

CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 2, 2019

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Annual Meeting April 20!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 20 — *La Llorona* presentation by Bonnie Maldonado

APRIL 20—Guest speaker will be County Commissioner Anita Hand, giving a history of her father, long-time rancher and County Commissioner John Hand



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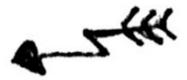
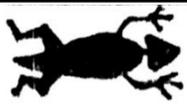
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2018-2019 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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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

The first winter in many to receive above-average precipitation has most local residents grinning as if they had good sense. And some are agonizing at still another storm as they fight to pull a foot out of the quicksand-like mud that threatens to remove a shoe if they are able to remove their foot at all! But even the latter are not going to complain where any local neighbor can hear them, because moisture is rare out here, and one could be completely ostracized for such a complaint. It's an unwritten law that says you must be happy for every trace of moisture in any form because it COULD be your last

The CCHS is active and thriving, and we hope you are all committed to making this year our best ever. We are trying to come up with a diverse selection of programs that will meet everyone's expectations. In January, we had a "Tribute to Jim Williams." Several of Jim's long-time friends attended and many good stories were told about Jim, commemorating his adventures and stories. It was a wonderful thing for the family to hear these, to share some of their own, and to hear some tales they had never heard before. We recorded all the stories and now have them on DVD. It occurred to me that we could do this upon request for any family who has lost a member, and it would be a joyous experience and a treasure to have on hand.

In February, we had a program on the Baca family, starting with Cabeza de Vaca and leading up to Eliseo and Nick, Gene and Maggie. This involved real in-depth research on the part of Eliseo's only daughter, Ana, and her son Joseph. They gave a power-point presentation that was well-organized and easy to follow. Both DVD's will soon be ready for purchase just by contacting any of us on the board of directors.

Our March program will be organized and presented by one of our newer board members, Bonnie Maldonado, who is our official tech expert. She has been a godsend. She knows and understands that bizarre, recalcitrant, impossible, repugnant, confrontive, die hard, disobedient, contentious, repellent, unyielding, indomitable, obstinate black hole of a piece of equipment known as the computer. I don't know just what that says about her, but she owns my soul and I am SOOOOOOOOOO glad she came on board. On Wednesday March 20th at 1:00 PM at the Quemado Senior Center, Bonnie will talk about a long-standing tradition among Hispanics in which they try to coerce their children into behaving by threatening to go to "La Llorona" if they do not, much like many of us use Santa Claus around Christmas time. Only we start in May or June and the whole threat sounds a little empty by Christmas time! So Bonnie plans to dress in period costume and read some of her stories about *La Llorona* and see if she can frighten us. I'm already scared just contemplating this. When we were discussing the program, an elderly Hispanic woman stopped in, and at the mere mention of *La Llorona*, she shuddered very convincingly. We are really looking forward to Bonnie's presentation.

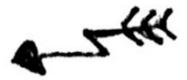
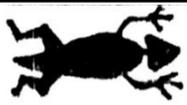
If any of you have a person or family you would like for us to include in a program, or if you would like to give a program on family, we would really encourage you to call one of us. My phone number is (575) 773-4177. We still have several months open for more subjects.



CATWALK TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The Gila National Forest, Glenwood Ranger District is reporting that the Catwalk Recreation Area is temporarily closed. Due to rain there is debris and the road crossings are flooded. New Mexico Department of Transportation has been notified and are scheduled to clean up the debris during the week of February 25 (However, this may take longer.) Remember, please do not cross flooded roads. The water can be deceptively swift and easily wash your vehicle down the wash. It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away most cars and just 2 feet of rushing water can carry away SUVs and trucks. It is NEVER safe to drive or walk into flood waters. Turn Around Don't Drown!





UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 20: Bonnie Maldonado presentation on "La Llorona", Quemado Senior Center, 1PM.

APRIL 20: Guest speaker County Commissioner Anita Hand, giving a history of her father, long-time rancher and County Commissioner John Hand, Quemado Senior Center, 1 PM. And of course that will be our annual election of officers and board members.

July 12: Tootie Ake will give a history of Datil rancher Marvin Ake, at the Pie Town Community Center, 1PM.



HISTORY OF THE HOGGSETTS

By Helen Cress

A recent visit with Barbara Adams revealed a family who came to the area with almost nothing and managed to exist under the harshest of circumstances at a time when almost no one was increasing their wealth, and who considered themselves fortunate if they managed not to starve. It was a time leading up to and then surviving the effects of a world war and then a major depression, and ultimately a SECOND world war, and times were very hard.

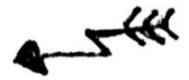
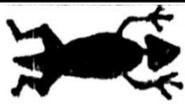
The journey westward was begun by Joe Hoggsett, Barbara's father. He had come through a portion of the state in this region on a troop train and had liked what he saw. Just where that rail line was located was not revealed; perhaps Grants, Gallup, or Magdalena. He had been residing in Beaver, Oklahoma, though he was born in Missouri and had lived in Arkansas, as well as the other two states. The family moved often, probably in an effort to scrape out an existence. Joe was one of nine children: eight boys and one girl. There were two sets of twins. That must have been considered a real concern at a time when survival was not easy. The only female was the person we all knew in this part of the country as Carrie Kalberg, mother of Howard, George, and Jackie.

Joe homesteaded north of Omega in 1921. Joe was the oldest child still living at home and his father had died. He was a World War I veteran. He had helped with the burial of his father in Arkansas and then moved in with his mother to help take care of and support her. He helped her raise the rest of the children. With that mission accomplished, he made his way westward after he had served his country in time of war. His impression of this country seems to have been that of a real optimist, because he wrote a letter home saying, "I have found Paradise!" Makes me wonder if his siblings ever took him to task over THAT statement when times were tough! But they must have trusted his judgment, because a host of Hoggsetts arrived, including Grandmother Hoggsett, and Fred, Paul, Carrie, Ed and Dick, all of whom homesteaded, and all, I believe, on 640-acre plots. Later, Cotton bought Dick's homestead. All were settled in the region north of Omega.

These were very hard-working men. Joe began trapping in order to support the family and hired on as a government trapper. This he did in the winters, and, in order to survive, the Hoggsett brothers returned, annually, in summer and autumn, to the Oklahoma area to work in the wheat harvests. There were no combines there at that time, and the men shoveled all that wheat by hand! All of this added on to proving up on the several homesteads! It boggles my mind to contemplate the amount of work required to accomplish so much!

Joe's wife—Barbara's mother—came from Arkansas. An interesting aside I obtained from Barbara, revealed a tale of Grandmother Hoggsett once sending Joe to Clara's mother's house to carry the baby,

(Continued on page 5)



A REAL TEACHER

By Helen Cress

The best teacher I ever had was a local woman named Huberteen Williamson. Of strong German stock, she had been prepared for her job at the University of Iowa. She was strict, but absolutely fair, and had the respect of her students. She professed to be very hard-of-hearing, but we who attended her classes can all recall times when some foolhardy kid said something derogatory about her, and she heard it and addressed the comment from across the school room. She was almost always chosen as the senior class sponsor, and when she went on school trips as a chaperone, she was responsible and attentive, but also lots of fun. I really believe she cared deeply about those she taught and respected each individually.

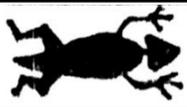
Huberteen taught me all, I'd say, or very near it, that I have used all my life, up until I received my nursing education. She was equally good at teaching general math, English, journalism, history; just anything. When I was in eighth grade she instructed us in ancient European history. Had anyone asked me at the time if that would be of interest to me, I feel certain I would have said, "No way." But she made it come alive for me, and I loved it. She put a large banner up all around the school room, and she started with Mesopotamia and the real onset of language and agriculture and life as it developed from there. As the banner extended around the room, she had cultural events in chronological order, including the history of Athens and Sparta in Greece and the building of the Roman Empire, etc. It was fascinating, and seeing it in its order of occurrence on her banner made it easy to remember. In English, she had us diagram sentences, a skill which has been abandoned for some time in public education. But it gave us a real understanding of the parts of speech that my children and grandchildren have not had.

And my brother Matt once said that all the math he uses in his well business, whether calculating perimeters or circumferences of a circle or finding the number of square feet in a given area are things he learned from her. She was the best all-around teacher I ever had. I remember a very capable, knowledgeable instructor I had in my nursing education who really made the entire subject of anatomy and physiology come alive for me, but when, in a subsequent semester she was guiding us through pharmacology, we had a very difficult time. There was a huge amount of rote memorization required in that subject, and she admitted openly to us that she did not like the subject, and therefore she did not do a good job of imparting the information to us.

We were very fortunate to have had such a skilled teacher in this small school. The reason we did have access to someone of her caliber was because she was married to a local rancher. She had so many skills; she also coached and directed school plays. There

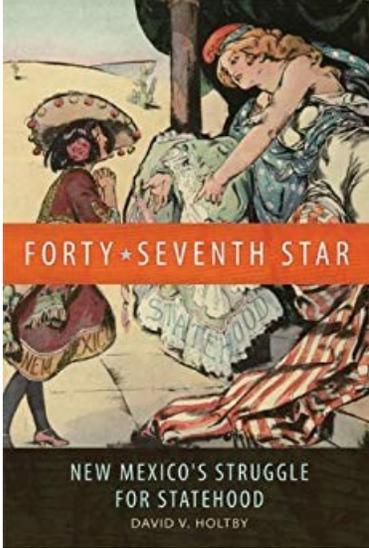
Was just nothing that she did not do well. I will always be grateful that I had her and had my mother to encourage me, because both were pushing us to a good education.





BOOK REVIEWS

Forty-Seventh Star: New Mexico's Struggle for Statehood, by David V. Holtby, reviewed by Laura Brush



Published on the Centennial anniversary of statehood, this book focuses on the period from the 1890's to 1912, when New Mexico entered the Union as the 47th state. As the author tells the story, the primary obstacle to statehood was the concern felt by Eastern Republican politicians, particularly in the Senate, who were distressed by the shift in the balance of power caused by the recent admission of several Western states. These new states had sent primarily Democratic Senators to Washington. Those defending the status quo wanted no more Democrats, or at least as few and as late as possible.

The arguments presented for New Mexico remaining a Territory, of course, had a wider appeal. They included the issue of gold or silver as the basis of currency (the East favored gold, the West favored silver), a racism which hesitated to grant full voting rights to Hispanics, a perception of poor education and illiteracy in the population, Anglo-Saxon distrust of a population which clung to its Hispanic language and culture, and a too-sparse population ("You need more people and more water before you can be a state."). In short, New Mexico was not New England and just didn't seem worthy to join the Union. It also didn't help that each time the statehood effort in Washington seemed to be making some progress, another scandal or indictment—"miscues, hoaxes, and frauds", as the author puts it—would surface to give opponents the ammunition to say that New Mexico was unfit for statehood.

The book details the efforts—or lack thereof—by Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft, and the obstructions by Senators Aldrich and Beveridge in Washington. In the Territory, major players included Thomas Catron, Miguel Otero, and William "Bull" Andrews.

It's a fascinating story of honest differences, dishonest maneuvering, political deals, options offered and rejected (for example, joint statehood, where New Mexico and Arizona would be admitted as one state, probably named Arizona), and the final dash to write a constitution that was acceptable to both the people of New Mexico and the President and Senate back East.

The book includes numerous photos as well as notes, bibliography, and index. Recommended. ◆◆◆

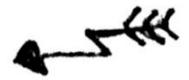
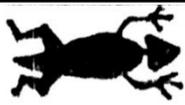
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who was Clara, up the hill for her mother. Joe was then seventeen years of age; he was seventeen years older than Clara! I'm sure he must have known her, over the years, and Barbara did not mention the courtship; I would imagine there was at least a correspondence, because Joe went back to her area and married her in 1932. The only way he was able to afford to do this was to sell the homestead, and when he had achieved his mission and returned to New Mexico, he moved in with Grandmother Hoggsett and worked that homestead. When his mother died, Joe was granted the property. Grandmother Hoggsett had gone back to Beaver, Oklahoma to visit a younger Hoggsett and died there. She was buried there in Oklahoma.

Joe and Clara had three daughters: Ida Bell, born in 1933, Naomi, born in 1935, and Barbara, born in 1945. Barbara was "supposed to be a boy", and so her father called her "Bob" and took her with him to take care of cattle and do what work needed to be done.

Joe worked for the government as a trapper until 1951. By this time he was having health problems and

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SSS

TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE 12-28-18.....	\$9,853.23
BALANCE 1-31-19.....	\$9,663.80

NOTE: We also still have \$634.08 in the First Financial Credit Union, as that account has not been closed out.



(Continued from page 5)

he needed to get away from the work of trapping. Clara had found it necessary to send both the older girls to school at Harwood, a girls' school in Albuquerque, because they had no way to get them to school in Quemado, and apparently there was no bus route to their area, and she was adamant that she did not want to send Barbara away to school, too.

Joe died in 1973 from prostate cancer that had metastasized to his brain. Clara died of old age in 2003. Joe had received treatment in the VA Hospital in Albuquerque and Barbara cared for her mother. Barbara and Bub bought Fred's homestead and were granted a part of Grandmother Hoggsett's property and ranch those parcels today, plus leased properties scattered over a large area around Quemado.



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.** }}}