

# CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY/JUNE 2016

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See Inside for Reports  
On Recent Outings!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

August—TBD

September 10—Pie Town Pie Festival



## 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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## 2016 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Sally Blum, 575-772-2539

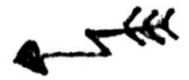
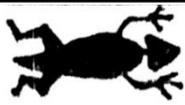
VICE PRESIDENT: Becky Bratten

SECRETARY: Helen Cress • TREASURER: Barb Adams

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Shannon Donnelly • sdonnellyNM@gmail.com

### DIRECTORS:

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



**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Recently the news has been horrifying. Never would I have imagined another outbreak of such mayhem and murder of our police officers in Dallas. Living here in the middle of nowhere I am so far away from the reality of what happens in the big cities. I know for one that I am so glad to wake up and see the beautiful sunrise from our porch and see the magnificent sunsets to our west. We do not fear for our lives at the hands of terrorists or unhinged mad men. We live a life of calm and look forward to the next day with hope and optimism. We have much to be thankful for. I am so glad to be a resident of Catron County and enjoy all that life has to offer .

**MUSEUM**—If you have driven by the museum you will notice that the entrance and new door are in. Jim and Liz Donor donated the door. You will also notice that the door is similar to the door on the historic Jonah bar next to our museum. The board will meet and decide what will be our next project for the museum. Funds are always a factor in determining what can be accomplished. Becky Bratten and I worked on organizing the upstairs for much of our historic items are there. Helen, Bonnie, Carol Hegg and I met at the museum to analyze how to hang the Russell Lee Photos. We have 40 framed photos to hang. These photos are priceless. What a wonderful gift we received from Dia Art.



**CALENDARS**—The 2017 calendars are for sale. Barb Adams did a magnificent lay out of the windmills. She also assembled and bound them. They are for sale for \$10. Helen Cress was in charge of the T-shirts and they are available for \$20 each. We have a variety of colors. Helen designed the shirts and they are beautiful. We may do another shirt that depicts Quemado. We'll let you know if we decide to make these.

**PAST PROGRAMS**

**May 18**—Helen coordinated with Bill Green for the Green Family Presentation. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and many who planned to attend were unable to make it. These programs are so important to the history of Catron County. Fortunately we were able to video the presentation and the DVD will be for sale. The slide show and stories told were so interesting. Family members who helped present were: Buster and Sharon Green, Billy and Karolie Green, Lee and Joseph Bond, Bill and Dawn Green, and Buster's darling daughters. I personally enjoyed the horse stories. (See Helen Cress' report.)

**May 21**—Trip to Mogollon lead by Wayne Ashby. Nineteen people attended the tour. The weather was perfect and our first stop was to view historic old tractors. Ray Cumbie knew much of the history of these tractors and I hope we can do a picture of some of the most interesting tractors and a history of the particular tractor by Ray Cumbie. (See Helen Cress' report.)

**June 11** Outing—see the report by Ann Leonard.

**June 25**—Sunnyslope Cemetery and BBQ—see the report by Helen Cress.

**July 4**—CCHS was set up during the Quemado Fourth of July Parade outside the CCHS Museum located between the El Sarape Restaurant and the Dia Art Lightning Field Office. Russell Lee photos were on display inside the museum. CCHS had a table set up out front with items for sale. We sold CCHS 2017 Calendar - \$10 each. These have pictures of windmills from the area and we sold CCHS Tee-shirts- \$20 each. These are a must have with the shape of Catron County on the back with the names of towns. Miscellaneous items and books were sold. Metal heavy locking cabinets- were for sale for \$350.00.





## GREEN FAMILY HISTORY EVENT REPORT

*by Helen Cress*

**B**ill Green, oldest son of Bill and Karolee, and superintendent of schools here at Independent School District number 2 for several years, then to Reserve schools, gave a spellbinding program about the Green family on May 18. Bill is always an entertaining speaker, and the entire family was present and added spice with their own stories, occupying one large table, which was quite well-behaved and not too rowdy. Even the two youngest granddaughters, Breely and Riata, were along to hear the history.

Bill began his story talking about the elder Bill's parents, his grandparents, Rose and Fletcher Green, who arrived in this country in 1929. They homesteaded a place north mile marker 8 Highway 117. That was the old Julian Place, where B. Julian's parents had lived. Pat Brannon had also lived there. They built a cabin and were able to get drinking water. At some point, Fletcher made a trade of something to the Hubbells for a section of land at Adams Diggings. The one-room cabin was later moved to Chimney Well, and young Bill used part of it to build HIS house.

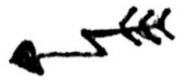
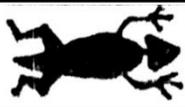
The Hogg family were their neighbors and spent that first winter with them in a one-room cabin. Later, they moved to the location where Buster lives, to the location of the Techado Post Office. The house there later burned. The family had an old phonograph, probably the hand-wound variety, and they loved their music, and Fletcher once rode horseback from Techado into Quemado to get a needle for the Victrola, but must have had to buy something else so he didn't have to admit he made that trip just to get the needle!

Fletcher and Rose had four sons: J.W., Bud, Dennis and Bill, whom we know. Bud had a heart defect and died young. He was a good cowboy while he lived. Fletcher was a cowboy, a roper; at some point, he and Rose moved to Lovington, but came back to our area in 1942. I mentioned remembering Rose at dances, with her husband, dancing every dance she could in the highest, most pointy heels I ever saw. Fletcher died in 1986 and Rose in 1995. Buster was off on a mission before Rose's death. He was her favorite, and she stayed alive for his return, which is a phenomenon I have seen played out on more than one occasion.

J.W. passed away many years ago. Dennis has for many years lived in Alaska. "Bill the Younger" married Karolee Clawson and settled where they now reside at the site of the old Grover Powell homestead. The house was built in 1919. Grover dug the old well, sending up buckets of dirt to Fletcher, who dumped them. The floor of the well house eventually fell in. Young Bill ranched, and when he "drouthed out" in the 1950's, he went to Yuma, AZ. George Adams leased his ranch while they were gone. Rodeos were always a large part of his life, and he placed in almost every rodeo. He moved his family to Grants at one time and Bill worked in the mines. His supervisors wanted to promote him to a foreman, but he quit because he was afraid he might get used to having money and leave ranching. He once had a ranch near Vaughn, NM and bought a ranch near Lordsburg, which Buster ran. One story we heard was a load of cattle supposed to be delivered to Bill—and what he received was a load of hogs. I would have loved to get details of that hog-drive, which conjured up some very amusing visions in my head!

For 22 years, Bill was foreman at the Hubbell Ranch, both when they had sheep and during their conversion to cattle. Two of my favorite stories were of horses they owned. One was a paint mare who very special to them. She was once in a horse trailer when a bunch of cattle were getting away, and she jumped out and went after them. She was killed when she was struck by lightning, and they buried her on a hill near the highway and put up a monument to honor her. Another mare they owned, named Josie, was also hit by lightning but managed to stay alive for a colt she had. All of Bill's and Karolee's children have married and have children. And all have returned to live in this area.

This was one of my favorite CCHS programs, and I wholeheartedly encourage others with stories of early family in this county to come forward and share this rich heritage. ◆◆◆



## **MOGOLLON OUTING REPORT**

*By Helen Cress*

**T**he CCHS outing on May 21 was highly successful. Wayne Ashby organized this event and led the way. He took us first to Cooney's tomb, turning just past Alma and proceeding up the canyon. Cooney was a military officer stationed in the area who was killed by the Apache Indians. His tomb is inside a very large boulder, and behind a fence. Farther behind that is a burial area of several bodies.

As we progressed up the canyon, we came across a large field and residence, the front acreage of which contained a wonderful display of old tractors. This was a collection belonging to Jay McKeen, who goes off to auctions that he hears of and bids on such things.

The next leg of the trip was up the mountains into Mogollon, with everyone's stomach growling in anticipation of the fare served in the Purple Onion. We all agreed it was wonderful, whether hamburgers, burritos, or very fine pie. No one left the table hungry. The next stop was the Kelly store across the street, and all enjoyed looking at the jewelry, beautifully and artistically painted gourds, and other items. We enjoyed visiting with the artist and proprietor. We entered the museum where we were in for a real treat. They have done a fine job of organizing stories, pictures of the mines and miners, and so much old equipment. It spurred us on to make progress on our own museum in Quemado.

The road into the old cemetery was slow and rough, but the trip was well-worth it because there is a lot of history in that old place. Quite a number of adults, infants, and children succumbed during the 1918 flu epidemic and their resting places are recorded. There was one grave marker that was quite expensive-appearing and we agreed probably belonged to someone who had a high position with the mining company! Some of the markers were made of old, rusty metal bent into the shape of a cross. We were told later that Mogollon once had a hospital, and old Dr. Foster from Reserve went there to deliver babies or to take care of the ill and injured. All in all, we agreed this was a highly enjoyable venture. Wayne will be hard-pressed to do better, but we dare him to try!



## **JUNE 11 OUTING REPORT**

*by Ann Leonard*

On June 11 we conducted a 4-wheel drive road trip for members only down the Tulerosa River on Charlie McCarty's holdings. Wayne Ashby and Charlie led the group tour, which consisted of 7 CCHS members. We all met at Charlie McCarty's ranch just north of Reserve and dispersed into three 4-wheel drive vehicles. Led by Charlie, we drove 2 miles northeast on Hwy. 12, then turned off on a gravel road which circled down 3 miles to the first ranch gate near the first river crossing. We then drove 5 1/2 miles down the river canyon to our last stop.

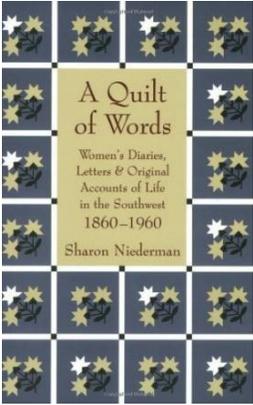
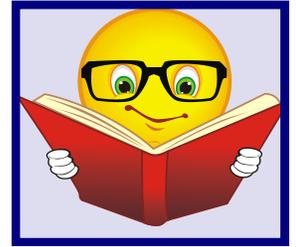
The startling beauty of the canyon can be seen from the first gate and increased as we continued our drive down the Tulerosa River. The first site of interest was a grave site for young Ida Smith, age 4, and another pile of unidentifiable rocks. The name Smith was not on any of the property titles for acreages in the canyon. Soon we came upon four buildings, one of which has recently been renovated (chinking placed be-





### BOOK REVIEWS

*Quilt of Words: Women's Diaries, Letters & Original Accounts of Life in the Southwest 1860-1960* by Sharon Niederman—Reviewed by Laura Brush



Stories of a wide variety of women are collected here. The stories take the form of autobiographical writings, a daughter's record of her mother's life, journal entries, letters, and transcriptions of oral histories. The "Southwest" covered here includes Arizona and Colorado, but perhaps the most interesting stories take place in New Mexico.

The author (of the Introduction and of introductions to each woman's story) says, "It has been said, 'You don't come to New Mexico—God sends you.'" If so, these women were sent from all over. Some were born in the East or Midwest, a few with connections by blood or friendship to powerful families such as the Roosevelts, Cabots, and Fricks. Some were born overseas, and some in or near the Southwest itself. Most are Anglo; one is Latina and one Yavapai. Some came for health reasons, for themselves or family members; others came to homestead or for work in the mines. Some spent only a short time (one piece is entitled "Two Weeks in New Mexico", in part an unflattering description of Mabel Dodge Lujan, although the writer was here more than that one trip), while others stayed a lifetime.

Some women faced each day as a new opportunity in life (Frances Beebe's "I Never Was a Person To Get Lonely"); others faced the brutal realities of life in that time (Beatice Nogare's "Life in the Southern Colorado Coal Mining Camps").

The most interesting story for me was that of our own Eleanor Williams. Born in the East, she first fell in love with the West while visiting a ranch in Montana. Presented here are several letters she wrote after her time traveling with rodeos and circus and before she was able to return to an early love, art. These letters tell of her struggles to maintain her Rising Sun ranch near Quemado in the 1930's and 1940's. I'm sure there are those here who have personal memories of her during that time or later.

The book contains 15 stories, illustrated with 36 remarkably clear photographs. It provides another valuable view of the life of settlement in this area, that of what might be considered "later pioneers". Recommended.



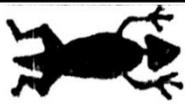
tween the square logs of a cabin), and the area cleared of most debris that collects around living areas. Charlie's granddad had acquired the 160 acres through the Homestead Act. Katie James, from Oregon, is presently occupying the cabin on an infrequent basis. Her father at one time had a sand and gravel business in the South Frisco area.

Further along, on the west side of the river up among the overgrown tangle of grapevines, large juniper tree trunks and pinion trees, an old retaining wall wandered along for several yards. The foundation of an old cabin, originally owned by the Ulibarri family, could be vaguely made out. Charlie's Dad bought the property from a bank.



The next two stops revealed several rocks with good petroglyphs, one that required a short hike up some steep rocky trails to view them. The other ones were down closer to the river, on both sides of the fence. These were deeply engraved "glyphs", the meanings of which might be known by archeologists trained in this field. Down to the last stop, which required some rough river crossings, we all piled into Charlie's truck and bounced down to perhaps the most interesting of all! About 200 feet up on a smooth rock wall was one fairly large reproduction of a mountain lion and two other two smaller animals, also with long tails.

This was a perfect photo day, with pleasant temperatures and good camaraderie among all of us. ◀▶



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SSS

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Previous Balance .....	\$8,253.52
Income .....	0.00
Expenses	
Labor .....	583.15
T-shirts.....	884.03
Balance May 31, 2016.....	\$6,787.96



### BBQ & VISIT TO SUNNYSLOPE

By Helen Cress

June 25 was the big BBQ hosted by Gary and Sally Blum. It began with a tour of Sunnyslope Cemetery. We were led there by Bonnie Armstrong and Kathryn McKee who wrote *Dust to Dust* about cemeteries in northern Catron County. Maxine, who once lived in the area, had a baby brother who was buried in the cemetery. Susan Sprague brought the book with her, and was very helpful in reading from it as we looked at the grave markers. Sally's parents are buried there at Sunnyslope.

We proceeded to the Blum residence where recording artist Steve Cormier, arrived and entertained with old cowboy songs. Steve worked on a ranch and rodeoed for nine years, had parts in a number of television shows and movies, received a PhD, and has toured many states performing his music, accompanied by his guitar. A delicious meal was served, with Jim Bratten handing out wonderful meat. Salads and desserts were provided by CCHS members. We are really grateful to those who helped us out by participating. ▶◀

### 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. } } }