

# CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 4, 2018

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**Donations for Silent Auction  
Needed!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 25, 1PM**—History of the US Forest Service by Ron Henderson, Catron Museum, Quemado

We're planning silent auction at the Christmas party, so if any of you have items we can put in, we would be grateful. We will have the Christmas party early in December but have not decided on a date yet. If you have an item to donate, contact Helen Cress.



### HOW TO RENEW, OR JOIN THE CCHS



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

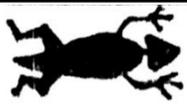
Individual Membership      \$20/year  
Family Membership            \$30/year  
CCHS Business Membership   \$50/year

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### 2018-2019 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Helen Cress (575)773-4177 helenwcress@hotmail.com; Vice-president, to be named; Treasurer Barb Adams (575)773-4694 badamssr603@yahoo.com; Secretary Maggie Hubbell (575)4770 hubbell@wildblue.net  
Directors: Doris Clymo, Nettie Carrejo, Chris Hill, Shannon Donnelly. Shannon is also the newsletter editor.  
[www.CatronHistory.Org](http://www.CatronHistory.Org)



**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**W**e are coming up on the end of another year and hope to improve our museum and our programs. We lost several members of the board this past year and miss those who are not with us. Sally Blum was definitely due for a break after being president for eight years, a record I doubt I will achieve because there is lots of detail work involved. Wayne Ashby certainly put many miles on his vehicle, attending most of our monthly meetings, which is difficult when one lives south of Reserve. Bonnie Armstrong, who has spent her life in this area, has had some ongoing health problems that have required her to resign from the board. And dear Charlie McCarty we lost several months ago, unexpectedly. We so much appreciate all those folks and the positive effects they had on our organization.

There has been a steep learning curve in taking on the position as president; many things I never knew and was not sure I wanted to! I was recently asked for our business license, which sent me blindly scrambling. I called the Catron County Courthouse for information, and then Bill Green, our county manager. What I learned is that Catron County does not issue business licenses to anyone.

We have a program coming up on Thursday Oct 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at the museum in Quemado, featuring Ron Henderson of Silver City and repeating his earlier program with the early history of the US Forest Service. It was so well chronicled, with wonderful historic photographs that, because attendance at that program was low and did not get recorded with the camcorder, I wanted to see it presented again. Ron has been very generous in coming a long distance to do this for us, and is well-organized with his information.

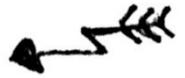
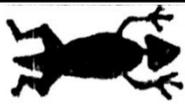
We have reinstated our 501(c) 3 status and can now issue tax receipts for items donated to the museum. I still need information from anyone who has made donations giving me any history about the item donated, which allows me to document each item. I received a wonderful documentation of previous owners of The Exchange, now Southwestern Supply, from Bob Roland, and will document that.

We are open to all your ideas. If you see things that would improve our facility, or know stories we could present to the community, we will try our best to research those stories. We welcome all visitors. We ask for your attendance and suggestions so we can have a viable ongoing presence here.      ◀◆▶

**LAST ROUNDUP OF THE Y**

**O**n July 21, we welcomed our speaker Kathy Bliss Klump, who has written several books on local history including *The Last Roundup of the "Y" Cattle Company*. Kathy is a member of Western Writers of America and is on the Board of the Cochise County Historical Society. In researching a business in Wilcox, Kathy came across the files of the attorney who represented the receiver in the bankruptcy case of Hurst, Black, Kiehne and Wiley. The file contained over 700 pages of information, and Kathy was able to reconstruct the events leading up to the failure of the ranch. The time period is fascinating with cattle drives and ranches being built in the Territories of New Mexico and Arizona.

It is not certain when the partnership was formed. In February 1885, new brands were recorded for Black, Kiehne and Wiley. The partnership settled at Snow Creek on eastern slope of the Mogollons. Suffering heavy losses that winter they relocated to the south edge of San Augustin Plain on the Negrito. More brands were recorded in November 1885, and the address for the partnership was given as Patterson, NM. Patterson was located six miles west of Horse Springs. In July 1886, the partnership delivered to Magdalena 10 car-loads of steers. Then the drought of 1892 and 1893 and the Panic of 1893 when the stock market crashed hit. The partnership began defaulting on their loans, lenders began to demand cattle be sold to pay the loans and by 1894 lenders began filing lawsuits. After one partner, George Black, died, the partnership tried to hang on but the end came and after all cattle were sold the total receipts were \$82,032.40 and after expenses paid only \$2,000 left which probably went for additional attorney's fees.      ◆◆◆



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

OCTOBER: Ron Henderson on early history of the US Forest Service

NOVEMBER: To be determined

DECEMBER: Christmas party. Date to be determined. Will keep you posted.



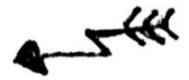
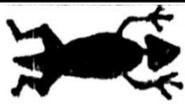
**SUSANN GRAHAM MIKKELSON**

Susan drove out in July from her home in Socorro and presented an excellent program to the CCHS at the Datil Community Center. Her story was about three Catron County families who make up her heritage: her paternal and maternal grandparents and each of her parents.

The Baldwins, from whom her paternal grandmother came, were the Levi Baldwins who arrived from Ohio in the 1800s and moved to Socorro in 1882. They had two sons, Fred and Lee. Fred was a rancher and business man and opened a general mercantile in Magdalena, which went bankrupt during the Great Depression; much later it burned down. But Fred was all about community and financial disaster came because he extended credit to so many who had no money. His wife Belle lived to be 85-years-old. Their daughter Ruth, born in 1910, was Susann's paternal grandmother, who studied at NAU and became a school teacher. She and Claude Graham, the paternal grandfather, were married in 1932. Susann has letters written by Claude to Ruth when he was courting her, and they were again community-oriented people who served as postmasters in Datil, drove around the state interpreting Spanish when asked, and raised three children. Claude was a cook in his Navy days, a rancher, worked for the State Hwy Department, ran a small store and confectionery next to the Post Office, and was volunteer fire chief in Datil for 20 years. He and Ruth had three children: Lee, David and Ellen. Claude's parents, James and Frances Graham, known to many in Catron County, arrived in Albuquerque in 1906 from Paducah, KY. In 1914, they moved to Magdalena, and in 1915, on to Quemado, where they lived for many years. They owned a garage and hotel/boarding house in Quemado, where Frances cooked. James also ran the "mail hack" from Quemado to Magdalena. Local children loved Frances, whom they called "Granny", and she was a friend to all children, whom she fed, cooked for, babysat, and loved in return.

The Summers family, Henry Lee and his wife Clyde, with their daughters, settled some 30 miles north of Pie Town. Five girls were born to them, and Bonnie, Susann's mother, was one of twins. Henry was angered that none were boys, and he made his daughters fit the role of men. They could all do a man's work: break hoses, build fence, work on windmills, whatever was needed, and they were tough. Their home began as a dugout and then was added onto. There was no heat. All the girls were home schooled through American School. Henry's brother, Hillary, moved to Pine Park with his wife Pauline. He was a Baptist minister and they had two children, Mildred and Phillip, who died young.

Bonnie had been told that she was unattractive and could never attract a man, so her job was to take care of her parents in their old age. She believed this and accepted it. When Lee eventually came courting, she did not know he wanted to see her, and would go off somewhere. Lee went in to the Army and when he was discharged and left Germany, he courted and married Bonnie, who was two years older than himself. Lee Graham, born in the Socorro Hospital, was very serious, mathematically brilliant, and excelled at whatever he did. He hated games and would never play them with his children. At 12 years of age, he drove Datil school children to Reserve to a spelling bee because the teacher, Lorraine Reynolds, could not drive. He graduated from high school at age 16. When 12-years-old, he took over his dad's ranch and he ran it. He was very expressive in letters, but not so much in person. It had not been love at first sight. Bonnie had once



## GROWING UP WITH COYOTES (PART 2)

By Ethel Majors

I grew up learning all the different wild animals and what their role was on a ranch. I began to realize their challenge was survival, the same as for all of us. Many animals are put in categories and judged in unfair ways. Many times blamed for doing things they are not guilty of. People should be responsible owners and not leave small and young animals out where they are vulnerable to predation. With sheep these days, there are fencing, guard dogs such as Great Pyrenees and herders. Chickens, etc. should always be inside a house at night. Horned Owls, raccoons and skunks are especially prone to predate at night, and many times Coyotes get the blame. There are many more destructive rodents than there are the animals that depend upon them for food, mainly rabbits and ground squirrels.

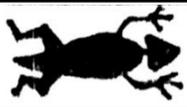
When growing up along the Largo we seldom lost calves to coyotes. When we did, it was most always a three legged coyote that had been caught and escaped from a trap that was the culprit. It was not their fault they were crippled, but they usually needed to be put down. And not by poison that kills everything in sight: buzzards, ravens, bobcats, foxes, and family dogs.

When actively hunted, trapped, poisoned, etc. the wily coyote seems to have many tricks up its sleeve. First of all they go into high gear, whelping many larger litters of pups, maybe ten instead of three, and whelp oftener. The young females go into estrus much earlier than usual, so coyote numbers usually stay about the same. Coyote males weigh about 50 pounds and females around 30 pounds and may live 13 years. They mate for life and prefer open range and from six to 25 miles of range. They have a 63 day gestation; pups are born blind but with fur. Pups nurse for two weeks and are out of the den by six weeks where they run with their parents until July. Coyotes can run at 45 mph, the only animal that, in relays, can run down a Jack rabbit. They do not hunt in packs. They may mate with domestic dogs producing Coydogs. Coyotes are an important check on grass-destroying rabbits and rodents. They clean up carrion and are no threat to the calves belonging to range cows who, unless very sick, guard and protect their new born calves. A day old or so calf left beneath a shrub or whatever, has no scent and a natural instinct to lie perfectly still and not move until its mother returns from water or food. A guard cow is most always left with a group of baby calves. When quite a few cows are calving, a smart coyote may hang around to clean up the nutritious after birth and many times a wise old cow knows the coyote is not a threat and that it will go quietly on its way, as soon as the mess is cleaned up. Many healthy cows eat their newly dispelled after-birth for the nutritional value and also to do away with any alluring odor.

You may wonder how I know some of these things, so I will explain. On the large Colorado family ranch I married into in 1956 I was very involved in livestock production for close to 17 years. Calving time on that mountain and foothills ranch began in February and continued through May each year. There were several hundred cows and we practically lived with those old cows for the entire four months, usually working up to 12 hours a day, seven days a week, with no breaks. We coped with the snow storms that produced from a few inches to a few feet by building three big calving sheds and had a small trap around each shed and a corral and larger pastures on either side. We were constantly shifting these cows from one pasture into the trap when ready to calve, then into the sheds when it stormed. After calving, we moved cows with calves into the pasture. We fed both cake and hay when needed. A couple of times a day or more we drove the five to ten miles between the three sheds. Many times we might have to pull a breech calf to save it. There were only two of us, my husband and me. Sometimes I would get so tired I didn't know if I was coming or going, but it was worth it. We seldom lost a calf.

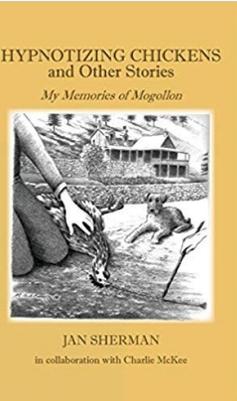
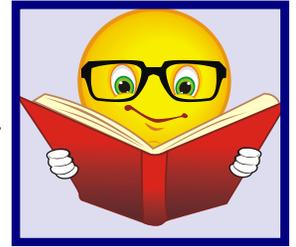
But some years we lost calves from strange and unforeseen problems, but never from coyote predation.

*(Continued on page 5)*



BOOK REVIEWS

*Hypnotizing Chickens and Other Stories: My Memories of Mogollon* by Jan Sherman, reviewed by Laura Brush



This short book is told as though the author was sitting in an adjacent chair and remembering stories from her childhood over iced tea and cookies. She and her brother, Bud, grew up in Mogollon while it was a busy mining town. Lots of miners and few children meant that the brother and sister had to make their own entertainment. And how they did!

The family moved to Mogollon in the 1920's when the author was "about five years old". Her father, a German immigrant, took whatever work he could find, later settling in as a purchase agent for one of the mines. They lived in a solidly-built stone house built in 1908 which is still occupied today. It was located up the canyon from town, so the youngsters were really on their own.

Mogollon then was a wonderful place to grow up—exploring various caves and playing house in them with scavenged boxes for furniture; overnight fishing trips to Whitewater Creek or another creek, which provided a fresh fish dinner, a night sleeping under the stars, and then a creel full of fish caught the next day to take home; hypnotizing chickens (yes, she does explain how); crawling through abandoned mine tunnels; riding down the conveyor belt from the mine head frame to jump off just before the ore crushers; panning for gold in a pool in the creek; and numerous other activities – sometimes it's amazing to consider how they (and their parents) survived. The Depression might have held sway in the outside world, but they were having fun in theirs.

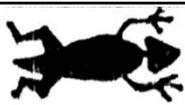
School in Mogollon went through the eighth grade. Beyond that the author and her brother went to Silver City for high school. They stayed in town with their mother during the week and went home on weekends. That lasted one year, after which they took the bus to Reserve, a ninety-mile round trip. The author provides a brief recounting of her life after that, but it's clear that her time in Mogollon was "the truly special" part of her life.

The book contains 25 historic pictures and a map of the area. It is a welcome addition to the history of our area and an entertaining read in its own right. ◆◆◆

*(Continued from page 4)*

If a cow did calve out in the big pastures and happened to lose a calf, we always backtracked her when she came in with a tight bag and would find the calf. If the calf was sick, we doctored it, but if the calf was dead we let it lie. Later we would go by where the dead calf had been and the coyotes would have eaten it. The same thing with a dead cow. We would depend on the coyotes and ravens and magpies to clean up the carcasses. Many people seeing a cow that had lost her calf would immediately blame it on a coyote and call a trapper. Most people do not watch and know their cows like we did and blame any loss on predators, without having a clue what took place.

Now domestic dogs that go wild are something else! The ranch was mostly 10 to 15 miles or more from town. More than a few times we had packs of so-called family dogs with from two to eight or so dogs come all the way out and we could hear them barking in the thick trees and draws! Cold chills would run down my back when I heard them and I was really afraid of them. They, unlike coyotes, would kill just to be killing and many times eat their victim alive. We lost baby calves a time or two and yearlings several times. One evening we were coming back toward the house for the day. When we stopped to go through a gate I got out to open it and could hear the dogs barking excitedly to the east in a small draw. We always carried a 30-30 in the pickup for such times. *Continued in the Next Issue*



### 2018 SPONSORS

BOB & NELCINE ROLAND  
 WESTERN NEW MEXICO LAND  
 COMPANY/GARY BLUM  
 DIA ART FOUNDATION  
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 WILLIAMS  
 EL RANCHITO INN/NETTIE CARREJO  
 APACHE RV PARK/LON & SUSAN  
 STROMBECK

SSS

### TREASURER'S REPORT

by Barb Adams

JULY  
 Expenses ..... 470.33  
 Income  
 Calendars..... 120.00  
 Books..... 78.00  
 Donations ..... 88.00  
 Memberships..... 100.00  
 Other ..... 101.20  
 BALANCE 7-31-18..... \$7,438.60

AUGUST  
 Expenses Utilities & Space Rental..... 110.25  
 Income  
 Cabinet Sale ..... 200.00  
 Memberships..... 20.00  
 T-Shirts..... 40.00  
 Other ..... 90.00  
 BALANCE 8-31-18..... \$7,678.35

(Continued from page 3)

known him at school during a brief time that she attended public school, and thought, probably, he was "stuck up", when he actually was probably an introvert, as many gifted people are. But they were married for many years and he was loved by his wife, daughter Susann, and her brother Jimmy, born in 1968 and drowned in Texas at age 14.

He was shot in the back by Henry at one point the motive was not discussed, apparently. He drove heavy equipment, and worked for Jay Taylor on the HH Ranch. He was an election judge for 15 years. Bonnie worked alongside him, whether riding horseback or running equipment. She cooked at the school, started a 4H Buying Club in the county, was active in the school Booster club, and convinced Kenneth Coker to open the Eagle Guest Ranch on Sundays for those who were attending church and wanted a place to eat afterward. When Kenneth said he did not have the waitresses to do that, she volunteered the services of herself and Susann and they worked there on Sundays! Susann was born in 1969. She took care of her mother the last three years of her life, and Susann is the only one remaining alive. ▶◀

### 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](http://CatronHistory.org).** }}}