

CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JAN/FEB 2017

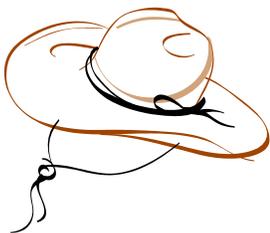
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Win a full beef (processing included) with the CCHS Raffle!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 17 — Frank Davila
- April 15 — Annual Meeting, 2PM
- May 15 — Outing to Mogollon
- May 19 — Ron Hendersen
- June 3 (or 17) — Visit to Petroglyphs
- June 24 — Annual BBQ

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

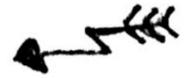
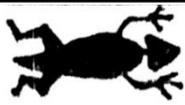
VICE PRESIDENT: Becky Bratten

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

I thought spring would never come... but the snow has all but gone and now the work begins. There are new calves, manure needs to be moved, gardens waiting to be cultivated and on and on. I am so glad spring weather is here.

MUSEUM

We are planning on having our annual meeting at the museum on April 15 2017. We have sold five cabinets which leaves a few more for sale. The Russell Lee photos are hung. The stucco on the outside should be finished soon and now we need to remodel the bathrooms. Melanie Fisher is working on our sign for the outside of the museum. So much has been done and still we have work to do.

ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 15 is our annual meeting at the Museum in Quemado at 2PM. Our speaker will be Richard Melzer, talking on Gus Raney. There will be a small charge of \$10.00 for non-members.

On the agenda will be a vote for the amended by-laws. It has been recommended that the voting for officers and directors and the voting for amendment of by-laws be done orally. The by-laws are attached to this e-mail along with the slate of officers. Another change suggested change is to term limit for officers and directors. Instead of every two years replacing the board, we will stay on until removed or resignation. Again we want to encourage anyone who would like to become a board member to contact Helen Cress.

RAFFLE TICKETS

This year we have raffle tickets to sell. Tommy Padilla has generously donated a steer, which he will haul to Socorro to Mathews Meat Processing. Additionally Mathews Meat Processing has donated the processing. If you win, you just need to pick up the package meat. The drawing will be at the Quemado High School reunion in August. You do not have to be there to win. If you want to purchase any tickets please contact any board member. Tickets are \$5.00 a piece or 5 for \$20.00. The tickets will be available at every meeting, and the events at the reunion. The proceeds will go towards the continued remodeling of the museum.

SILENT AUCTION

As usual at the annual meeting we will have the silent auction. Many local businesses have donated to our event and you are encouraged to donate items for the Silent Auction. Examples of past donations are... peanut brittle, coffee makers, horse halters, horse shoeing, pictures, books and other treasures. We appreciate donations and can put a minimum bid on your item if necessary. We also use these proceeds for the museum. If you want to donate any item or items for the silent auction, please contact any board member.

T-SHIRTS AND CALENDARS

We are still selling our beautiful tee shirts and are working on the 2018 calendars. The theme and pictures for these calendars will be old churches and a description of the church. ▶ ◆ ◀

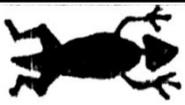
CATTLE DRIVES

The Catron County Historic Society held their February 10, 2017 meeting at the Quemado Senior Center with the help of Paul Templeton. A good meal was served to a large number of people followed by a business meeting. The guest speaker was Ethel (Peewee) Major, a local resident who grew up along the Largo Creek. She talked about some history of the cattle business in America which got its start over 500 years ago on the shores of what is now Mexico (New Spain).

by Ethel Majors

In 1494, two years after the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus for Spain, boat loads of cattle and horses were unloaded upon the eastern coast of New Spain. These cattle would serve as meat for Spanish settlers and the Indians living there. These imported cattle flourished in the mild climate and by the 1500's cattle ranching became a

(Continued on page 4)



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 15 — CCHS Annual Meeting. Catron County Museum, Quemado. 2PM

May 15 — Trip to Mogollon. Members Only! Last years trip was so successful and many who could not attend want us to do the trip again. Last year we were able to stop at the tractor display on the way to Mogollon, it was a stop that was exciting for most.

May 19 — Ron Hendersen. Ron will delight us again with a talk on Evolution of the National Forest.

June 3 or 17 — Members Only Outing. We'll be visiting a private ranch to see unusual petroglyphs –Members only

June 24 — Annual BBQ at Veteado Peak Ranch. Members only. You may also do the climb up Veteado to see the rock art. We will have a cowboy poet or cowboy music at the BBQ.

July 4 — Celebration in Quemado.

July — Outing to museum in Springerville and museum in St. John.

August — Catron County Museum grand opening.



HOMESTEADING SERIES: MURDER ON PUTNEY MESA PART 2

By Bud Goodson as told to Eve Ball

Flood found a preacher and they were married. Then he broke the news that they'd ride horseback to the ranch. About her luggage—they'd take it out of the suitcases and put it into gunny sacks so it could be carried on the pack mule. And how long would they stay in Grants? Oh, a half hour, maybe. He'd brought some Levis for her to ride in, and she might change at the minister's and hurry, for it was nine o'clock and they had a right long trip ahead. The girl had never ridden, but this was her honeymoon and she never expected to have another. Food? No doubt they'd stop at a restaurant on the way. How far was it? Flood hadn't said. With Flood leading the pack mule, he started out at a trot and her horse followed suit. At the edge of the lava flow was a deep trail known as The Narrows. The girl thought that if her new husband would just let the horses walk a bit, or even gallop, that it wouldn't be impossible to continue, but she said nothing. But he maintained that jog-trot 'till evening. The sun was almost down when they topped out on the mesa and he stopped a few minutes. He said they must let the horses rest. Horses! He drew a buckskin bag from his saddle bags and offered her a handful of jerky. She hadn't realized how hungry she was till she tasted it: so she ate it gratefully.

Very timidly, she asked how much further it was to the ranch, and was told that they'd come more than halfway and should make it by midnight or one o'clock. If she just lived that long! It wasn't, he said, but seventy miles from Grants.

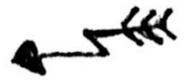
She was too weary to offer any objections, what was there to do? So she gritted her teeth, and she hung on to the horn of the saddle as her steed tried to keep up with Flood's. When at last the horses pulled up and stopped, she was so exhausted that she could not get off the horse. Flood had to carry her into the house.

Then began lonely life for her with her husband leaving before daylight and returning after dark. The place was not fenced and the wild cattle came to the house to rub against it and that frighten her almost to death. In fly time the cattle would rub their sides against the logs, and she was always afraid one might knock the door down to come in.

Earl Flood prospered; he spared neither himself nor the man he hired. At first there was only one, but as he added parcels of land he hired more. His wife did the house work valiantly and well, but she could not work cattle as many of the ranch woman could, and Flood never quite understood why she couldn't make a cowhand.

Continued Next Issue





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thriving business. Many Indians were converted by the Spanish Padres and were trained to ride the mustangs and tend to the increasing herds. They became the predecessor of the cowboy and were called *vaqueros*. The cowboy culture was born and they used stock saddles and spurs from Spain and developed branding irons and branded the cattle. Their distinctive dress became *sombreros* (hats), *chapaderos* and *botas* (cowboy boots didn't develop for another 300 years). Then ropes (*reatas*) were used and were handmade. All of these items and more were later used and modified by cowboys in Arizona and New Mexico by 1598, and mainly in Texas beginning in 1690, and in California by 1769. Especially in California, the Spanish missions controlled much of the cattle business prior to 1821 when Mexico gained independence from Spain.

The first *Mesta*, a livestock organization, was formed in 1533. The custom of branding cattle with individually owned brands that were registered and enforced became standard procedure. All owners of cattle were forced to attend semi-annual meetings and to belong to the *Mesta*. This really promoted and protected the cattle business and helped to prevent rustling which was rampant. The *Mesta* also required cattle to be grazed on separate grazing lands, away from the farmland they had been trampling. Any stray cattle were to be returned to the *Mesta* so they could be returned to the owner of their brands. The cattle were to be used not only for meat, but also hides and fat for candles. Wild cattle and horses moved northward and reproduced at an alarming rate. Sizable cattle empires developed on big land grants. The *vaqueros* began large roundups in late spring and fall and trail drives began moving cattle to market from Northern Mexico to Mexico City which was 600 miles or more. The Vaquero culture prevailed.



Ranching on the Northern Plains expanded after the Civil War and after the buffalo had been wiped out and the Indians had been inhumanely moved onto reservations by the 1880's. The Texas Longhorn had been developed from the original Spanish cattle and adapted well to the long trail drives to the North. They could travel farther, faster and on less water on the long drives. They had low swinging heads, admirable horns, narrow sides and long legs. They were good for hides, tallow and stringy meat. Many large herds (usually 2500 or so in a herd along with 10 or 12 cowboys who had 6 to 10 horses per

cowboy in the *remuda*) were moved North from Texas to market on the Chisholm and Texas trails and to ranges where there was a sea of grass in Wyoming, the Dakotas and Montana and where there was plenty of water.

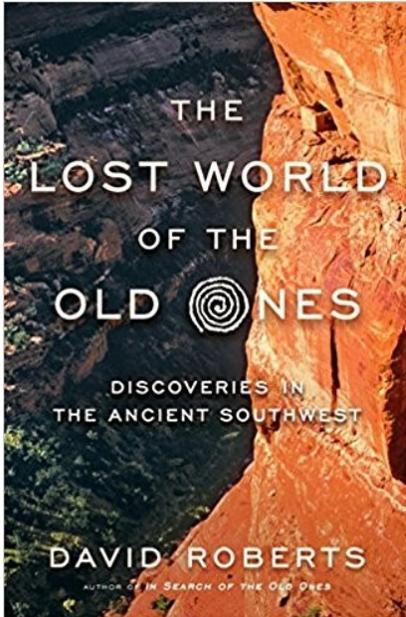
Cattle flourished in the North and some very large outfits had 10 to 50 thousand head of cattle on these ranges. Until a really bad winter such as 1886/87 occurred and was reported to have wiped out many of these large operations. This winter was talked about as it was remembered by cowboys at that time. And there were stories about long trail drives, stampedes and big river crossings as remembered by old cowboys. That exciting and eventful life was somewhat short lived into the early 1900's when the open range became curtailed by Homestead Acts and barbed wire. Just like the fate of the Native Indians.

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Lost World of the Old Ones: Discoveries in the Ancient Southwest by David Roberts—Reviewed by Laura Brush



David Roberts has been seriously entranced by the land and history of the Southwest for decades. He hikes the backcountry looking for signs of the Old Ones—the Anasazi or, as they are often called now, the Ancestral Puebloans, as well as the Fremont to the north, the Mogollon to the south into Mexico, and the Hohokam to the west. As a journalist, he has interviewed the experts in this field of archeology and has perhaps as solid a grasp as any non-professional of the theories of who the Old Ones were, how they lived, and what happened to them. He has focused on Utah but has explored the rest of the Four Corners states and Mexico in his quest for ruins, artifacts, rock art, and understanding. This book follows his 1996 book *In Search of the Old Ones* and updates some of the discoveries and the theories that have been presented in the last 20 years.

For 5,000 years the Old Ones lived in the Southwest, developing an advanced culture that would be matched in the area only relatively recently—cities with thousands of inhabitants in five-story buildings, trade routes that extended for thousands of miles over wide straight roads, astronomical observations including the lunar standstill, and more. Then suddenly, about 1300 AD, all record of the Anasazi disappeared. The others hung on for a while after, but by the time of Coronado's arrival in 1540 there was no living trace of any of the Old Ones. Why and where they went remain unknown, or at least contested. Today's Puebloans, who may be their descendants and who have felt betrayed in the past after answering archeologists' questions, aren't talking. One theory discussed at length involves the Chaco Meridian, and the thought that the center of the culture shifted from Chaco Canyon north to Aztec (both in New Mexico) and then south to Paquime (in Chihuahua) – all three sites located on the 107° 57' west meridian.

The book is well written and certainly well researched. It contains many photographs (both color and black and white), map, bibliography, and index. A worthwhile addition to the Southwest history shelf. ◆◆◆

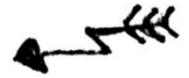
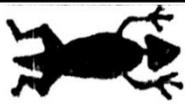
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The last part of the program covered the life of Charles Goodnight. He was probably one of the best known, admirable and successful pioneer ranchmen. In 1870, when he was 34 years old, he married Mary Ann Dyes, who became his capable wife and companion for 56 years. Goodnight was born in Illinois March 5, 1836. His father died in 1841 and his mother remarried. When he was 9 years old he rode bareback from Illinois to Texas, a distance of 800 miles which left him bowlegged. At 12 he was breaking mustangs and hunting with Caddo Indians. At 15 he was a jockey as he and his saddle only weighed 90 pounds. At 20 he began building a herd of cattle in Texas. Then was a scout in the Civil War.

After the war he moved a herd of several thousand cattle along what would come to be known as the Goodnight/Loving Trail, along with 18 cowboys in 1866. They were to go from Texas by way of New Mexico onto his Southern Colorado Ranch. They were able to drive the cattle 92 miles over a waterless stretch for 72 non-stop hours without a break. The third night the herd smelled water on the Pecos River and stampeded for 12 miles to the river. They "only" lost 300 head plus 100 head in the river. The trip was considered a success and the trail was used in later years many times. His partner 55 year old Oliver Loving was killed the following year by the Comanche. Goodnight lost his ranch and bank holdings in Colorado in the 1873 bank failures.

He then moved back to the Texas Panhandle and with the backing of wealthy Denverite John Adair bought the beautiful 1.3 million acre JA Ranch in Paloduro Canyon where they ran 100,000 cattle by 1883. He was the first to introduce Hereford cattle to Texas. He was a dedicated, hardworking ranchman and saw the land and the people change. His methods of ranching became widely known. Mary died in 1926 and Goodnight in 1929 at 93 years old. He was a legend. He was competent and confident enough that he didn't feel threatened by his wife's exceptional abilities (including riding mustangs on roundups). He allowed her to be an equal and an outstanding woman.





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 Williams Windmill
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 Cielito Lindo Ranch, Inc./Catron Courier
 Nichols Boulder Ridge Ranch
 Gordon Ranch-York Ranch

SSS

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Barb Adams

Balance 12/31/2016	4,327.48
Income	
Calendars.....	80.00
Donations	25.00
DVDs.....	60.00
Other	300.00
Total	\$455.00
Expenses	
Christmas.....	185.55
Office Supplies.....	18.25
Postage.....	37.50
Utilities	26.42
Total	\$267.82
Bank Balance as of 1/31/17	\$4,514.66



FROM THE EDITOR

Some interesting facts about the county we live in:

Catron County was almost named Thomas Catron County, however, folks worried that would be shorted to 'Tom Cat County' so they wisely went with the last name only.

In 1886, the American Valley Company was incorporated by Atkinson, Thomas Catron, William Slaughter, and Henry Warren. The American Valley was the triangle formed by the towns Salt Lake, Trechado, and Quemado.

Catron County has 19,260 recorded mining claims listed by the BLM on public lands, 265 active mining claims, and 174 records of mineral deposits for silver, gold, fluorine, copper and lead.

We now have the *Catron Courier* as our newspapers, but this name has been used before. The *Catron County Courier* was published in Reserve from 1989-1991, the *Catron County Firestarter* in Glenwood from 1979-1990, the *Common Sense From Catron County* in Reserve through the 1960's, the *Catron County Reporter* in Reserve from 1955-1961, *The Round-Up* in Datil from 1950-1967, the *Catron County News* in Reserve in the 1940's, the *Catron County News* in Quemado from 1935-1940, and the *Reserve Advocate* published in Reserve in the 1920s. Some of the newspapers can be found at the New Mexico Newspaper Project online and at the NM State Library. ◀▶

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. }}}