

CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1, 2018

PAGE 1

**Annual Meeting April 21
At the Museum!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

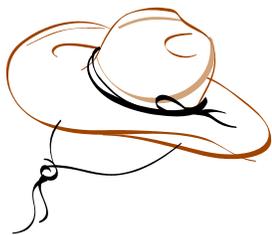
April 21—Annual Meeting 1:30PM

May—Outing being planned

June—Annual BBQ at Jackson Park

July 4—CCHS table at the Museum

HOW TO RENEW, OR JOIN THE CCHS



Send a check or money order to:
CCHS, PO Box 263
Quemado NM 87829

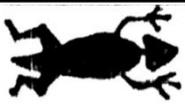
Individual Membership \$20/year
Family Membership \$30/year
CCHS Business Membership \$50/year

IN THIS ISSUE

From the President..... Page 2
Homesteading Poem..... Page 2
Paul Templeton Remembers Page 3
Ethel Major Cattle Drive Page 4
Book Report Page 5
2018 Business Sponsors..... Page 6
Treasurer's Report Page 6

2018 SLATE OF CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Voting will be held at the April 21, 2008 Meeting. Look for the slate of CCHS Officers and Directors in an email.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a wonderful time I have had as your President. I was fortunate to have the best board and officers I could possibly ask for. They will carry on and continue with the success of the Catron County Historical Society. This will be my last issue of the newsletter but have faith the newsletter will continue. One of the new Board Members is Shannon Donnelly. You know her as the editor of the Catron Courier. She has come up with many suggestions. One that you will see with this newsletter is the numbering or name of the newsletter. I always named it by the two months prior to the date I prepared it. Shannon and the board thought we should have a numbering system so you would know if you would be missing an edition. So the first one for 2018 is Volume One 2018. Shannon also has a machine that can take the articles I have and scan them so they can be edited. Thus saving time in typing the article. What a great idea. I was looking through some of the material I have accumulated since being involved in the Historical Society and I want to share some of these articles and other material I have with you. Since Shannon can scan them instead of me typing them I will get these to her and she can disperse them in the upcoming newsletters for you.

Helen Cress has two articles for you regarding the last two meetings we had. They were both historical and interesting.

MUSEUM—Marnie Ashby found ten display cabinets for us and the Board jumped on them and even had them delivered. They are wonderful and many board members and others were there to unload them. Now we need your antiques and memorabilia for them. These new cabinets will keep your donations secure and visible for the public to enjoy. If you donate an item or you can also loan it to CCHS please give us a written story about the item. Visitors are always interested in the history of your donation.

Because of our new display cabinets, we will be selling the remainder of the wonderful metal cabinets we now have in the museum. Since we need room they are selling for \$150.00 or best offer. These cabinets are great for jewelry, maps, gem collections or what have you. If interested, please call Bonnie Armstrong at 575-773 4527.



HOMESTEAD SERIES-POEM

By Cecil Moore

This poem is one furnished to CCHS. George & Della Kalberg built a Gas Station and RV Court at the west end of Quemado, across from the post office.

Old George in Quemado
He'll sell you some gas,
He will fill up your car
And clean off your glass.

He will work on your car
And he will make it go,
Has a great combination
For making the dough.

Come September the twelvth
He says they/r going sky high,
I told him if they did
The people won't buy.

His wife is named Della
And she helps with the pumps,
But when she's around
Old George really jumps.

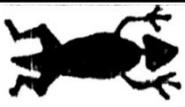
He has a cow ranch
With a lot of livestock,
When prices are high
George gets out of hock.

Now George gets nervous
Handling all of this dough,
So he loads up his car
And goes into Mexico.

George works very hard
Don't got many thanks,
But has plenty of money
In two or three banks

He won't talk sale prices
He says it's too soon,
He's waiting for cow prices
To jump over the moon.

First time he went down there
He got into jail,
He couldn't get out
Until he put up some bail.



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21—CCHS Annual Meeting. We will have our annual meeting at the Museum in Quemado. Our speaker will be Gail Armstrong who will talk about the Roy Dale Gallaher family. Voting for 2018 CCHS officers will be conducted. Slate of officers is attached. Meeting will begin at 1:30 PM. CCHS will furnish snacks and drinks. We will also have a silent auction. At this annual meeting we will have the plaques up for review of money and items that were donated to CCHS.

May—Outing. This is in the planning stages. Look for more information in an upcoming newsletter.

June—Annual BBQ at Jackson Park. We are looking to have the BBQ catered, and we're also planning music in the park. This will be the first annual BBQ at Jackson Park in Pie Town. This venue is easily accessible and give us plenty of space if we decide to have horse shoes or other games. •◇•

PAUL TEMPLETON ON THE ARMIJO FAMILY

Paul celebrated his birthday by helping to serve a great meal and then talking to the CCHS about his family, the Armijos. They're an old family in this area. His great-grandfather was Felix Armijo, born in 1889. His wife, Pablita, born in 1880, raised a large family of children, and the hard work she did to care for them showed a tremendous amount of character in a kind, elderly face. Paul described Felix as "a rough man", and one would suspect Pablita had a difficult life. He wrote poetry, according to his grandson, all of it in Spanish. As a deputy sheriff, he was involved in a gunfight over Nellie Carrejo's milk cow, which had been butchered right in her corral. He left the property he had purchased to Frank and his brother Jose.

Felix and his family lived in Reserve, but eventually the Armijos owned the Willow Springs Ranch, near where Mick Chapel now has his outfitter business. One son, Frank, was Paul's grandfather, and he married Emma Padilla. Paul said it was an arranged marriage and Emma was Warm Springs Apache. Frank was born and raised in Reserve, but spent most of his life in the Quemado area. Paul had a beautiful photo of Frank and Emma, a strikingly handsome couple. He said he spent lots of time with his grandmother.

Frank and Emma were married in 1924 and had five daughters and one son. Paul's mother, Pauline, passed away within the last two years. Frank was employed by the Department of Game and Fish most of his adult life. He was a trapper and had his own dogs, which most people were not allowed to touch. He once was able to go on a hunt to South America, taking his dogs with him.

In 1924, Frank was defended for shooting Simon Turrillos, a Game and Fish employee, and the wound proved to be a fatal injury. His bail was set at \$2000. Frank spent eight days in jail. He married Emma in 1928, and they had the 160 acres, plus leases, left by Fidel.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 2)

Said he talked to the Judge,
Down there he's a big man.
He let George go
When he gave him one grand.

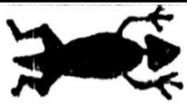
He decided to take her
Things went very well,
With Della a driving
George stayed out of jail.

Said if he's ask a girl
And she would say Si,
He wouldn't know
What the meaning would be.

Next time George got nervous
And wanted to go,
Della says you take me
Or else you don't go

I asked Della if he
Had a girl friend
She said, I don't think so
Cause he don't understand.





A CATTLE DRIVE IN 1950 AND 1951

February 24, 2018 talk by Ethel Major

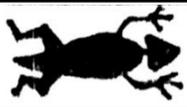
Ethel, with some help from journals she has always kept, told us about a cattle drive from the Largo Valley south of Quemado over to the San Augustin Plains in the fall of 1950. She was thirteen at that time and her brother Matt was only nine years old. None of the other people on the drive are still living. It was not the largest cattle drive but a cattle drive is a cattle drive except for great variations in the size of the herd and the distance covered. It just takes more people to drive a larger herd. On this drive there were several hundred head of cattle and five or six people. The drive was on the Magdalena Driveway that used to run from west of Springerville, Arizona all the way to Magdalena, more than 150 miles away. The driveway was five miles wide and had good watering places for the cattle about every ten or twelve miles—many developed by the WPA or CCC boys in the 1930's. If Ethel had not been taken out of school early that fall, she might not have been able to go on the cattle drive and this history would not have been written.

The drive took place in November of 1950. That year had been very dry and there was no grass for the cattle. At times the wind blew so hard that the dry dust filled the sky so the sun could barely shine. Over on the San Augustin Plains there was some grass. The cattle were driven for five days going over that fall – then returned the same way they had come in the spring. They spent the winter on the Jeffers Place to the Northeast of Datil on the north edge of the Augustin plains. The distance of the drive was about fifty miles each way. There had been 150 yearlings held over for the winter on the Jeffers place along with the cows. Before the mother cows were brought back home in the spring of 1951 the 150 yearlings were gathered and Matt and Ethel drove them across the San Augustin Plains for several miles to the little group of buildings and corrals that made up Augustin and where the train from Magdalena had a spur, so the yearlings shipped out to market from there. Then, after drinking a couple of hot cokes at Augustin, Ethel and Matt rode back up to the Jeffers place to begin driving the cows back to the Largo Valley, once Dorris and Frank had gathered them.

On a yellow Jeep pickup a homemade chuck box was loaded with large cans of water, cast iron skillet and Dutch ovens along with a big old enamel coffee pot, hay and grain for the horses and bedrolls. There were only five of them along with five horses. Dorris Simpson, an old time cowboy who had worked for the Morley's on the Datil area Drag A Ranch, really knew all the country and knew cows. The brothers from Pie Town helped some—one or the other—then Ethel's stepdad, Frank Williams, Ethel (called PeeWee) and Matt. Ethel's mother, Eleanor, was the cook and bottle washer and traveled back and forth in the pickup from the ranch and cooked over the campfire—they were up before dawn each day. The first night's camp was about mile marker #50 between Quemado and Pie Town. That was one cold night and the following morning everything, including animals, was covered with a heavy white frost—and it was cold. The cattle had been left in a fence corner among trees where they had been bedded down for the night. But instead they had gotten up during the night and were a mile or so headed west toward "home". They were regathered and brought back to the east for day two of the drive. After that night if there was no small pasture or trap to put them in, one of them would stand guard—probably Dorris or Frank. There were well built traps to put them in at the W Bar Ranch and again at the Hole In The Rock.

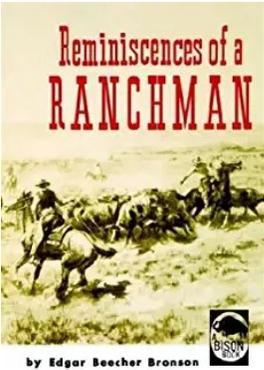
Except for cold nights the weather was pretty nice and no problem. The cattle settled down after being driven for a few days and got easier to handle and each cow became either a leader or a follower and maintained their own particular place in the herd. After leaving the historic W Bar Ranch, the cattle were moved to the southeast and up a long deep canyon and back down where the canyon came out close to the historic Hole In The Rock campground this side of Datil. The cattle were pushed, once again, into a well fenced trap

(Continued on page 5)



BOOK REVIEWS

Reminiscences of a Ranchman, by Edgar Beecher Bronson, reviewed by Laura Brush



Much of today's popular image of the Old West is based on stories of the cowboy and gunslinger life and the Indian wars of the 1870s and 1880s. It's amazing how much impact such a brief time can have. Some of those stories, of course, were accurate.

In 1872 the author, a former newspaperman, left New York City for the "cow country" of the West. After learning the trade as a tenderfoot ranch hand, in 1878 he bought his own herd and established a ranch in what is now northwest Nebraska, just north of the Platte River. Seeing the imminent end of ranching as he knew it—due to homesteading, overdue bad weather, range overcrowding, and incoming hordes of settlers—he sold his share to his business partner in 1882 and returned to the East. His story of those ten years, of the people, horses, cows, terrain, and events he experienced, is a first-hand view into a formative period of Western history.

In addition to detailing his life as a ranchman, he devotes much of the book to describing the end of the Indians on those Plains. He was a witness, even a participant to a small degree, to the last attempt of the Cheyenne under Little Wolf and Dull Knife to preserve their way of life. He also describes what he says was the last great Sun Dance, held on the reservation by perhaps 12,000 Ogallala and Brule Sioux in 1880 or 1881. His attitude toward the Cheyenne and Sioux was less simplistic and more sympathetic than that of most ranchers and even, unfortunately, those in the Indian Bureau and other positions of authority.

The book was originally published in 1908. This edition is a reprint of the 1910 edition, which was slightly expanded. It would have benefitted greatly from a map or two. His depiction of dialog attempts to convey the dialect of the cowboys, which slows down the reading a bit. Despite that, it is clearly written and easy to read, as well as interesting. I enjoyed it.

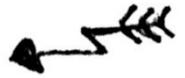
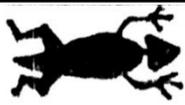


(Continued from page 4)
for the night.

It had been a long day and was getting cold. Ethel, once the cows were in the trap, had gotten off her big horse, Chief, and had loose wrapped the bridle reins around a small limb and gone into camp for a drink of water *before* unsaddling her horse (a no-no). Eleanor had setup camp early with a big fire and really good smelling food. They had had nothing to eat since breakfast. When Ethel went back to unsaddle and feed her horse, she found Chief had pulled the lose reins off the limb and hightailed it back up the canyon with the idea to return to the Largo. When she told Frank and Dorris what happened she was told she was the one who didn't take care of her horse first and then had loose tied him—so it was her responsibility to go after him. So back up the long, cold and almost dark canyon where there were the tracks of Chief dragging the reins. She had always kind of been scared of the dark. So the darker it got the scarier it got. She finally came to a closed gate several miles up the long canyon—Chief was just standing by the gate. She tightened the cinch and got on and she and Chief were back in camp fairly soon—a very good lesson!

The following day was somewhat difficult driving the cows down Datil Canyon and close to the highway and then had to cross the herd over the highway a few times due to ditches, etc. Both horses and especially cows do not like pavement until they get used to it and especially don't like yellow and white lines—thinking they are cattle guards. It was another long day. Camp was established a bit south of Datil and the cattle were in a fenced corner again, with someone on guard. The next day they were driven down to the

(Continued on page 6)



2018 SPONSORS

BOB & NELCINE ROLAND
 WESTERN NEW MEXICO LAND
 COMPANY/GARY BLUM
 DIA ART FOUADATION
 HUBBELL RANCH
 J & C LODGING-CYNTHEA
 WASSERBURGER
 CIELITO LINDO RANCH, INC./CATRON
 COURIER
 WILLIAMS WINDMILL/MATT
 WILLIAMS
 EL RANCHITO INN/NETTIE CARREJO
 APACHE RV PARK/LON & SUSAN
 STROMBECK

SSS

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Barb Adams

BEGINNING BALANCE Jan. 1..... \$8,495.07
 ENDING BALANCE March 11..... \$6,749.11

(Continued from page 3)

From early days there was a tie to the Carrejo family, Frank's daughter Tillie married Willie Carrejo, and Frank's son Danny married Lucy Carrejo. Billie, JJ, and Ernest Carrejo were all in World War 11, Billy earning a purple heart there.

Sadly, as reported by Paul, on Frank's last day of employment, while he was training the fellow who was to replace him, the man reported Frank because he had not told the agency of a man who had poached a deer, and Frank was fired, losing his retirement. He told his family, "If I had it to do over, I'd do just what I did. That man needed the meat to feed his family." In their old ages, both Frank and Emma died of cancer, Frank in 1981 and Emma in 1989. They had moved to Quemado, into the old Gloria Lyons home. ◇◇◇

(Continued from page 5)

Jeffers place. So ended the fall drive and the cows were driven back to the Largo in the spring of 1951—the same way they came. Only some had young calves who got tired and they had to leave several cows along the way to have their calves – which someone went back for in a few days. It was a great experience at a time when people did such things. The Magdalena Driveway was abandoned sometime after mid 1970's or so and was sold to adjoining landowners, Ethel believes. Ethel really enjoyed writing this story.

(Editor: The Driveway was in use from 1885, when a railroad spur was built from Socorro to Magdalena. In 1916, the Driveway was officially designated as such with the signing of the "Grazing Homestead Act". The last portion of the Driveway was closed in November, 1971. Dave Farr brought the last herd of cattle to Magdalena on the Driveway in 1970, and some of his story can be found online at: <http://mountainmail.blogspot.com/2010/02/farr-chronicles-end-of-magdalena-stock.html>.) ▶◀

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. }}}}