

CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 3, 2019

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May—outing to museum in Springerville

June—Anne Hillerman (tentative)

July 12—1:00 PM, Tootie Ake on the History of Marvin Ake, Pie Town Community Center

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
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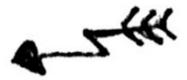
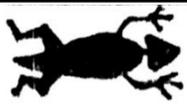
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2018-2019 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Helen Cress (575)773-4177 helenwcress@hotmail.com; Vice-president Chris Hill (575)773-4177 and her email, chisme54@hotmail.com.; 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.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is time for another message to you, the CCHS membership. It is no longer sunny, as I sit here, but is generally overcast and the wind has gone way up in velocity, but I will try to keep my message upbeat.

We have missed having the museum open and possibly having some of you wander through from time to time, or bring visiting guests for a tour, but we will be opening the doors to the public again in early May. As before, we will have the museum open the first and third Saturdays of each month, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM, so in May, that will be on May 4th and May 18th. That is about the earliest date that we will be able to have running water in the building again. We will discuss that frequency of having the building open depending on the demand, or the interest we generate. We welcome any of you who would have an interest in helping us keep a staff of two attendants on the premises when the museum is open, contact me at (575) 773-4177, Barb at (575) 7734694, Chris at (575) 772-2578, or Maggie at (505) 469-4963. We will always have one board member on duty when open, but each could have an assistant.

One of the ideas we are circulating, since we have had windmill calendars two consecutive years now for sale, is to switch, at least for now, to making a calendar with recipes from early homesteaders in the area, with a photograph of the edible item, along with a photo of the person who provided it. If you do not have anything like this, or we do not get enough recipes and photos, we might try getting local old-timers with a favorite recipe and a photograph. Just specify which you are submitting. These can be mailed to: CCHS, PO Box 263, Quemado, NM 87829. We would need them quite soon so we can start assembling calendars. Barb has made both those beautiful windmill calendars for the last two years and has done a stellar job, though it has been very labor- intensive.

May will be a very busy month, with graduation, the Memorial Day weekend, and other events. In that case, we will try to have just an outing scheduled for May, but not a historical presentation. We hope to schedule further outings throughout the summer and fall, so we will advertise them as we go. If any of you care to lead some such outings, please let us know.

Anita Hand, one of our county commissioners, had her presentation scheduled for April 20th at 1:00 PM, a Saturday, and we provided beverages and cookies. She gave us a history of her father, Johnny Hand, long-time rancher in the Datil area and former county commissioner.

In June I am very much hoping for a program with Anne Hillerman, who, if we can entice her here, will bring books to sell, and we hope will sign books for us. I do not have a firm commitment on this yet, so, if for some reason she cannot come, we will hope to have a substitution of something of historic interest.

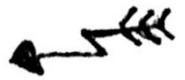
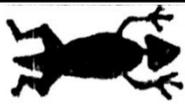
We have Tootie Ake in July, giving a history about her late husband, Marvin Ake, on Friday July 12th at 1:00 PM at the Pie Town Community Center. Again, refreshments and beverages will be served.

August we are presently holding open for any interesting program we think of down the road. And of course the Catron County Fair will be coming up then, at which we will have a booth.

In September is the Pie Festival, where we will also have a booth. That leaves October 4th, a Friday, for a presentation by Dixie Boyle and her friend, who will dress for the time period they are depicting and do a historical re-enactment.

November is open, and December we will host our annual Christmas party at the Quemado Senior Center. So we have lots of plans and we look forward to sharing them with all of you!





UPCOMING EVENTS

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

August—Catron County Fair.

September—Pie Festival.

October 4—Dixie Boyle will bring a friend and they will give a re-enactment of something historical and will be dressed for the times they are depicting.

November will be reserved for getting ready for the Christmas party, and the Christmas party will be in early Dec.



JOHNNY HAND

By Helen Cress

The Quemado Senior Center was the host of a program April 20th featuring guest speaker Anita Hand, who talked about her well-liked father, Johnny Hand. Johnny came to this country following his military duty, in 1953, and was employed by Marvin Ake, well-known rancher in the Datil region. He worked for Marvin until Marvin's death. In the meantime, he and his wife Helen bought the old Hood Anderson ranch, but he continued in Marvin's employ. He and Helen had two children, John and Anita. Both their children still live on the ranch, as does his widow, Helen.

Johnny was persuaded by those who knew him to run for County Commissioner, and he served two, four-year terms in that capacity. He was then "termed out", but later was again asked to serve again, and again he served two, four-year terms. Many people have told me that he always heard their concerns when he was a commissioner and helped them when he could. His daughter Anita is now one of our commissioners, and feels that her father's footsteps are not easy ones to follow.

Johnny died last March, the 27th, after suffering a broken leg and then a prolonged bout of osteomyelitis.

Following the above presentation by Anita, Norm Maisel entertained and assisted the CCHS by auctioning off three gift baskets. There was also a DVD sale, half-price off. Refreshments, sodas, and coffee were served.

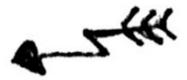
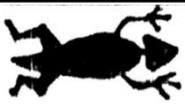
A HISTORY OF DON HOBBS

by Helen Cress

I had the recent great pleasure of meeting Don Hobbs, with an introduction by my friend, Kathy Garceau. It was a beautiful spring day and we were visiting Reserve, where Don resides with his wife, Carolyn. As Don talked, the conversation led to horsemanship, by some circuitous route, and I mentioned my mother's skills as a trick rider, on which Kathy elaborated in describing a photograph of my mother going under the running horse's belly, and Don looked at me and queried, "Are you Jim Williams's sister?" To which I replied that I am, and of course he knew Jim well. They were both organ transplant recipients, and he said they commiserated together a few times. I should have known; Jim knew everyone.

Don and Carolyn live in a lovely, restored log home that belonged to his grandmother, who was a Shackelford by birth. Her married name was Hobbs, and around the town of Reserve she was known as "Granny Hobbs." The home was built in 1944, and a large part of it was built by his grandmother. Don's grandparents had originally homesteaded at Horse Springs and eventually sold that place to Montague Stevens.

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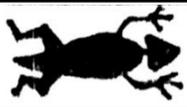
The house originally had a flat roof and it leaked at times. Grandfather Hobbs had a pitched roof put on the house in the 1950's, which corrected that problem Don says he learned many of his carpentry skills from his grandmother.

In the Reserve area, prior to his birth, Don's family was living in the Apache Creek region, where his father worked on the Double Heart Ranch. That ranch was under the ownership of Mick and Buster Alexander, and now belongs to Skip Price. His father was also a heavy equipment operator, which necessitated frequent moves as jobs required. The family moved with him to Colorado for Don's third through fifth grades, after which they returned to the Reserve region as Don entered the sixth grade. He stayed from that time on to graduate from high school there in 1961. The family left there by the time he was entering high school, and he lived with his grandmother during those high school years. He raised corn and beans in the open field north of the house for FFA projects when he was in high school. Unfortunately, there is now a transfer station in that lovely field. Don's mother, who was a Wright, gave birth to him in Moriarty, at his grandmother's home.

When I interviewed Don, he told some interesting stories of his memories of the town. Glen McCarty, who is recently deceased, owned the movie theater, as well as the juke boxes and pinball machines. The movie theater was located between Jake's store and Uncle Bill's Bar, in the vacant building in that location. Don's wife, Carolyn, said she worked in that theater when she was in high school, and bought her first pair of high heels with the money she earned. She said there was a clothing store in Reserve at the time whose owner allowed her to pay for the shoes weekly until she had paid for them. Don talked at length about Dr. Foster and his wife, Norma, who functioned as his nurse. He related a hair-raising tale about going to Dr. Foster, who treated his bad tooth; Dr. Foster pulled the tooth. Don said the doctor then probed around where the tooth had been, which must have been quite uncomfortable, and said to Norma, "There is still something in there, and I can't get it. I am going to put this chisel against it, and you hit it with this hammer," which both doctor and nurse proceeded to do. Out flew a wisdom tooth that had been residing under the other tooth! And Don never left the chair! I almost stampeded on hearing about it! Dr. Foster resided in Reserve for many years. At one time he practiced in Mogollon. He delivered many babies in the Reserve and surrounding regions. He was still in his office in 1979 or the early 1980s, when I, as a school nurse for the Quemado and Datil schools, once took a busload of children to Reserve for school physicals so they could participate in sports at school, and referred to him a case I became aware of in the nurse practitioner's office.

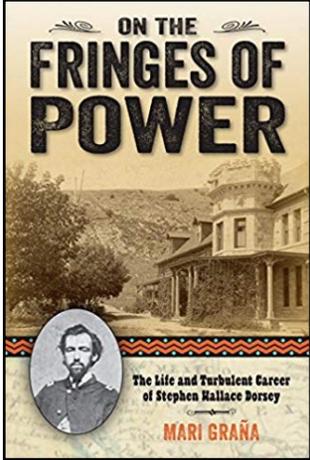
Don left the Reserve area in 1962, after completing his high school education. He had met his first wife, who was from Sumner, Washington. They had two children, a boy and a girl. He was employed there until 1976, when he moved his family to Tucson, Arizona. He worked with air-conditioning and refrigeration, a great choice of work for that too-warm area of the country. That stint of employment took him out on the road much of the time. Later, he went to work for Hughes Aircraft in Tucson. That became Raytheon Missile Systems, and he retired from there in 2000. He and his wife moved to Quemado, where they lived south of Quemado Lake. As often happens with active people, he became bored with the retirement existence, and mentioned to his friend, John Pearson, that he needed some kind of stimulation. John hired him to work for the United States Forest service in 2002. Don's liver transplant was done at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale in 2011, after a period of frequent requirements for stint placements in the bile ducts of the liver. When he was allowed to return to work for the Forest Service, he was not able to perform anything heavy-duty, and so he was given the job of working in fire lookout towers. This was not very inspirational work after the awe of the view from that altitude wore thin, but he continued until last year. Since then, his

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BOOK REVIEWS

On the Fringes of Power, The life and Turbulent Career of Stephen Wallace Dorsey, by Mari Graña, reviewed by Laura Brush



Stephen W. Dorsey lived, as the subtitle says, a turbulent life. Born in Vermont, he then lived in Ohio (where he enlisted to serve in the Civil War, being discharged as a lieutenant colonel), Arkansas (where he was appointed a US Senator after only two years' residence), New Mexico, Colorado, and California. Along the way, he dealt with a cloud of political corruption (buying and selling votes, paying and accepting bribes, probable governmental contract fraud), lawsuits (as plaintiff or, more often, defendant), business dealings that led to great wealth and near poverty, and the resultant significant ups and downs in social standing. He was often investigated and sometimes indicted and tried, but rarely convicted.

His time in New Mexico was fairly brief. In 1877 he purchased the *Una de Gato* land grant. During most of the second half of the 19th century, the legal status of land ownership in New Mexico was, at best, unclear. The Spanish and Mexican land grants were often not recognized by the US. It's quite likely that Dorsey never had a valid title to his land. Nonetheless, he established a ranch and built a huge house when he escaped from his legal troubles in Washington DC. He remained active in politics, despite the low public opinion of him due to two widely-publicized trials; he was acquitted, but no one believed him innocent. He became affiliated with the Santa Fe Ring, if not a full member. His lack of success in New Mexico caused him to leave politics for good. The 1880s saw hard times for ranchers, with blizzards and drought, and his fortunes faded. Perhaps his most lasting accomplishment in the state was his part in the establishment of the town of Clayton, named for his son. (The town of Dorsey did not last long.)

He left New Mexico in 1891, not quite chased out by creditors and political enemies. His time in Colorado and California were spent investing in mines, particularly gold mines. He was more consistently successful in this endeavor, eventually, and lived the last couple decades of his life in wealth and social acclaim in Los Angeles.

The book contains photos, extensive notes, bibliography, and index. A worthy addition to the New Mexico history shelf.



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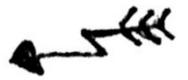
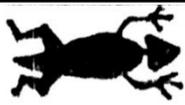
work has been renovating the old home in Reserve where his grandmother lived for so many years.

Don had the good fortune to get reacquainted with Carolyn, his present wife, after he moved back to Reserve and after his divorce. They had known each other in school many years earlier. Both were by this time single and it was an ideal match for both. Carolyn was a Fryar. Her father was a logger and the family moved to Reserve when Carolyn was in eighth grade. She also had two children by her previous marriage, and they have a number of grandchildren.

The home that had belonged to Don's grandmother was built in 1944. Her previous home burned down in 1943 or early 1944. The Forest Service had allowed her, and Don's grandfather, to cut the thirty-foot logs for the building. The sawmill in Reserve processed the boards that were used, and they only sold rough-cut lumber at the time, so that was used on the interior until the renovation.

Don has fond memories of going with his grandmother to hunt crystals and explore ancient Native American sites, when his grandmother was well up into her 70s. He reminisced about jobs he had in high school,

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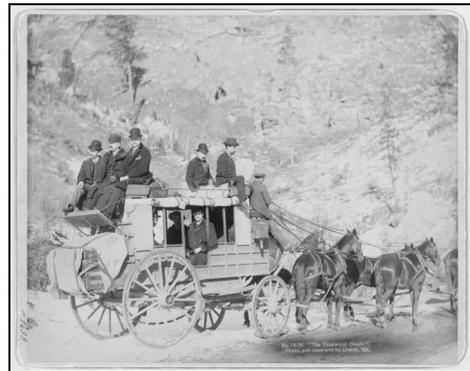


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TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE 1-31-2019	10,282.86
BALANCE 2-26-2019	9,397.29
BALANCE 3-1-2019:.....	\$9,397.29
Income	546.37
Expense	302.56
BALANCE 4-7-2019:	\$9641.10



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where he was gainfully employed most of that time. In fact, he actually began working in the eighth grade for Dutch Tenney, who had the station where Michelle's Corner now exists. There he pumped gasoline and changed oil. He described a sizeable mistake he made in that era of employment, when he inadvertently drained the transmission fluid from a Pontiac, instead of draining the oil pan, and, by the time the driver reached Springerville, Arizona, with the freshly-serviced vehicle, the transmission failed. He was happy to learn that Dutch possessed insurance that covered the expense of that error! He also worked as a janitor at the school during his high school years, where he related the most difficult part of his tasks was cleaning up the mud other students tracked in to the buildings. The main janitor, under whom he worked was Ramon Jaramillo. During the summer months, when school was not in session, he assisted Ramon doing maintenance painting of schools. At one point, the school district had purchased some Quonset huts, and his job was to help move those to the sites where they were needed.



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.** }}}