

# CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

PAGE 1

**Christmas Party at the  
CCHS Museum 4:30 PM**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

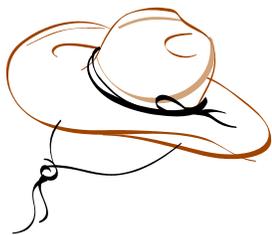
November 16—Glenwood Historical Families

December 2—Annual Christmas Party

January 27—Armijo Family History



## 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

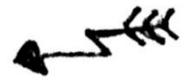
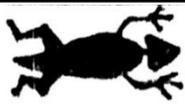
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## 2017 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Sally Blum, 575-772-2539  
VICE PRESIDENT: Bonnie Armstrong  
SECRETARY: Helen Cress • TREASURER: Barb Adams  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Shannon Donnelly • sdonnellyNM@gmail.com

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



**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Thanksgiving is almost upon us and then CCHS has the annual Christmas extravaganza. Soon after that comes Christmas. Thanksgiving is my favorite time of the year because I can cook, enjoy meals with friends and look up new recipes in my many food magazines and try some of the new recipes to save or throw away.

MUSEUM—Thank you for the generous donations and the continued support from the membership. We are able to continue with remodeling and acquire needed furniture for the meeting room. We recently acquired 44 chairs. We wanted to buy two or more display cabinets that Marnie found, but we decided to keep our bid low and we did not buy the cabinets. More tables were also donated. Our most pressing project is the electricity. The building is old and we do not know what must be done to meet our needs and meet safety standards. An electrician will help us with these decisions. The bathrooms and kitchen will be our next big project. Membership dues and donations will help go towards those goals.

MEMBERSHIPS APPLICATIONS WILL BE SENT BY EMAIL SHORTLY. THOSE THAT JOINED AFTER OCTOBER 1ST 2017 WILL CARRY OVER TO 2018. ◀◆▶

**HOMESTEADING SERIES: MURDER ON THE PUTNEY MESA**

Part Five

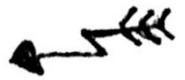
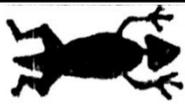
With his four burros, he (Ol' Man Young) was hunting for the Lost Adams gold; but when he heard that he took off. He was so scared that he was afraid to build a fire to cook his food. He just flat left his burros and rode off on a dun horse, bareback. He hit for Craigs, on the mesa; but he did not stay there long. Nobody knew what became of him.

The Navajos were asked if they'd seen or heard anything the night Tom was killed. They had seen the fire and said that they were not close, but it looked as though somebody was moving between it and them. They had seen two persons, but they were obviously trying to avoid becoming involved. They had had nothing to drink, so nobody believed they had any part in the killing.

After Tom Kroger was killed on the mesa, nobody wanted to work up there. One day Mr. Flood rode by our house and wanted my twelve-yearold brother, A.J., to go up there by himself. He knew we needed money and thought Mother might permit that. She said, "Mr. Flood, I thought you had better sense." He laughed and said, "Nobody will bother him up there." Mother said, "I'm sure they won't. That's because he is staying at home with me." But A.J. knew how badly we needed money and begged to go.

When I got home, Mother said that she would go with A.J. but I put a stop to that. I had borrowed some seed beans from Mr. Koger and that fall I paid him back when we harvested our frijoles. We rubbed them out by hand and tossed them up in the air to get the chaff out. With pinto beans and milk people could live, and especially if they had a little corn for meal. We had a good milk cow and were counting big on having plenty of milk and butter. We hadn't had any for a long

*(Continued on page 3)*



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**November 16** Join us in Glenwood at the Senior Center for a meal at noon. The program by Kathleen Shuster will be a PowerPoint presentation about the historical families in the Glenwood area. This will begin after lunch.

**December 2 Annual Christmas Party** at the Catron County Historical Society Museum in Quemado.

Time: 4:30 meet and greet; 5:30 meal; Carolers and Auction after meal.

Your board is preparing for the Annual Christmas dinner. This is the first year we will be holding the party in the museum. Paul Templeton will do the decorating. What we thought would be a fabulous idea has many challenges for us to overcome. We decided to do the cooking for the party ourselves. This is a first and we wanted to do this for the membership. We will have turkey, pork, gravy, dressing, sweet potato casserole, mash potatoes and all the fixings for the membership to enjoy. We have solutions to every imaginable scenario for what could go wrong—we hope. The board will also bring the appetizers. Membership to bring desserts. We will auction the beautiful quilt donated by Marnie Ashby and perhaps other items. We will have door prizes and carolers.

Lisa Blessing did the write up for the invitations. Marnie put it all together and is sending it out shortly. Please mark your calendars and return the R.S.V.P. so we can order the correct amount of food.

**January 27, 2018** rescheduled presentation by Paul Templeton on the Armijo Family history. This should be fabulous. Do not miss this presentation.



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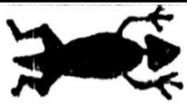
time and were getting tired of water gravy.

One evening while I was riding for Smokey Hayes, Joe Hogsett came by and told Mother when I got home to have me go look for that cow. For he had seen tracks of two horses, hobbled close to where our cow was grazing. It was snowing hard, but I picked up some cow track, seven head of them, with two shod horses following. I rode at a trot, still plainly seeing the tracks 'till they left the mesa for the plains. My horse was tired and tried to go home, but I kept him on that trail till I got to Ramone. Then I got off and checked my gun. I had been shooting at antelope and had only three shells left. Three miles up the Hubbell drift fence, the snow was so thick that I could no longer follow the tracks. I had to give it up and go home. And we never found that cow. But Mrs. Ada Hayes lent us a milk cow 'till I could buy one. We had two yearling heifers but it was another year till they were milk cows.

Mother and A.J. raised some corn to feed them so we got along fine.

***PART SIX, THE FINAL INSTALLMENT, IN NEXT ISSUE***





## REMEMBERING "OCHO JUAN" GATLIN

By Brenda Brenda Wilkinson, Archaeologist BLM, Socorro Field Office

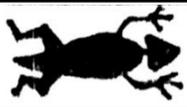
From time to time it's nice to remember some of those who served before us here at the BLM. John "Ocho Juan" Gatlin worked for the BLM Socorro office for about 10 years in the 1970s and '80s. He worked as a Range Technician, taught brand reading, and also took care of Datil Well Campground in its early days, including working with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) there. Several people who worked with Ocho Juan were interviewed for this story, as well as his son, Kelly Gatlin.

Many a BLM Range Con would have met him. As recounted by Tom Sidwell, friend and supervisor of Ocho Juan: "Another thing that he did, oh, back in the late '70s... The BLM, you know they had a Range Conservationist school in Phoenix, and new Range Cons, after they'd been on board a year or so, would go to that school. And one of the things [on] the curriculum was to come through our area. And we would talk to them about some of the things we were doing range-wise, and then Ocho Juan would put on a session on how to read brands. And so there's a lot of range conservationists back in the late '70s early '80s that learned how to read brands, and Ocho Juan's the one that taught that. We always had a session every year on that. You know Ocho was never very bashful or anything, and so... He would write brands. After telling how to read a brand, then he would write 'em on the board and have the range cons tell him what they were. So one of 'em was a 2 and then a lazy 2, you know, that's laying down, and then a P. [laughter] And then he'd ask everybody you know, how do you read that? It'd take a little while, and then they'd say—oh! Too lazy to pee! [much laughter] They always got a kick out of that."



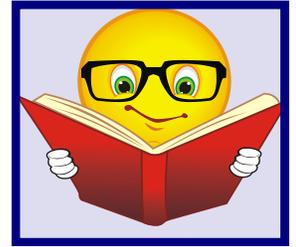
Ocho Juan first started working for the BLM in the late 1960s in Albuquerque as a WAE (While Actually Employed), or what we might now call a seasonal. He worked on projects throughout northern New Mexico. His son, Kelly Gatlin, recounted a story of one such project. "And then he had an opportunity to move to Questa and oversee the initial operations setup of the Rio Grande Gorge Recreation Area that's still at Cerro there, north of Questa. Anyway, my dad was out at the Recreation Area, and they hadn't even built the visitor center building or anything; I think they were just completing it, and things were all brand new. And I remember that he did a variety of things related to that, but at one point, because down at the river bottom... I think it was the first wild river designation in the country. So it had similar restrictions as a Wilderness, and of course it would be tough to even get a helicopter down in the bottom. And the BLM wanted to build a shelter and a picnic table arrangement, and maybe an out-house or something. And my dad had two horses and two mules, so I helped him one day to load all the metal materials on these two pack mules and go down the trail. I guess it's La Junta Trail, and that's perhaps the longest trail there. It really winds down all around. It's kind of a miniature Grand Canyon. It always impressed me, because I've ridden, but I was not a real cowboy, and we loaded these long strips of metal that were clanging and banging, and they were sticking out clear over the mules' rumps AND heads. And I thought, boy, this is made for a wreck, especially going down the side of this mountain. And the horses and mules did just great. They all handled it real well."

Also from Tom Sidwell: "A lot of people just called him Ocho. But how would I describe him? Well you know, he was easy goin', humorous, loved to pull somebody's leg, and the greener they were, the more he pulled! I've seen him tell some whoppers you know, to some tourists around Datil or wherever, but he was always very nice to people. We got a lot of compliments from campers up at Datil campground, and some of them would write in to the BLM, and they really liked him and they complimented him. And he kept things clean you know. He was always very diligent about doing his job. Just a nice old guy to have known,



BOOK REVIEWS

*Parallel Passions: A Life Together in Archaeology.* Papers in Honor of Karl W. Laumbach and Toni S. Laumbach; edited by Emily J. Brown, Carol J. Condie, and Helen K. Crotty, reviewed by Laura Bush



The book opens with autobiographical notes by the two honorees, husband and wife Karl and Toni Laumbach. Karl has been engaged in field work, laboratory analysis, and administrative work in archaeology, primarily in New Mexico, all his adult life. Toni has also engaged in field work and laboratory analysis, but her first love is museums; she recently retired as Deputy Director of the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces, having been there since before it opened. She also took a break from archaeology to get a “real job” as a nurse to support their family. Archaeology is their passion, but it doesn’t generally pay well.

The bulk of the book consists of 14 papers by various authors on various aspects of New Mexico archaeology. One paper covers a Spanish punitive expedition in 1795 against the Apaches and others suspected of attacking Spanish settlers, army, and the like. Another is a biographical sketch of Eugene Van Patten, citizen-soldier in the Las Cruces area and associate of Col A. J. Fountain. A paper reflects on the rush to assess and excavate even as the waters rose daily behind the Cochiti Dam in 1975. Another paper is a brief sketch of the history of Fort Bliss, near El Paso. And one is on 1929 studies of the ethnology and linguistics of the Zuni and Navajo.

Most of the papers, however, deal with prehistoric matters—Mimbres, Mogollon, Gallina, Chaco, assorted rock art, pithouses, pottery, and more. The papers are written in an accessible style for the most part but are scholarly in format and approach, with lots of citations and references for those who wish to pursue a topic in greater depth. There is a generous scattering of maps, tables, sketches, and photos (some in color).

The book is not intended as a complete overview of New Mexico archaeology but provides a sampling of its many aspects, pointing toward further study and exploration.



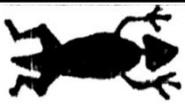
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and get to hear a lot of the history...”

“Everybody pretty much called him Ocho Juan. He was just the kind of guy you know, where everybody knew him. Everybody had a relatively good feeling about BLM because of him. He was a good ambassador. He was the kind of guy who knew the community. In those days [Socorro] BLM had about 100 employees. It was the grazing EISs that brought in that kind of [workforce]. And Catron County, especially, was very leery of all the BLMers driving around—all these young kids [just out of college] in trucks everywhere. And it was always good to have Ocho Juan around because he was grounded you know, and people trusted BLM a little more when he was involved in things” said Jonathan Hertz, another former BLM employee who knew Ocho Juan. If a person had any doubts about his credentials as a legitimate westerner, consider this. In the book *Pony Tracks* by Frederic Remington is a



(Continued on page 6)



### 2017 SPONSORS

- Apache RV Park
  - Mike & Chris Hill
  - Lobo Lane Enterprises
  - Bob and Nelcine Roland
  - Western New Mexico Land Company—Gary Blum
  - Garda Siocana Kennels—Molly Thomas
  - Dia Art Foundation
  - Jim & Joy Williams
  - El Ranchito Inn—Nettie Carrejo
  - Williams Windmill
  - Chapman Handyman
  - Cielito Lindo Ranch, Inc./Catron Courier
  - Crossfire Cattle Company/Greens
  - The Cactus Company—Barbara McCrimmon
  - Melody Fisher—artist
  - John and Deborah Walker
  - Catron County Search & Rescue—Peterson
- SSS

### TREASURER'S REPORT

by Barb Adams

BEGINNING BALANCE Sept 1.....	\$7,108.56
Income.....	705.00
Expenses .....	483.52
 ENDING BALANCE SEPT 31.....	 \$7,330.04
 BEGINNING BALANCE OCT 1.....	 \$7,330.04
Income.....	162.00
Expenses .....	90.87
 ENDING BALANCE OCT 27.....	 \$7,401.17



(Continued from page 5)

sketch titled Dan and Rocks of a cowboy on horseback with his dog. Rocks was the dog. Dan was Ocho Juan's father.

So where did he get that name? Ocho Juan's father was Dan Gatlin, whose bear hunt with Agnes Morley Cleaveland and Montague Stevens is described in Cleaveland's 1941 bestseller *No Life for a Lady*. Dan Gatlin was born in 1861 and married Edna McGrath 1896 in what is now Catron County, New Mexico. They had a large family—10 children, and Ocho Juan was the eighth, born in 1913. West central New Mexico was sparsely populated in those days, and ranchers would sometimes write letters to each other in between meeting face to face. As Kelly Gatlin told it: "And the story goes that David Farr had written to Dan Gatlin and was talking about ranching matters and so forth, and at the end he penned a little PS, knowing that my grandparents were expecting another child. And he says 'have you got a name for this new child, or are you just going to give him a number?' So after my dad was born, my grandfather sent a note back to Dave Farr, and he did the usual discussion about other matters, and at the end he said 'PS Ocho Juan'." ▶ ◀



### 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. } } }