

CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1, 2020

PAGE 1

2020 Memberships Available

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 17—1:00 PM Skip Price, long-time resident of the Reserve area speaking about his family and when they came there.

FEBRUARY: To be announced.



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

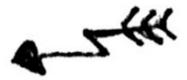
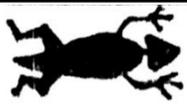
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2019 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Helen Cress (575)773-4177 helenwcress@hotmail.com; Vice-president Chris Hill;
Treasurer Barb Adams (575)773-4694 badamssr603@yahoo.com; Secretary Maggie Hubbell (575)4770 hubbell@wildblue.net. Advisors: Doris Clymo, Nettie Carrejo, Bonnie Maldonado, Rhonda List.

www.CatronHistory.Org



FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are wrapping up another year at the CCHS and hope to continue having your participation in our upcoming plans in the New Year. We want to grow and to provide programs you will enjoy in the coming year and sincerely hope you will participate so we can keep the historical society an active community form of entertainment. We would ask all of you to reach out to neighbors and friends and encourage them to join and take an active part in our organization. New members would add new talents and ideas, and we need new blood in our organization.

We would welcome ideas from members of handymen who would like to be hired for jobs that come up. It is hard to find workers who can do small jobs. Right now we have several jobs that need to be done. We have the Ag teacher at the high school lined up to help us put up bars over the windows to make our building more secure and also to help us make a more secure back entrance. He has agreed to give these projects to his students, helping with their education and also assisting us with our needs.

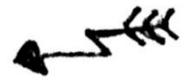
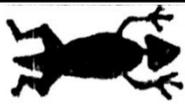
We need some additional electrical work in the big room you first enter as you go into the museum building. We have areas where plaster has fallen off the exterior of the building and holes need to be filled in order to keep the adobes dry underneath. And we need to have someone go up on the roof and check on two areas where we have had leakage. This is a typical old building and it requires a huge amount of upkeep, which is difficult for us with our very limited income.

Many positive things are happening for us at the museum. We have, in the past, had to use the bathroom that belongs to Dia Art. We rent an office and bathroom to them and it is used by visitors who come to visit the lightning field. They have people booked up far ahead of time to go to the lightning field, and they are always at capacity from May 1st through October 31st. At that point, we are forced to close the museum, turn off the water, and drain and blow out the pipes, winterizing the very cold building until the following May. We desperately needed a bathroom for our members, visitors and speakers. We wanted to repair a bathroom in the back of the building, and to shore up an adobe wall in that bathroom that was bowed out because there had previously been a sewer plug-up that caused the adobe bricks to "melt" enough to allow the wall to lean. We hired Michael Ritter to do the work, and he did a beautiful job of supporting the wall of concern, cover it, re-floor the area that had had serious water damage, and re-plumb it for a new commode and sink. He put down new flooring and tile and did a beautiful job, and he very generously donated his work and many of the supplies. We are very, very grateful to Mike for his generous work. The board members plan to have more exhibits as soon as the projects to make the building more secure have been completed.

The next big job will be decided by Dia Art. They approved cutting down the elm trees in back of the museum, which were just nuisance trees and were causing repeated instances of plugged sewer systems. In cutting them down, one was felled in a way that it fell on the roof on the northwest corner of the building and did significant damage to the roof. Dia Art agreed to pay for the cutting, and we will find out from them what we do about this.

We are happy to report that we have the famous Tom Teefertiller still on display at the museum. My mother always knew, after she arrived in the area, that Teefertiller had a still, and after she and my father bought the Teefertiller part of our ranch, she was mystified because she never could find it. Then, a few years ago, Dustin Armstrong was hunting near Tom's old home, and the light was probably just right so that he noticed this still up in a tree, an area where my family had worked and ridden horseback numerous times, and no one else had ever seen it there. They contacted my brother Jim, who went with them, and they removed it from the tree. Jim displayed it in Carlto's store, not having a place for it in his home, and we re-

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RECENT EVENTS

On Wednesday October 2nd at 1:00 PM, 2019, Dr. Doug Wolfe gave a lecture at the CCHS Museum in Quemado. He talked about the excavation he has done with his crew on the Zuni Plateau in New Mexico, not far from the Arizona state line. Here his crew has excavated two new species of dinosaur—the zuniceratops—and a later one. He has named them both and they are on exhibit in a museum in Phoenix. Dr. Wolfe spoke on how he happened to choose this area for his excavations.

A real bonus was that he came to Quemado in the morning and went first to the school, where he spent an hour each with high school and grade school students, then presenting at the museum in the afternoon. At present, he and his wife Hazel have some of their findings in a museum in Springerville, but because he is out in the field so much of the time, it is only open from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturdays. The museum is right on the main street of Springerville.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 17th, Friday at 1:00 PM, Skip Price, long-time resident of the Reserve area speaking about his family and when they came there.

FEBRUARY: To be announced.



CHRISTMAS PARTY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019

Our annual Christmas party this year was held at the Quemado Senior Center, and it was a smashing success. Credit goes to all the board members who helped in the preparations. Rhonda List deserves huge accolades. She began planning the theme and the decorations not long after last year’s party. She called it “An Old-Tyme Christmas” and she had a beautiful hearth scene with a radio that resembled radios of days gone by, with a rug in front of the hearth.

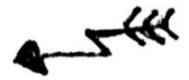
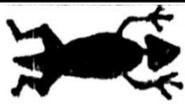
The pinon tree was decorated by Barb Adams and Bonnie Maldonado, again using large pine cones and snowflakes, each bearing the name of families of Christmases past. Bonnie set up the computer and projector to show photos of those now gone. The hearth was donated very generously by Melody Fisher, and the flame puts out a significant amount of heat. It will be used, I am certain, in the museum on cold days and highly appreciated by the beneficiaries of that heat. The entire display just exuded warmth and comfort.

The tables were beautifully decorated by Margo Reagan, who, along with volunteers Caroline Nelson and Lenora Hagan, and of Rose Whitakwer, the senior site manager, helped tremendously in bringing everything together and preparing the food, which was cooked to perfection. These women cooked the meat, members brought all the side dishes that make a real Christmas dinner, board members brought desserts, plus extra side dishes when needed, and made appetizers, as did some board members.

Helen set up for the silent auction, and we had many items donated this year for that auction, so folks had ample time to shop there during the evening, A wonderful book called “Dust to Dust”, on the subject of graveyards in Catron County, was auctioned. The author, Kathryn Roberts, was once again in attendance with her husband, all the way from Bosque Farms, and she donated her book to CCHS.

We are grateful to everyone who came and helped us make this a truly great and enjoyable party.





GRANDMA NELLIE'S MILK COW

By Helen Cress

I spent a morning with Nettie recently as she gave me history of her great-grandma Nellie Whiskers. Nellie was a red-headed Irish woman whose parents left Ireland during the famine there. The Whiskers family stopped in Paris, France, where they were to board a ship destined for the United States, and while there, Nellie was born!

Nellie eventually had two sisters and a brother, and her father, Adam, moved the family to Missouri, once in the US. He went into the military service. This was probably sometime in the 1860s. He later took the family to El Paso, Texas where his military service continued. From there, Adam seems to have dropped out of the family history. Nellie's mother, Mary Ellen, and her family re-surfaced in St Johns, AZ, where a step-father is mentioned. He was a military man also, and was stationed at Fort Apache. History records Nellie marrying a man named Albert Franklin in St Johns. He was much older than she and was quite well off, owning several businesses. He was abusive, and in 1881 she moved back in with her family of origin, leaving Franklin. She filed for divorce in 1883, and it was granted. Unbeknownst to her later family, she was illiterate, and signed that document with an "x". Subsequently, she met and married Juan Carrejo III, and was disowned by her family because she had married a Hispanic man. Juan Carrejo I had come from Spain with Onate in the 1500s, traveling through Mexico, up the Rio Grande Valley, to Casas Colorado. Juan III, age 15, and his 12-year-old brother, Domingo, went to St Johns, AZ with the freight wagons headed there. After Nellie and Juan married, they moved to Picnic Hill, southeast of Springerville, where they homesteaded. The couple broke horses and took them to different towns and sold them. Nellie was a part of all of this. At Picnic Hill the couple started their family; Ambrosio, Juan IV, Enriquez, and Frank. Three other children, born there, did not live. Nellie, assisted by her children, built the first road across Picnic Hill. The area they owned is still called the Carrejo Pasture. Juan died and was buried there. When Nellie left there, she walked away from the place; she did not sell it.

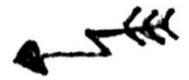
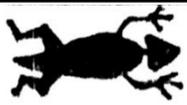
When Nellie left Picnic Hill in the time period of 1900 or 1910, Ambrosio stayed with her, as was then the tradition for the oldest child. Juan had left home and was driving freight and the US mail from Valle Redondo (Round Valley) to Magdalena. He settled then at Queen's Head, on the NH Ranch, where he filed on a homestead. This piece of land he patented in 1909. Three years later, in 1912, Nellie, accompanied by Ambrosio and Enriquez, moved to that area and took advantage of the Homestead Act. Frank had died in 1907 and was buried in the Rito Cemetery.

This leads us to the story of Nellie's milk cow.

Nellie and her two boys were living near Queen's Head. The nearby neighbors at the NH Ranch were the Coopers, who were known to be cattle rustlers. The original Forest Ranger's Station was also in that area. Nellie's milk cow came up missing, and Nellie knew the Coopers were stealing and butchering cattle and selling the meat. She suspected them immediately and found out they had her cow. She sent Juan to get the cattle inspector, Fidel Armijo, along with Candelario Chavez, who was with the Mounted Police. Candelario deputized the Carrejo brothers. All these men spent the night at Nellie's home. Her instructions to them were, in an Irish accent but stated in Spanish, "Leave no seed. Kill them all." She was known as 'The Boss', and I'm sure her instructions carried some weight. Another man who was with the Carrejos was Byrd Cochran.

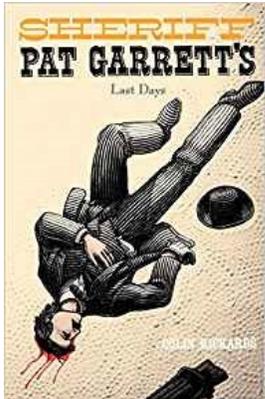
Early the next morning, the men arose early and rode up on top of a ridge, and when they heard a gunshot, they rode down to the Cooper corral. A gunfight ensued. Two of the Coopers were killed; Bruce, a son, and Clay, his father. So many shots were being fired that it was hard to know whose shots were the

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BOOK REVIEWS

Sheriff Pat Garrett's Last Days, by Colin Rickards,
reviewed by Laura Brush



The names of Sheriff Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid will forever be linked. Aside from a brief mention, however, this book ignores Billy and focuses on the last few months of Pat Garrett's life—why and how he died and the aftermath of his death.

The first chapter of the book covers the bulk of Garrett's life—born in Louisiana, then moving back and forth between Texas and New Mexico as a cattleman, lawman, speculator, gambler, customs agent, author, family man (eight children with his second wife, whom he married after his first wife, her sister, died shortly after the wedding). He was chronically short of money, in part because he gambled more enthusiastically than successfully and in part because when he had money he shared it with friends.

Many reasons have been given for killing Garrett. As a lawman he had certainly made his share of enemies, both among those he arrested (and their friends) and among those he was still investigating. Some of the latter were men of power and influence in the Territory. People were afraid of his temper, which was not improved by his heavy drinking. In addition he was buying a piece of land north of Las Cruces on which to raise horses; it contained a spring which neighboring ranchers would no longer have access to, and control of water often led to bloodshed. When the neighboring "men of power and influence" were unable to pressure Garrett to leave, they arranged to remove him permanently. A young cowhand was persuaded to confess to the shooting, but no one believed him and he was acquitted.

This is a short book and the text is even shorter than you'd think, since the footnotes at the end of each chapter cover nearly as many pages as the chapter. The book also includes an index, bibliography, and five pages of very clear photos. A useful addition to a classic New Mexico story. ◆◆◆

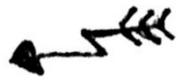
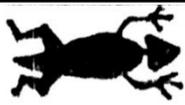


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fatal ones; even Effie, Mrs. Cooper, came out with her shotgun, but it 'kicked' so violently that it knocked her down and she lay screaming and crying. A daughter, Bonnie Cooper, approached the corral with a .22 rifle but apparently did not fire it. It was believed that Clay Cooper shot Juan Carrejo, from the side, and the bullet went through the saddle skirt. That saddle is on display today at the CCHS museum, bullet hole and all. Because he had turned reflexively, the bullet penetrated on his side, and was not fatal. Juan was later taken to the ranger station, helped by his brothers, and his wounds were cleaned. He and Harmon were the two with bleeding wounds, and they were taken to the hospital in Socorro, but recovered without serious problems. The whole series of events were reported to the Socorro County Sheriff, a man named Joe Baca (but the sheriff here was Elfego Baca), to the Forest Service Superintendent in Magdalena, and to the Justice of the Peace for the county. Murder charges were brought against Juan and Ambrosio Carrejo, Byrd Cochrain, Candelario Chavez, and Fidel Armijo with \$10,000 bonds each, but a Grand Jury did not indict them. Harmon Cooper was charged with cattle rustling but was never tried. His father's and brother's bodies were taken to Magdalena and were buried there.

Friends of the Coopers threatened to avenge the Cooper deaths, and Cochrain was attacked and almost killed as he rode horseback to Aragon; his horse was killed, and he later became a friend of the Carrejos and told them Effie Cooper had hired him to kill the Carrejos, at \$3000 reward for each one.

Nellie lived out her life at her home at Queen's head. She had cancer at the end and died from that in 1942. Over the years she taught the Carrejo children to ride horseback, to rope, and generally imparted her skills to the youngsters in her family. ◆◆◆



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TREASURER'S REPORT

11/1/2019—12/16/2019

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Expenses | |
| Museum Building | 216.10 |
| Utilities..... | 144.96 |
| Entertainment..... | 80.97 |
| TOTAL | \$492.03 |
| Income | |
| Books | 20.00 |
| Donation | 550.00 |
| December Meal..... | 452.00 |
| 2020 Memberships..... | 1,110.00 |
| Silent Auction | 220.00 |
| T-Shirts | 20.00 |
| TOTAL | \$2374.00 |
| BALANCE 12/16/2019..... | \$11,512.62 |

(Continued from page 2)

cently moved it to the museum.

So, in the year ahead I think we will need to have more variety in our programs, and I hope you will attend, and will help us to know what you want and expect. We plan to have more general New Mexico history, and to take advantage of more programs given by the New Mexico Humanities.

We look forward to the year ahead and to serving all of you with quality programs. Happy New Year to all.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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. **Learn more at CatronHistory.org.** \$\$\$