

# CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 5, 2018

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## Happy Holidays!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

December 8—Christmas Party, Quemado High School,  
4:30 PM

January—A History of Windmills by Barb Adams & Doris  
Clymo



### 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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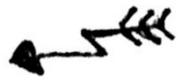
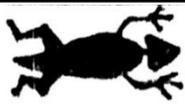
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### 2018-2019 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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, Bonnie Maldonado.

[www.CatronHistory.Org](http://www.CatronHistory.Org)



**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

We are about to embark on a new year, willing or not. We would love to have all of you renew your memberships and encourage friends to join us. This seems to me to be a huge opportunity for all of us, to preserve the history of the area, of those who paved the way for the rest of us. It is amazing how much history the area has, and our purpose is to salvage what those of us living here now can find.

All we ask is your participation. We will do our best to research anyone whom you might suggest. We want to have outings when the weather is better to share areas we know with the rest of you, and would be happy to have YOU lead outings that are of interest.

If we are to succeed in making the repairs needed at the museum, which is of very pertinent interest, we need to maintain a healthy membership, and to have some fundraisers. The building we occupy as a museum was constructed in 1920 by Ed Engle, an early 1900's business man. It is adobe, with stucco on the exterior. Many businesses in the past were set up in this building. A favorite for many of us was Jo Tadlock's ice cream parlor with a soda fountain.

An early history of the rodeo business involves my family. Eleanor and Walter Heacock bought property up the Largo, south of town about eight miles. They erected a rodeo pen, complete with chutes and grand stand, announcer's stand and all, and rodeos were a highlight for entertainment. Prior to those, I imagine that some ranchers had performances in which riders were happy to do exhibition rides, outside any arena, but I do not have first-hand knowledge of that.

Homesteaders poured into the area in the early 1900's and before. Many lived in very simple dugouts and were there until they could possibly have enough success to build a house.

We are happy to try diligently to provide quality programs and to accept loans or donations to our museum. If you donate, or HAVE donated an item, please give us any history you might have about that item. That will greatly augment the interest to visitors. You may also loan items, if you are not ready to donate them. We want this museum to belong to all of you, and to be an exhibit you want to bring friends to see when they visit you. We will be closing the building at the beginning of November, because we need to winterize it. We will open it again in the spring and will announce a date in a later newsletter. We will then also provide a schedule of when the museum will be open. We also want to give a special thank you to Kathy Garceau for work above and beyond the call of duty in terms of helping with just whatever is needed as a member of CCHS, and to her husband, Steve Ziegler, and his friend for shutting off the water supply to the museum and winterizing the building.

We genuinely hope to see you at the Christmas party!



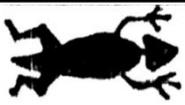
**GROWING UP WITH COYOTES (PART 3)**

By Ethel Majors

We had a healthy population of coyotes on that ranch and we loved having them, they helped keep down the numerous rabbit and rodent population. We never allowed hunting, trapping or poisoning of coyotes all the years we were there and they often serenaded us with their wild harmonic howl. I especially enjoyed it when a few pups would excitedly join in, as I do now back here in New Mexico on the Largo where I grew up.

Now and then I think about the government trappers that would come, especially in winter and spring for the pelts and supposedly to eradicate all the coyotes! One trapper stands out in my mind. One year in the 1940's an old trapper from the treeless plains of Oklahoma or Texas came with his old horse, saddle

*(Continued on page 3)*



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Christmas party will be held at the school cafeteria on Saturday, December 8,  
4:30 PM appetizers will be provided by the Board, along with good visiting time.  
5:30 PM meal prepared by students under the supervision of Kelsey Hutton.

The students will set up tables and chairs, and clean up the area afterward. Music will be provided and pictures on DVD of old-timers from the area. CCHS members are asked to each bring a dessert, as they have been in the past. There will be a silent auction. We are still accepting donations for that. The Christmas party will substitute for any program for December.

January 2019: A history of windmills, presented by Barb Adams and Doris Clymo. Date and time to be announced.



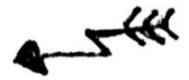
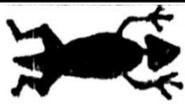
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and minimal possessions, which included a small battery radio. His name was Dave Travor and he stayed in the old Tefferteller Place that was called the "old camp". There were many piñons and junipers and the old man hated trees. Every now and then we would see a great smoke up that way and knew Dave was burning down another tree so he could see. He was a bit paranoid. He was a big, tall gangly fellow with a slow southern drawl. He would ride down now and then and always at mealtime, and of course would be invited in for a good meal. He always had his little radio with him on which he listened to mostly soap operas and sometimes the news. I don't think he knew the difference between them! So now and then he would tell wild stories about the Germans, etc. We ate at a big long kitchen table and Mr. Travor (to us kids) would always sit at one end where he could stretch his long legs and then cross them. My mother realized there was a problem and asked him politely to not do that as everyone got all mixed up in his legs. His reply was "If I don't stretch my legs and cross them, I caint swaller". So that was that.

Another time he rode his old horse over to the house in a hurry. Without dismounting he excitedly informed us that the Germans had landed in a balloon over east beyond the cottonwood grove in the old Wilson field. So my mother, being her fearless self, grabbed her rifle and saddled her horse and took off following Mr. Travor over through the cottonwood grove and got off and tied the horses so they could by stooping over sneak around through the tall rabbit brush and sneak up on the Germans. Finally my mother saw the bright red silk balloon and no Germans in sight. Upon inspection it proved to be a US Weather Bureau balloon and there was great disappointment. After that cold winter we never saw or heard anything more of Mr. Travor. He did provide entertainment. I wonder how many coyotes he ever caught and killed and how many chewed their leg off and escaped to be three legged calf killers. Finding all his traps had to have been a problem in all these trees and tall brush. I still find old coyote traps now and then, some sprung and some not.

Just last evening I heard a wonderful coyote howl and find it interesting that after 100 or more years of having been shot, trapped, poisoned and their young being burned out of their dens they are still alive and well. I feel like celebrating their survival instincts and am rooting for them. There are many more rabbits than coyotes!





## A HISTORY OF THE CARREJO FAMILY

By Helen Cress

Now here is a family of REAL early New Mexico frontiersmen (and women)! Nettie has every excuse for being the character that she is. These folks were tough and had a real work ethic. The first of the bunch came with Onate's group in the 1500s to Casas Coloradas near Belen. Her great grandfather Juan Jose III came to the Jewitt Gap area in 1907. His wife-to-be was Nettie's great grandmother Nellie, and they had seven children; Juan, whom I knew as a child and who was 12 at the time, and Domingo, age 15. Another child lived, but four did not survive childhood. Nellie had come to Quemado in 1919 and later moved to Queen's Head.

When their son, Juan, was an adult, he married Ramona Castillo, and her family owned a very large ranch which included Gallito Springs and extended in to the Mangas and Sand Flats area, and they raised sheep. They raised a large family of nine children; Toni, JJ, Julia, Ernesto, Lucy, Shella, Nestor, Teresa, and Willie. No time for boredom around that house!

Ernesto was born in 1925 at Sand Flats, two miles east and two miles north of Aragon. He married Anita Trujillo, born in 1927, when she was twenty years old. Ernesto had been living at Horse Springs and Anita at Aragon, but they actually met at Gallito Lake near Jewitt Gap. There was a CC camp sawmill there, where they both were employed. Ernesto had been in the US Navy before they met, and had been sent to Okinawa during World War II, where he had to have had some exposure to the worst of war scenes. On the ship going there, he and his brother JJ found themselves both Okinawa-bound. He served for four years and was released in 1946. He and Anita were married in 1947, in Albuquerque. Nettie's Uncle Billy and Aunt Paulita "stood up" for them. Paulita was Anita's sister and Billy was Ernest's brother.

Then another family of children began to arrive. Janie was born in 1948 and Cathy in 1949, both in Magdalena, under the care of Dr Bell, who later lived in Fence Lake and was our only doctor in this area. Then, in 1949, they moved their family to Jewitt Gap, and Natalia (Nettie) was born there in 1950, attended by Ernesto and Ramona, his mother. Nettie says neither of them was seen by a doctor for two weeks, because there had been a big snowstorm and they could not get through for that long a time. Consequently, Nettie had no birth certificate and had a very difficult time getting one later.

The other three girls were born in Reserve, under the care of Dr. Foster: Tina in 1952, Dorothy in 1954, and Edna in 1960.

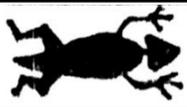
Ernesto drove the school bus in 1949 and 1950 and also was employed by Clayton Cox at his grocery store during the time that Walter Magee also worked there. Later, Anita drove the school bus, and during the time I lived here, from 1979 to 1984, she transported my children to Quemado School.

Ernest went to work for the US Forest Service in the 1950s, and by that time was also running cattle on the ranch. He served as County Commissioner from 1984 to 1988.

In the 1970s, they purchased the old Jo Tadlock Drugstore, which was Anita's project, and it was called Bar EC (with the C reversed, and I cannot seem to make my computer reverse the C.) Anita rented videos and sold Western wear, and I remember it as a happy place to visit. With Anita and some of her daughters, there was always plenty of laughter. Anita left the store in 1996, and I feel certain she was very ill by that time. She leased it to a realtor. She died in 1997 from ovarian cancer with metastases to the colon. Ernest later sold the store to Dave Wheatfield, who has moved away from the area. Ernest died of congestive heart failure in 2005.

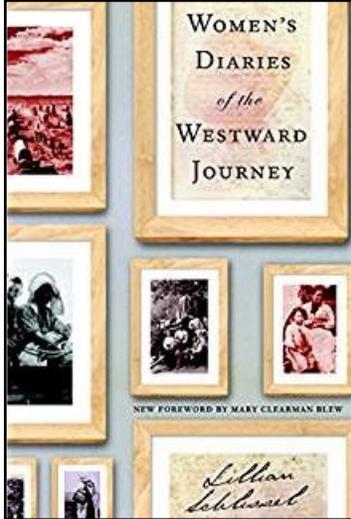
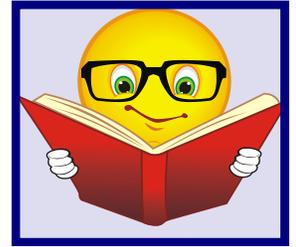
The family had moved to Quemado in the 1960s and had bought the Fina Station from the Caldwells from Fence Lake. The ranch had finally gotten electricity via the REA in 1966, and the family moved back

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BOOK REVIEWS

*Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey*, by Lilian Schissel, reviewed by Laura Brush



This book is based on the writings of women traveling in wagon trains to Oregon Territory and to the gold fields of California, covering the period of 1840 to the late 1860s. After that, travel by stage-coach and the railroad were the norm.

This is a fairly scholarly book. The first two-thirds of the book is explanation and commentary of women's experiences with short quotes from various diaries and letters for support. The final third consists of extensive excerpts from six diaries and memoirs of these women. Some of their words were not set down at the time but were recollections written down in much later years. Those later ones tend to be shorter than what was written day by day, but many of the memories of what they had experienced were still very clear and detailed.

During this time period, a quarter of a million or more people crossed the continent, 2400 miles from "back east" to the Pacific coast. It was one of the greatest voluntary migrations of modern times. Many people were leaving due to economic depression in the east, many were headed to free land out west, and many were drawn by reports of easy riches from gold and silver. The decision to go was generally a man's – father or husband – and the women and children traveled with varying degrees of enthusiasm. It was not a trip for the faint of heart. One of the subjects mentioned in most of these diaries is an accounting of the number of graves along the trail.

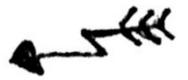
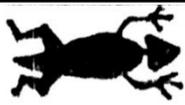
The book is generously illustrated. It contains extensive endnotes, an index, and a listing of diaries and other primary sources. Personally I'd have liked more primary sources and less commentary, but it does contain a great deal of background and insight into that period of our history. ◆◆◆

(Continued from page 4)

to the ranch. The paved highway reached them in 1972, when it was paved from Apache Creek to their home; it was not until 1976 that it was paved from Quemado to their ranch.

Nettie talked about the fact that the girls seldom went to town while growing up, except maybe once a month to attend church. She reported that they washed clothes with a gas washing machine, fed by a large gas tank. Ernest would sometimes go out and cut a pickup load of wood after he had worked all day, and even if they tried to escape the unloading effort by saying they had lots of homework to do that did not count; they had to help unload the wood first. For years, Ernesto had to go to work at the Jewitt Gap Ranger Station, but that was later closed and the Forest Station moved to Quemado, which was much more difficult for him.





### 2018 SPONSORS

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### TREASURER'S REPORT

by Barb Adams

SEPT/OCT

BALANCE 8-31-18..... \$7,678.35

Expenses

Electric..... 37.67  
 Water..... 52.84  
 Office Supplies..... 33.78  
 Electric..... 37.80  
 Water..... 52.84

Income

Calendars..... 170.00  
 Books..... 40.00  
 T-Shirts..... 90.00  
 Memberships..... 80.00  
 Other..... 17.00

BALANCE 10-26-18..... \$7,860.42

### EARLY, EARLY HISTORY OF CATRON COUNTY

Settlement in this dates to some of the earliest in the Americas. During the Clovis period, between 10,999 BC and 8,000 BC and Folsom period, between 7,999 BC and 5,999 BC, the Ake Site was occupied near Datil. Bat Cave, near Horse Springs, was occupied around 3,500 BC. The Mimbres culture was part of the Mogollon people who lived throughout the area from AD 1,000 to 1,130.

In 1598, the region was declared part of Santa Fé de Nuevo México, and remained so until Mexico's declaration of independence in 1821. Under the 1824 Constitution of Mexico, this area was the federally administered Territory of New Mexico. Mexico ceded the region to the US in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 after the Mexican-American War.

In 1880, Sergeant James C. Cooney was the first person to find silver and gold ore in the mountains of Catron County. He was reportedly killed by Chiricahua Apaches in what became known as the "Alma Massacre". His remains are buried at Cooney's Tomb. ►◄

### 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).**      }}}