

CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOV/DEC 2016

PAGE 1

**Happy New Year
Renew Your Membership!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 20, Quemado Senior Center:

4: 00 Dinner

4:30 Talk by Ethel Majors on
"Cattle Drives"



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

IN THIS ISSUE

From the President..... Page 2
Christmas Party Report Page 3
Musings of a Warped Mind ... Page 3
Murder on Putney Mesa Page 4
Book Reviews Page 5
Treasure's Report Page 6
Mission Statement Page 6

2016 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Sally Blum, 575-772-2539

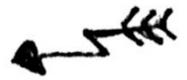
VICE PRESIDENT: Becky Bratten

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

During Thanksgiving and Christmas, you think about family and friends and the delicious food prepared for these occasions. I am confident that during the Homestead era the meals were not only important for survival but were a time to discuss the problems and solutions to the many crises the families encountered—they knew about the sanctity of the dinner hour and that it built a stronger family

We were raised to eat our meals together even when our father came home late from work. The dinner table was a time to discuss what we'd done in school or talk about politics. Sometimes the conversations were heated, but we always came back to the table to finish our discussions and return again and again for the family meal. The holiday meals were particularly important. Mom put out the Thanksgiving tablecloths and dishes and made our favorite dishes. Grandmother always brought her famous Jell-O salad and Uncle Bill brought a huge bottle of wine that no one liked. Christmas was the same with the traditional meals we all enjoyed. Of course, after the meal it was always time to play cards.

Times have changed with TV, cell phones, I-Pads and other toys that make it difficult to find time to discuss anything. Although we try to continue with our family traditions, those traditions are not as important as they once were. I think those memories make an important part of our life here at the ranch—they're the reason I love to cook, and a means to get back to what I loved around the dining table of my childhood.

The community Thanksgiving in Quemado is a time to bring people together and share the foods that we all love—those meals are important for community and for sharing in the food and conversations.

The CCHS Christmas dinner is an event we always look forward to attending. This year we were not able to be there for the festivities and we could only hear about the event from happy participants. Those that attended praised Paul and his staff on the service and the delicious food. Paul is amazing that, under the circumstances with his mother's illness, he was still able to put together a wonderful event. We are so sorry we could not attend. Helen has written about the event in this newsletter.

BOOK REVIEWS—Laura Brush has done outstanding reviews on many interesting books. She is an avid reader and her reviews give us an idea what the books are about and if we want to add them to our library. Many of the books she has reviewed I have not read, but after reading her reviews I often wanted to pick up the book and read it. Thank you so much, Laura, for giving us outstanding reviews.

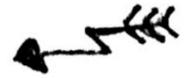
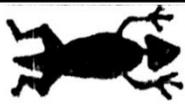
QUEMADO CENTENNIAL—The Quemado Auxiliary has been meeting and preparing for the big event on June 4 in Quemado. The group has a major undertaking, and CCHS will help in any way we can. Bonnie Armstrong is our representative for the Catron County Historical Society and she will report to the board on ideas that will make the event a success. CCHS will concentrate on the museum and we hope to have many displays for the public to enjoy. If you would like to help with the museum or any aspect of the planning for the Quemado Centennial please contact Bonnie Armstrong at 575-773-4527 or 505-220-2638.

MUSEUM—The CCHS has received some generous donations from the membership. We are so appreciative of your financial support. Without membership dues and this financial help, we could not complete our renovation projects. By the Quemado Centennial we will have the donation plaque that Jim Donor made with names of those that have been so generous to the CCHS.

KATHRYN Mc KEE ROBERTS—With her many books on our area—*School Days, School Days, From the Top of the Mountain, From Dust to Dust*—articles and manuscripts from homesteaders, she has been a huge supporter of the CCHS. One article she gave me is "Murder on Putney Mesa". You will see this in the Homestead Series. We hope she will plan an outing in the spring for the members to a historic site near Red Hill.

SHANNON DONNELLY—Every year we are so thankful we have her to prepare our newsletter and get it back to us for mailing and emailing. We cannot thank her enough for all her work for CCHS. She is a real star.





UPCOMING EVENTS

January 20, 4:00 PM Quemado Senior Center—Dinner at 4, and at 4:30 Ethel Major will give a talk on "Cattle Drives"

Your CCHS board will meet January 13, 2017 to lay out the programs and outings for 2017. As soon as they are determined we will let you know what is in store for this year. ◀◆▶

2016 CCHS CHRISTMAS PARTY REPORT

by Helen Cress

The CCHS annual Christmas party was held on December 3, 2016, at the Quemado Senior Center. Appetizers, furnished by the board, were served at 4:30, with a wonderful meal following at 5:00. Desserts were brought by members.

The intent this year was to host this early in order to beat the storm which has hit during the last two Christmas parties with consequent low attendance. Even though there was a storm the weekend previous to this year's celebration, the night we chose worked well and the weather was fine.

Paul once again provided an outstanding meal and had decorated the center for the occasion. It was beautiful, with lovely poinsettias in decorative centerpieces. Sally could not attend at the last minute, but Becky took the microphone to provide the entertainment. She directed the raffling of many items. Among others were CD's from prior Christmas photo collections, ten poinsettias, Christmas cards left from other years, t-shirts, one of Bonnie's books which she had donated, and a turkey. I was assured it was an actual turkey, not a turkey vulture.

Norm Maisel bought many raffle tickets and had them dispensed to the crowd, which was very much appreciated.

We appreciate so very much the efforts of everyone involved. Paul and his volunteers made us all feel welcome and comfortable in a cozy, family-like atmosphere. We are inspired to repeat this experience in the coming year. ▶◀

MUSINGS OF A WARPED MIND: THE RAT

by Helen Cress

Day 1: I unload the groceries I just purchased, putting them in the pantry.

Day 2: I prepare to bake two potatoes for dinner. There ARE no potatoes. There is an empty, torn brown Idaho potato bag in the pantry, alongside the loaf of bread. Uh-oh. I get my large supply of D-Con and place a generous portion in a saucer. HAH, you rat!

Day 3: All D-Con is gone from the empty saucer. Gotcha, Rat!

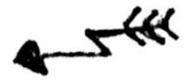
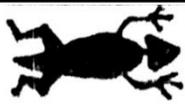
Day 4: Time to retrieve some bread for toast. Less than half a bag remains in a torn bread bag. Well, maybe this is a BIG rat. Needs more D-Con to do the trick. It certainly must be getting fatter! I put out a BIG serving of poison with an apple core in the center, thoroughly rolled in D-Con.

Day 5: Apple core gone. D-Con gone. Food all locked up, so no more of that missing. Another plate of D-Con and apple set out for rat.

Day 6: Saucer empty. I fill a pie plate with D-Con. This guy has to be putting on weight like gangbusters. Maybe he will soon outgrow his hole. I fill a pie plate with D-Con.

Day 7: Big piñon crop this fall. Leave rat in the warm house while I go out into the cold and pick piñons for

(Continued on page 4)



HOMESTEADING SERIES: MURDER ON PUTNEY MESA—PART 1

By Bud Goodson as told to Eve Ball

NOTE: This article was given to me by Kathryn McKee Roberts and I found it interesting. The article begins with: "When we found Tom Koger he was killed and his body burned to make it look like an accident—that's when we started looking..."

In 1936, while working for the Anchor T, I was sent to the Putney Ranch. There had been rains that summer and when western New Mexico get water, it is one of the most beautiful land in the world. The lakes are full, grass and other vegetation lush, and cattle and horses fat. The air is full of the good smells of pine; and the only way to improve it is to add those of coffee and bacon. That's what I did when I stopped in a pine grove for the night.

Blades of grass sparkled. Even the hobbles were soaked, and it was delightfully cool. I hooked up after breakfast and headed for Earl Flood's camp on the east side of the mesa.

It was on Indian Lake, and Flood had a black man, John Shote, there. He said he had about (a pound) of chuck and asked if I'd brought a load. Between us we had enough for one good meal. That didn't matter too much for there were hundreds of deer on the mesa, and many trout in the little streams. As long as we had coffee we'd make out.

I'd known Flood for a long time. He had come to the country many years before with almost nothing but a determination to make money. He was glum and said little; but Mrs Flood was friendly and a very fine person. She always made anyone who stopped feel welcome and prepared a god meal for him.

One day when another boy and I were there, she told us of her coming to New Mexico. She had promised to marry him (Flood) before he came. They wrote to each other, but letters were as long a month reaching the person for whom they were intended. While he was proving up a homestead, she taught school and saved her money for her home. When Flood acquired a little bunch of cattle, and built a snug little two-room cabin, he wrote for her to meet him in Grants and be married. Mrs. Flood said that all the way out on the train, she thought what a lucky girl she was to marrying a cowboy with a house and some cattle.

Look for Part II in the Next issue



(Continued from page 3)

Christmas gifts.

Day 8: Pie tin empty. I fill pie plate with SUPER rat poison guaranteed to make those who imbibe fall over dead within twenty feet of ingesting it. Place coated corn cob and apple core in middle. Pick piñons while awaiting rat demise.

Day 9: Rat polished off my gift and left empty dish for refill. Back to my piñon picking.

Day 10: Nothing, not even a thank you note, left in pie tin. Cold day picking piñons.

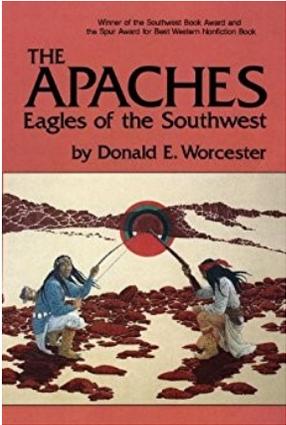
Day 11: Empty pie tin. I locate, in the pantry, a HUGE pack rat nest. Inside it is the wedding band missing from beside the kitchen sink, some bread crumbs, and TONS of piñon shells. While I'm out in the cold, harvesting piñons, this fat jerk is in the warm house stealing them. I've HAD IT! I get my hammer, sit down at the kitchen table, and hit my hand, HARD, FIFTEEN TIMES! It doesn't change a thing with the rat, but it feels SO good when I stop!





BOOK REVIEWS

The Apaches: Eagles of the Southwest by Donald E. Worcester—Reviewed by Laura Brush



“Harsh was the land called Apacheria, home of the Apache Indians, where every insect had its sting, every bush its thorns, every snake its fangs....and the Apaches were truly the products of their environment.” Aside from a four-page preface, this is a story of Apache life as one of combat, a life that they were born and reared for. There were raids and fights with other Indians (including other Apaches), Spaniards, Mexicans, and Anglos. That overt combat ended in the 1880’s, although there is still friction today between the Apaches and others, both governmental and private.

Perhaps because the land they occupied was harsh and did not lend itself to an easy life, Apaches made their way by hunting and gathering and in particular by raiding their more settled neighbors. At one point at the height of the Indian Wars, the Apaches boasted they could have completely destroyed and depopulated northern Sonora and Chihuahua, but they left some people there to raise livestock for them, which they collected in raids as needed. There was much truth in that boast.

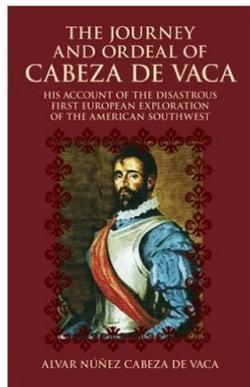
The bulk of the book describes the interactions between the Apaches and Anglos, particularly the Army and various reservation agents, between 1850 and the late 1880’s. It’s a familiar story, although this book contains a perspective of the 1860 “Bascom affair”, involving Lt. Bascom, Cochise, and a kidnapped boy that was new to me. And in 1877, Agent John Clum was asked to provide 60 of his Apache police to protect the citizens of Tucson from raids by Geronimo, “surely one of the marvels of the Apache wars”, as the author says.

The last two chapters are devoted to the time from the surrender of the last of the Apaches to the 1970’s. Hundreds of men, women and children were moved about the country from Arizona to Florida to Pennsylvania to Alabama to Oklahoma to Arizona and New Mexico, large numbers dying along the way. Even when the remnants returned to the Southwest, life was not easy—and still isn’t.

This is an even-handed view of the events, with neither the Apaches nor their opponents painted as blameless nor entirely at fault. It contains 37 photos, five maps, notes, bibliography, and index. Recommended.



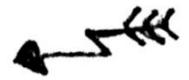
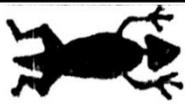
The Journey and Ordeal of Cabeza de Vaca: His Account of the Disastrous First European Exploration of the American Southwest, by Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, Translated & Edited by Cyclone Covey—Reviewed by Laura Brush



This short book, a semi-official report to the King of Spain, is a testament to the dangers of exploring and the privations a human body can endure and still survive. Cabeza de Vaca set out from Spain in 1527 as one of the officers in an expedition to explore Florida. In 1537, he and the other three survivors of a land-force of 300 men arrived in Mexico City. Those four had passed through hurricanes, shipwrecks, slavery, starvation, illness, beatings, cold and perhaps 6,000 miles of travel on foot.

What is most valuable about this book is that it provided the first report of the people and land of much of this new world. After most of his fellow expedition members were killed by man or nature, Cabeza de Vaca lived among several different tribes for months or years each. He described their social customs, food and warfare. He described animals to be found and how plant foods were prepared. (Food was, unsurprisingly, a major preoccupation. He often

(Continued on page 6)



SPONSORS

Cielito Lindo Ranch/Catron Courier
 El Ranchito Inn—Natalia Carrejo
 Crossfire Cattle Company—Green
 Karin Christensen
 datilnewmexico.com
 Dia Art Foundation
 Cibola County Historical Society
 Friends of the Cosmic Camp Ground—Grauer
 Mike & Chris Hill
 Little Colorado River Chapter of AAS
 Lobo Lane Enterprises
 Bob & Nelcine Roland
 Jerry Thompson
 Williams Ranchito—Jim & Joy Williams
 Western New Mexico Land Co.-Blum
 Garda Siocana Kennels—Molly Thomas
 The Adobe Café and Bakery

SSS

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Barb Adams

For Nov & Dec

Income

Cabinet sale.....	150.00
Calendars	385.00
Christmas Party.....	729.00
Donations.....	840.00
DVDs	60.00
Meal to Go.....	10.00
Memberships	1,060.00
Raffle.....	100.00
Total	\$3,334.00

Expenses

Museum Bldg.	1,135.74
Office Supplies	74.84
Utilities	321.09
Total	\$1,490.67
Bank Balance as of 12/29/16	\$4,577.48

(Continued from page 5)

went without.) Most of his time was spent in what is now Florida and Texas, but he did pass through southern New Mexico and a bit of Arizona on his way to the west coast of Mexico. When he and his fellow survivors finally set out to the west to reunite with their countrymen, they had developed a reputation for healing and soon acquired an entourage that followed from tribe to tribe, sometimes in the thousands (if he is to be believed).

This translation does not contain the flowery and convoluted wording associated with the Sixteenth century, which makes it much more readable for today's readers. It is straightforward and unemotional. The translator inserts explanatory material or correction as needed, which does not interfere or disturb the flow of the narrative. Considering that Cabeza de Vaca had no way of keeping notes during this time, it is not surprising that some of his dates may be confused; overall his memory is impressive.

The book contains 152 pages including map, preface, and index. Most definitely recommended.



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. } } }