

CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

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**Will you step up to help?
Looking for Board Members!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 27— Armijo Family History

February 23—Ethel Majors on Cattle Drive History

March—To Be Determined

April—Annual Meeting!

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

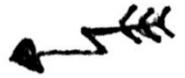
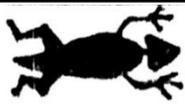
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2017 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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DIRECTORS:
Wayne Ashby, Lee Bond,
Doris Clymo, Nettie Carrejo,
Charlie McCarty



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year and what a year it has been. Much has been accomplished and much needs to be done. This year I will not run for election to the CCHS board. I have been president since Eric Skrivseth, our first president, handed me the reins before he left New Mexico. It was in 2010 that I had the honor of becoming your president. Eric told me in an email recently that one person should not be the president forever and a new person should take over. Eric is a wise person that I respect and now is the time for me to step down. So far no one on the board has volunteered to take over as president. I am asking someone to replace me so we can continue on with all we have accomplished so far. Bonnie has agreed to stay on as vice-president. Lee Bond is stepping down, and our Newsletter Editor Shannon Donnelly has agreed to replace her. Shannon will be a great asset as she already has great success with the Catron Courier and been instrumental in editing our newsletter and added interesting articles for the membership to enjoy

My term ends in April at the annual meeting when the officers and directors will be voted in. If you have an interest in being a director or officer, please let Helen Cress know and she will add you to the ballot. The annual meeting is important so please attend.

I believe that the community benefits from the Catron County Historical Society as stated in our 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 compilation of books pertaining to Catron County." Our museum needs to be maintained, enhanced and open for the public to enjoy. That is why I will be available to the board to help in any way I can to assist. We have had many officers and directors through the years and all have contributed to CCHS in one way or another. The current officers and board members are amazing and they have worked long hours to make CCHS what it is today. I am confident that at the annual meeting you will elect a strong board that will continue on with the preservation of the history of Catron County. At the annual meeting in April I will present the accomplishments of the officers and directors that helped to make the organization and museum a success.

Our first Christmas party in the museum was a huge success. We had approximately 64 people attend. Because the board prepared the meal we collected for CCHS over \$1,000. For the first time we did a real auction and we made on that approximately \$200. The board did a fantastic meal. Gary as he always does cut three beautiful Christmas trees. He was happy we did not ask him to cut 10 or more like we usually do. We had the electrician come the Wednesday before the party to put in plugs and lights. He also hooked up the stove. We were not sure how we were going to keep the food hot, but as we always do we made it happen. Thank you to all who helped with the Christmas Party. I am so proud of everyone. Helen has also written about our first historic Christmas at the museum. Kelly Gatlin, La Luz Photography provided pictures of the event.



HOMESTEADING SERIES: MURDER ON THE PUTNEY MESA

Final Installment

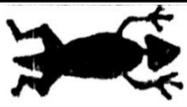
Ilent Ray McKinley a horse and he went to the mesa where Tom Kroger had ben killed. Ray wasn't afraid of anything. But he told me that once when he was not carrying a gun some riders got after him and followed him till after dark. He rode over to Cap. Wessley McCormick's place and spent the night. And Ray couldn't be pushed around.

His brother, Ira McKinley, was working for Flood on the Mesa and as his hands usually did, ran out of chuck. They said they lived on duck soup waiting for Flood to send food to them 'till they decided he would never do it; then they quite.

Did the law do anything about Tom Kroger's death? Well, they sent a young squirt down from Grants, and he hung around a few days and went back without finding anything. If anybody had known anything he would have been a fool to tell, for there was a killer somewhere in the country. That much was sure.

What the Kroger family may have known is anybody's guess. They never said. But when I asked Sam Kroger's permission to tell the story of his brother's murder, he gave it. Sam said, "It looks like God is the only one who knows who the guilty man is. But that man will reap what he has sown."





UPCOMING EVENTS

January 27, 2018—Paul Templeton presents the Armijo Family history. This should be fabulous.

February 23, 2018—We will have the second part of Ethel Majors talk about Cattle Drives from Ethel’s dad’s place to the St. Augustine Plains in 1951. The presentation will be at Senior Center with dinner at 4:30 PM and the talk at 5:00 PM. The first part of Ethel's talk was excellent and I received many positive reviews from the attendees. Be sure not to miss this historical talk.

2017 CHRISTMAS PARTY

by Helen Cress

The annual CCHS Christmas party was held at the CCHS museum on Saturday, December second, starting at 4:30 PM. The dining area was beautifully decorated by Paul Templeton, with Christmas lights in



the rafter areas overhead and poinsettias on the tables, along with Christmas tablecloths. A lovely tree had been decorated by volunteering members, namely Carol Hegg and Molly Thomas. The meal was an overabundance of food prepared by the CCHS board; pork and turkey with all the trimmings, including sweet potatoes, dressing

(made from scratch), green bean casseroles, potatoes and gravy, cranberries, appetizers, pumpkin pie and other desserts brought by members, coffee and punch.

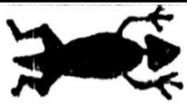
There was a meet-and-greet hour from 4:30 to 5:30, then the meal was served. People attended. Poinsettias were given to a member from each table, who was lucky enough to have a sticker on the underside of their chair. Norm Maisel did a fantastic job of auctioneering a



piece of very original furniture made and donated by Gary Stradner, a wonderful quilt piece made and donated by Marnie Ashby, and a bottle of New Mexico wine from Deming, NM, raising a generous sum of money for the museum.

Many of the members renewed their memberships. It was a wonderful turnout and a delightful opportunity for sharing the spirit of Christmas.





DAVE FARR AND THE STOCK DRIVEWAY

By Brenda Wilkinson, Archaeologist BLM, Socorro Field Office

Dave Farr brought in the last herd of cattle on the storied Magdalena Stock Driveway (the Magdalena Trail) in 1970. Just one of countless drives for him, this cattle drive marked the end of the 85-year history of the trail. This oral history interview with Dave Farr was conducted by the Bureau of Land Management, Socorro Field Office in 2008. Questions asked by BLM Archaeologist Brenda Wilkinson are preceded by "BW" and questions asked by BLM Assistant Field Manager Mark Matthews are preceded by "MM."

Brenda Wilkinson: Can you describe a typical cattle drive on the Magdalena Stock Driveway?

Dave Farr: Well, we always worked shorthanded. Like in the spring with straight yearlings there'd be two of us and a horse wrangler and a cook. And the horse wrangler would bring the horses in to the wagon and hook a rope on the wagon wheel and build a rope corral and catch our horses and saddle 'em. Well, we was always a horseback so we'd change horses. We'd start out with the cattle, and the cook would start out with his wagon, horse wrangler go with his horses. We'd have a pow-wow with the cook, where we'd camp for noon maybe. We just grazed the cattle along, and the horse wrangler grazed the horses. Cook would hook up with the mules and get ahead so he could have dinner or supper ready. We'd change horses morning noon and night...we had night horses. On earlier trips we made we'd have to stand guard every night, after everybody got in and ate, and the cattle bed down. Why, they'd look at a watch and divide the time up and each fella had so many hours, two or three hours, to ride around the cattle and hold 'em. And they'd come wake the next guard up and then in the mornin', usually the last guard he'd pull out with the cattle while the other cowboys were eatin' breakfast and we'd whip up and relieve him and he'd come back and eat. This is all before the sun comes up, just daylight, you know.

MM: Was there decent grass left on the driveway by the time your family got there?

DF: Well, in the '50s sometimes it was pretty scarce, you know, during the drought. But general rule, you had good grass.

BW: How many horses did you take?

DF: Not many—about three, three each. You'd ride one in the morning', and one in the afternoon and one at night, and have an extra horse. And then in the fall we'd maybe have three men with the cattle, and the horse wrangler and the cook.

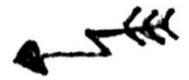
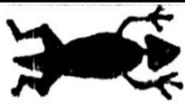
During the drought we'd get close to Magdalena and there'd be arroyos this wide and ten foot deep, and blowed full a tumbleweeds. And we just saw a yearlin', got off the trail and, tumbleweeds closed over. We'd never a known, but we saw 'er and then you had to get a branch or something' and dig it out from the mouth of the arroyo clear up there. They'd get down there and couldn't see nothin', they'd just stand still.

BW: Was there a road for the cook's wagon or was the wagon able to make it cross-country?

DF: Oh, there's an old road that goes from here clear to Magdalena but the wagon would have to take off when we'd get to camping spots. We were looking at one picture there and cook and the horses were not even on the driveway; they were taking a shortcut way away from the cattle. They must have been out on Bruton's or somewhere.

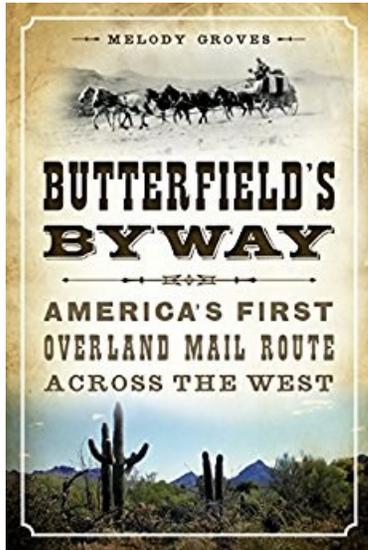
Well, when we'd come to eat dinner, we'd string the cattle out and get 'em in to water. And somebody'd have to hold 'em, and then we'd take turns eating, and you know those deals, you'd have to stay on the side

(Continued on page 6)



BOOK REVIEWS

Butterfield's Byways: America's First Overland Mail Route Across the West by Melody Groves, The History Press, reviewed by Laura Bush



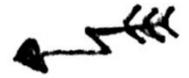
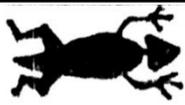
By the 1850s, there were enough people in the states of California and Oregon and elsewhere in the West demanding faster mail service that Congress took action. The primary means of mail delivery from east coast to west was three or four months' journey by steamer. As an alternative, a contract was let in 1857 to John Butterfield for an overland mail and passenger service; that trip was to be completed in twenty-five days. Thus began an intensive effort of surveying and preparing the 2800 mile route, building and stocking stations every fifteen or twenty miles along the route, digging wells or damming creeks, designing custom stagecoaches (two different coaches, to deal with the varying terrain), purchasing horses and mules and supplies, and hiring hundreds of men.

Exactly one year later, on September 16, 1858, coaches left San Francisco and St Louis on the inaugural runs. Aboard the westbound coach was a through passenger named Waterman Ormsby, a reporter from the *New York Herald*. His letters home provide a detailed report of the trip, which was not one for the faint of heart or body.

The Overland Mail Company, or simply The Butterfield, was a complete success other than financially. It kept to its schedule, it got along well with the Indians (until the Bascom Affair), and it delivered the mail and any passengers as advertised. (It did not carry packages or freight, as Butterfield feared that would encourage robbers.) It was described as "the most popular institution of the Far West" for the welcome news it brought from "back home". For such an iconic institution of the Old West, it may come as a shock to realize how briefly it operated – September 1858 to March 1861. Its end was due to several factors – company reorganization, Indians, Pony Express, telegraph – but primarily to the Civil War. A third of the route passed through Texas, which closed the route when it seceded.

The book contains numerous black and white photos and a few maps, although no good clear map of the route. The narrative jumps around in time and space, but the writing is clear and easy to follow. There are several tables and appendices, including a bibliography and index. Recommended.

(Editor's Note: I had not heard of the Bascom Affair, so here are the details: This was a confrontation between Apache and the military in Arizona. It began January 27, 1861, when Apache raids hit the ranch of John Ward, stealing several head of livestock and kidnapping Ward's stepson Felix. Ward reported this to Lt. Col. Morrison, the commandant of Fort Buchanan in Arizona, who sent Lt. George Bascom and a group of infantry to recover the boy. Bascom and his men were unable to locate the boy, but assumed the raid involved Chiricahua Apache. It hadn't. Events escalated when Bascom met with Cochise, who claimed no knowledge. Bascom imprisoned Cochise, his brother and other family members. Cochise escaped and took captives, but Bascom would not release Cochise's relatives without a return of Felix and the cattle. That being impossible, Cochise killed his captives. In turn, Cochise's relatives were hung. And that set off a 25-year war with the Apache in the Southwest, which made the southern Butterfield Stage route a dangerous trip. On a side note, Felix became Mickey Free and served as a scout for the Army in his later years, but was sent to Florida with the other Apache. He later returned to Arizona to farm.) ◆◆◆



2018 BUSINESS SPONSORS

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SSS

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Barb Adams

BEGINNING BALANCE Nov. 1 \$7,401.17

ENDING BALANCE Dec 31 \$8,495.07



(Continued from page 4)

of the wind where you wouldn't make the cook mad, and we'd hobble our horse and put a rope on the bridle reins and hang onto that while we's fillin' our plate. And eat right quick, and then it was change horses, and go again. You always had a hold of your horse. Here to Magdalena. Even at night, you'd keep your horse right by your bed. Well, without a horse, you're worthless.

BW: Did you ever hire anybody on, just to help move the herd?

DF: Oh, we'd work these cattle in the fall and maybe there'd be four of us, five. And then them same fellas'd take the cattle to Magdalena. Way back there, you were talkin' about early 1900s. Why, I'd have to assume they'd have several bunches of livestock on the driveway at once. You know they could start out with the lambs and then, I don't know if they—I certainly doubt if they'd mix the old ewes with the lambs, and there'd be another bunch of sheep, and then they'd have a bunch of cattle goin' in. And then for some reason, the old cow market gets better around Christmas, so they'd always ship a load or two of old cows about Christmas. And that could be just oh, not many head, so there'd be two men with a pack horse.



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. } } }