N R11W; Jay McPhaul, 640 acres in Sec 12 & 14 T2N R11W and Sec 13 T2N R12W; Luther (Will) McPhaul, 640 acres in Sec 26 T2N R11W; Nancy McPhaul, 640 acres in Sec 24 T2N R11W.

There are numerous recordings in the Catron County Clerks office of other acreage purchases by the brothers individually. In addition, buying and selling between the brothers and their mother, Nancy, between 1920 and 1948 was not uncommon. The records in the Socorro County Clerks office indicate a purchase of land by Uncle Jay beginning in 1918. Remember, Catron County was once part of Socorro County. The records prior to 1921 are still in Socorro County. Many of the purchases were from other Homesteaders who wanted to move on. The lure of free land was more difficult than they once thought.

My grandmother McPhaul had in her collection four postcards of a snow that fell in Magdalena and this area. The Magdalena Public Library has the originals of two of the pictures. The snow fell in December, 1923 and would be hard to survive even today.



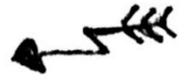
son who would like to survive. (Photos of the event courtesy of La Luz Photography.) ♦♦♦



To the left—Becky Bratten addressed the audience on survival.

Below—survival equipment.

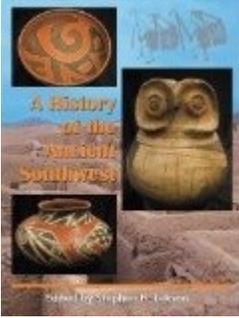




BOOK REVIEWS

***A History of the Ancient Southwest* by Stephen H. Lekson—Reviewed by Laura Brush**

This book is about both the history of the ancient Southwest (what actually happened way back then) and about archaeology (how we learn about the distant past). Each chapter focuses on a period of history, starting at 1500 BC but primarily between AD 500 and 1500, and on the various personalities, institutions, developments, and schools of thought through which archaeologists have examined that history. In style, the book strikes a balance between general readers and professionals. It is definitely not dry or esoteric (though as the author says, "If you want academic minutia, read the notes!").

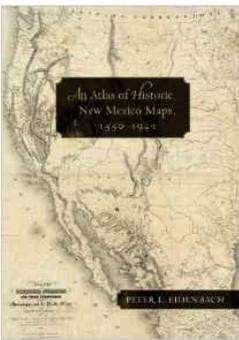


The author feels that in many ways archaeologists have underestimated the abilities and accomplishments of the inhabitants of the ancient – and modern – Southwest. He states upfront that he is operating on three principles: Everybody knew everything (knowledge was not limited to the events of an individual's immediate surroundings), no coincidences (distant and contemporaneous events were often related), and distances can be dealt with (knowledge, items, and events from "far away" are not out of reach). Thus he argues against the racism and colonialism (often unconscious but still present in modern archaeology) that maintain that ancient Southwestern natives were not capable of highly developed and hierarchical societies.

The "Southwest" as discussed in the book includes southern Utah and Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and northern Chihuahua and Sonora. However, he also discusses happenings in the eastern US (especially Cahokia, along the Mississippi River) and in Mesoamerica (far south of the focus area) and their effects on people and events in the Southwest. In the Southwest itself, he follows developments in the areas of the Hohokam, the Anasazi, the Mogollon, the Mimbres (whose villages "were the first real pueblos"), and later, Paquime. He discusses the influence of maize and of migrations. He offers an explanation for the stories of the Cities of Gold that the early Spanish heard. Overall he tells the story of "rises and falls, kings and commoners, war and peace, triumphs and failures. Real history! Just like everyone else..." Wonderful.

***An Atlas of Historic New Mexico Maps, 1550-1941* by Peter L. Eidenbach—Reviewed by Laura Brush**

As the author states in opening the book, "History without geography is incomplete and misleading." This book presents 160 pages of maps, starting with those from early Spanish explorers and ending with the state Highway Department Official Road Map of 1941. Many of the maps are in color (the originals having been hand-tinted) or at least shaded. They range in scale from hemispheric—the book's earliest map, which shows the entire New World with Africa and Cathay peeking from the edges—through continental, regional, and on down to maps of the Civil War battles of Valverde and Glorieta. There are even city maps, 1882 bird's eye views of Las Vegas and Santa Fe.

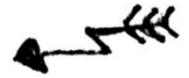
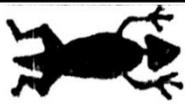


Each map is introduced with the name of its maker/printer and some context on the information on which the map was based. The large format of the book (14" x 10") allows the reader to make out the small details more easily. Most of the maps are at least half-page size, and none of them spread over two pages (which would lose so much in the crease). In addition, quite often a portion of the map is enlarged on an adjoining page to make details even more clear. Still, a magnifying glass is a helpful accessory.

It's interesting to follow the course of errors in the early maps. California was shown as an island in a map as late as 1720, despite earlier ones correctly showing a peninsula, and the Rio Grande was shown as emptying into the Gulf of California until at least 1650. As reports from more explorers and other travelers trickled back, however, blank areas were filled in and errors corrected.

Some interesting highlights: An 1864 map prepared by the Army for use during the Civil War may be the first to show the Four Corners, once the borders of the four states were finally settled. An 1897 Rand, McNally and Company map is the book's first in which I found a Catron County settlement labeled: Quemado. Of course, it was still Socorro County then.

Anyone who enjoys perusing a map for its own sake or who is curious about how the people back then saw their surroundings, this is indeed a valuable book. Eleven pages of notes provide sources of the maps, background information, and in some cases URLs for further viewing and research. ♦♦♦



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SSS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Previous Balance January, 2016 \$9345.66
 Income
 Membership 840.00
 Meals (Xmas Party)..... 222.25
 Rent from Dia Art 76.25
 Donation 50.00
 CD/DVD Sales..... 30.00
 Expenses
 Electrical..... 26.42
 Donation to Senior Center 100.00
 Balance \$10,437.74

 Balance February, 2016 \$10,4367.74
 Expenses (electricity)..... \$26.42
 Income (membership) \$190.00
 Ending balance: \$10,601.32



(Continued from page 3)

The overall largest purchases of land was from the Santa Fe Railroad. Each township contained land owned by the railroad given to them by the Federal government as an incentive to build the railroad across America. Generally the railroad land was every odd section in a township. It was possible to have 18 sections of railroad land in a township. The railroad wanted money and not land. In addition, the railroad had to pay property tax on the land. They readily sold land to anyone who could pay for it —generally for fifty cents per acre. This was difficult to come up with. It was not easy for the McPhauls. Nothing ever was. In addition, the brothers leased state land from New Mexico and were able to run enough cattle to sustain a living. I have come to the conclusion that each brother was selling 100 calves a year. It is my opinion that they had to have come from Texas with at least 400 head of cows. It appears the cattle business had been good for the McPhaul Brothers.

By Jay's death on June 21, 1960 he and Ed had accumulated 45,923 acres of which there were approximately 28,000 deeded and 17,000 state lease acres. His estate was valued at \$369,000. The news of the value of his estate made the Albuquerque Journal paper. I want to develop the Jay McPhaul story in another presentation.

CONTINUED IN PART FOUR IN THE NEXT ISSUE ► ◀

CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 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. } } }