



GUAJALOTES, ZOPILOTES, Y PAISANOS

Newsletter of the Hillsboro Historical Society

May 2010

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Edited by: Harley Shaw

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MINUTES—May 4, 2010

President Harley Shaw called the quarterly meeting of the Hillsboro Historical Society to order at 6:40 pm. Present were Patti Nunn, Stretch Luna, Paul Torres, Ike Wilton, Larry Cosper, Sonja Rutledge, and Bob Cunningham. Craig Springer was introduced as a guest. Patty Woodruff attended .

The February meeting minutes were read and approved by a motion by Sonja, seconded by Larry, unanimous.

Financial report was given by Stretch. Our accounts are as follows: from January 1 to May 4 we had deposits of \$162.54, expenses of \$161.84, net income \$.70; our money market account holds \$20,761.79, checking \$261.03. Over \$5,000 worth of receipts from Bullocks was presented for its "Cash for Clubs" program. The Board agreed to award Forrest Hill of Bullocks a Heritage Music Festival poster of his choice for the support of our Society. The Financial Report was accepted; motion by Larry Cosper, seconded by Paul Torres; unanimous. Patty reported that she and Stretch would be working on the 2009 IRS 501 (c) (3) report due May 15, 2010.

A discussion was held concerning the Courthouse Fundraising process. Another call for donations was discussed; Craig suggested that we contact early families' descendants such as Galles, Tittmans, Catron, Fountain, Lee, Doheny, Thomas Fortune Ryan III (connected with Three Rivers Ranch in the Tularosa Basin), Trost, Crews, Kearney, Carbajal. Others were Milton, Ted Turner (his support for smaller communities around his ranches) Richard Branson; Gina Kelly will be contacted regarding other opportunities for donations. Persons connected with Eugene Manlove Rhodes, (his biographer "Old Hutch" in Chico California) the George Curry Family, corporations such as Bullocks, Freeport-MacMoRan Copper and Gold. A draft letter will be circulated, and the Board was encouraged to remember other families who have left the area and prospered. Tom Chavez, State Historian, may be of help.

The Labor Day Weekend/reservation of the Community Center by the Historical Society for that weekend was discussed. A private wedding will be held on Saturday evening. Ike Wilton and Patty Woodruff volunteered to organize a small, local Music Festival and Home Tour, respectively, on Saturday and Sunday. More details after they have met and thrashed out the schedule. Also, the gift of the coffee table-sized Seri Indian carving (worth approx. \$1500) for the use/raffle by the Historical Society was discussed.

Harley reported that Matilde Holzwarth had offered to help with a Web page to publicize our events.

Stretch will be marketing a publication of various historical sites' sketches he has drawn, and information he has gathered at the upcoming Mothers Day Garage Sale on Saturday.

Also, a Catalogue of Hillsboro historical memorabilia collections' locations (ie. Museums and universities) is needed.

Photo Book: Craig and Patti Nunn are selecting 20 pictures and submitting a proposal Arcadia Publishers to publish an historical picture on the Hillsboro area. The proposal is complete except for example photos.

Cemetery Gate: Sonja is waiting for funds from the State for the \$1200.00 that was taken from the High School Reunion Fund by Southwestern Bank.

Fire Truck: No Action yet. Weather hasn't been conducive to working on it.

Oral History: Bob Cunningham emphasized how important the older people in town's memories are; and encouraged strong emphasis on an Oral History project. The Southwest Research Center was mentioned as a repository as was the Farm and Ranch Museum. Harley commented on the

time required to transcribe recordings, and Bob noted that the important thing was to get the recordings. Transcription could come anytime. Paul Torres also encouraged this project. Craig noted that the class registries are at Geronimo Spring Museum. Craig noted that he had been through the George T. Miller collection at Geronimo Springs. Larry will see about obtaining copies.

A motion was made by Stretch to adjourn: seconded by Larry. Unanimous. Adjourned at 7:45. (Next Meeting: August 10, 6:30 Community Center Reading Room—open to all)

LOCAL HISTORY AND COMMENTS

Thoughts about Hillsboro History—Harley Shaw

Two newsletters back, I listed several questions, mainly regarding the courthouse, that seem unanswered. Stretch Luna came through in the February newsletter with an essay on three high profile murder cases tried in the Courthouse. Of special interest was the 1907 trial of the murder of Manuel Madrid by his wife Valentina and their maid, Alma Lyons. *Gracias mucho*, Stretch. I know getting writing isn't an easy job for you. Thanks also to Dierdre Schebeck for typing Stretch's handwritten manuscripts. Craig Springer has offered further information and comment on this story in this issue.

Last month's questions, along with Stretch's essays set me to thinking about Hillsboro/Kingston history in general. What I find striking is that no single full history has yet been published for our town. The nearest thing we have in book form is *Black Range Tales* by James A. McKenna. Jim McKenna experienced early Hillsboro and Kingston, and he wrote about what he saw and heard. Some of his tales are a little fanciful, so you have to read carefully if you are searching for fact. But the book is worth reading if you haven't gotten around to it. By the way, "Uncle Jimmy" is given as James A. McKenna, Ph. D. on Amazon.com. I'd say there's a story behind that title if anyone is curious enough to investigate. I'm guessing he was one of the many presented an honorary degree by UNM during the early 1900s. Quite a few other old timers received that honor, based on their contribution to society, not accumulated college credits. Three I know of were J. Stokley Ligon, Elliot Barker, and Florence Merriam Bailey. All three of these were early naturalists in New Mexico. Barker served as the State Game Warden. I wonder if any others from our area were so-recognized.

Another book covering a lot of Hillsboro history is Dr. James Sullivan's book on the Sullivan-Tafoya Family. Dr. Sullivan self-published the book, and it sold out long ago. Dr. Sullivan is a professor of history in Brownsville and the owner of the old Sierra County Courthouse and Jail, hence the gent from whom we hope to buy the site.

And Craig Springer brought to our attention a relatively unknown book published in 1915 entitled *The Log of a Timber Cruiser* by William Pinkney Lawson. It covers the first-ever effort at surveying timber in the Black Range. Included is a story of a shooting in Hillsboro that I've not seen in other histories and is undoubtedly a court case in the Courthouse that we missed in last month's tales. Aldos's Attic found a battered copy of this online and donated it to the Hillsboro Community Library.

Nonetheless, I repeat that no complete history of Hillsboro/Kingston has been written. Several years ago, a resident by the name of Bill Shaw tackled the job, and he got quite a lot on paper. He also accumulated many notes, newspaper clippings, old manuscripts, you name it. A stroke cut Bill's writing efforts short and when he left Hillsboro, he placed his manuscript and accumulated materials in our care. Bill had served as a foreign correspondent during his working days. He and I, by the way, never found evidence that we were related. Anyway, his manuscript and materials are part of our Historical Society archives—waiting for someone to pick up the thread and carry on. Bill found very convincing evidence, for example, that our beloved British Madam, Sadie Orchard was actually born in Kansas and that her British accent was an affectation. Someone should dig a little deeper on this.

I hear voices in the background saying, "you write—why don't you do it?" Truth is, I probably won't, certainly not all. Not that I'm not interested, but I see myself as a newcomer to the area, and my knowledge of history stems from my own roots—Arizona and Oklahoma. Also, my professional interests reside in natural history and wildlife. I already have writing commitments sufficient to occupy me as long as my brain remains agile. Over the years, I've developed some pretty strong feelings about writing what you know, from your own experience. In the 1960s and 70s, I worked with

a gent who grew up on a ranch in Montana and had natural skills as an artist and storyteller. He had been the kind of kid who sat at the back of the class and drew pictures rather than listen to lectures. His pencil sketches of wildlife and ranch scenes were masterful. He moved to Arizona with ambition to be another Charley Russell. Unfortunately, he seemed to think that meant depicting in full color the same era painted by Russell—gunslingers, grizzly bears, suspicious Sioux, etc. This in spite of the fact that all of the stories he told were of the teens, twenties, thirties and forties—established ranches, stacking hay, chasing elk off of hay stacks, sub-zero feeding of stock, Model A trucks, surviving the depression, scrapping with the forest service. Good stories. I tried to get him to write and illustrate them, but to him they weren't "real" history. Truth is he never became a modern Russell and is now fading away in a modest assisted care facility near his home town in Montana. I wish, how I wish, I had an album full of the pencil sketches I saw him scribble on envelopes or a sheet of typing paper—usually when he was supposed to be doing something else in our office.

Ok, so here comes the punch line. Hillsboro and Kingston have a goodly supply of folks who are two, three, four, and more generations deep. All tell good stories. We have at least two very good photo collections in town, and I suspect others exist. How do we get this stuff on paper? What form could it take? One format I remember from Prescott area amounted to two fairly long books compiled by the Yavapai County Cowbells—tales told by their parents and grandparents. And Craig Springer is nudging us toward a photo history book. Along with Matti and Patti, we've already drafted a proposal. If published, royalties or profits would go to the Hillsboro Historical Society. Bob Cunningham has encouraged us to do oral histories of people on our own board and others living here in Hillsboro—people that probably aren't quite ready to consider themselves "history." But their memories, *are*.

There's plenty to do, and the historical society is open to all the help we can get. If you have ideas, please contact us. Also, we meet quarterly on the first Tuesday of February, May, August, and November. Anyone can attend. In fact, we'd like to begin to have speakers, either in conjunction with our meetings or at other times, and we'd welcome help from anyone who might like to help organize such programs and contact potential speakers. Truth is we could probably keep the whole town busy.

Miscellaneous History

Concerning Stretch's story of the murder trial of Valentina Madrid and Alma Lyons in our last newsletter, Craig Springer sent the following note:

I read Stretch's piece on the murder trials with great interest, particularly about the notion of two young ladies murdering Manuel Madrid. They weren't to be hanged at the pen in Santa Fe, but on the north side of the courthouse in Hillsboro. The last time I visited Hillsboro, I noticed the jailhouse wall, tipping north, propped by a piece of lumber. I thought of the two young ladies, sentenced to die by hanging for premeditated murder. Perhaps they tried to peek out the windows to see the goings-on as workers hammered nails in planks, preparing for their execution. Though they couldn't have seen the gallows, they surely heard the construction. As Stretch noted, New Mexico came close to executing two teenagers for the murder of Manuel Madrid. They were girls.

And that leads me to the MM gravestone. There's a real possibility that stone may mark the burial place of Margaret Miller, sadly, a little girl who died at 16 months. She was the first child of George T. and Ninette Miller, and you can see a photo of her in a buggy at the Geronimo Springs Museum, taken by her daddy, who would himself die young.

Craig also sent in the following short pieces that give insight into early Hillsboro:

Hillsboro Massacre – 1879:

It happened, hereabout Hillsboro, so says a short New Mexico magazine story, from August 1942 issue. A terrible Indian massacre occurred a few miles south of Hillsboro, September 11, 1879, in which 17 men, women, and children were victims. Chief Victorio and his lieutenant, Loco, leading 80

braves, attacked a large ranch. The whites fought desperately, but the end was inevitable. The Indians were well armed and mounted on cavalry horses stolen from the Government.

But reader Rev. Rhea Kuykendall of Silver City, took exception to the short story. In a letter to the editor in the September 1943 issue of New Mexico magazine, the reverend had this to say: “There were 18 men killed when the ambushed Indians fired into a group of mounted white men riding to the assistance of Lake Valley. Those killed were all men. You are incorrect in stating that some were women and children. They ambushed the whites on the south side of Berendo Creek. The present road between Lake Valley and Hillsboro runs on the east side of this rocky hill, whereas in those days it went on the west side of the hill. The Indians hid among the large rocks on top of this hill and fired into the whites as they rode by, killing 18 men. You are incorrect in stating that the Indians were attacking a large ranch. My sources of information were Mr. Johnny Moffat, of Kingston, now dead. He was a resident of Hillsboro at the time of the battle and talked with survivors. Also, Mr. Clarence Wilson, on whose ranch the scene of the ambush is located. The one big grave in which the 18 white men killed are buried, is also on his ranch.”

So, these two missives beg the question, who’s right? Why were the 18 riders headed to Lake Valley, who died, and is the grave marked?

Also From Craig:

From Hillsboro to Leavenworth

Hillsboro enjoyed the close protection of the U.S. Army from marauding Apaches, for a short time in 1885 and 86. Camp Boyd was located at the present site of the Cunningham Ranch house on the North Percha Creek. Farrier Asa B. Hawkes, Troop G, 8th Cavalry, was stationed there, but apparently decided he didn’t like army life. Hawkes deserted the army at Hillsboro, so says his court-martial papers, in 1886. The arm of the law reached him on Decemeber 19, 1887. Hawkes was tried at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, February 8, 1888. His charges say that Hawkes lost a Colt revolver, two spurs, a forge-sack, a tin cup and fork, “with a total value of \$15.27, this, at or near Camp Boyd, near Hillsboro, New Mexico, on or about the 26th day of July 1886.” Hawkes plead guilty to the losses and for violating “the 47th article of War”—desertion. For sentencing, Hawkes was dishonorably discharged, forfeiting all pay, “and to be confined at hard labor in such military prison as the reviewing authority may direct for the period of four years.” That authority was Gen. R.C. Drum under the command of General Sheridan; he sent Hawkes to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

Finally Craig has brought attention to an 1878 map from the Wheeler expedition that shows an established village of Hillsboro. The Wheeler maps can be viewed at http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/us_states/newmexico/index.html. Stretch has maintained for some time that Hispanic settlers preceded the 1877 miners in our town. Could it be that a whole segment of Hillsboro history has simply dropped from view? Anyone know anything about it?

Regarding the 1972 Labor Day flood, Sonja dug up some newspaper clippings written during the weeks following the flood. These provide pretty solid evidence that four people died in the flood, including the couple that washed downstream in the travel trailer. Paul Torres informs us that a motor-home also was washed downstream and that the people in it escaped. Perhaps this is the source of information regarding lives lost in the travel trailer. Someone needs to dig into death certificates for the four names associated with the flood in order to resolve the question.

And Stretch submitted the following list of dates and historical items, some of which might stimulate comments from readers:

Some Historical Dates

- Old Hillsboro Elementary School built before 1893, closed in 1937.
- The Madrid-Chavez-Luna clans have been in Hillsboro since 1873.

- The Union Evangelical Church of Hillsboro dedicated February 14, 1892, so named because of five denominations using the building, i.e., Methodist, Episcopal, Baptist, Congregational, Presbyterian and Protestant Faiths.
- October 16, 1846, General Stephen Kearney leading "The Army of the West" passed east of the town.
- October 12, 1914, the name of Palomas Hot Springs changed to Hot Springs.
- There are 75 + graves with 2 or more babies in each grave that died during the 1918-1919 flu epidemic. Local residents called these three rows, " Children's Row"
- Jaralosa Creek bridge was completed November 13, 1899.
- Territory of New Mexico vs. Valentina Madrid, Alma Lyons and Fred Baca on April 1-May 8, 1907, for murder of Manuel Madrid, her husband.
- Andrews was about 2 miles north of Golddust.
- Robinson was about 4 miles northwest of Winston.
- Cutter was 17 miles south of Engle.
- In 1882 Daily was founded after gold find. The name was later changed to Lake Valley.
- In 1914, the tent city was washed out. It was moved to current BLM site of Lake Valley.
- In 1908 settlement and mining camp Caballo mined gold in nearby Caballo Mountain so residents moved in 1938 when Caballo Lake waters covered settlement area. In 1907 Cuchillo Negro settled, name later shortened to Cuchillo.
- June 10, 1912, flood in Percha Creek washed most of Hillsboro away. The first bad flood of 1875 didn't do much damage as most residents lived in tents, predominantly Mexicans. 3rd flood was 1932 then Labor Day weekend in 1972.
- As of March 1, 2010 there are 23 veterans buried in the Community Cemetery and 21 in the Masonic Cemetery in Hillsboro. 6 in Kingston, 2 in Santa Fe National Cemetery, 7 in Fort Bayard National Cemetery and 1 in Hot Springs Cemetery. There are also two Hillsboro veterans buried at Fort Bliss.
- The Sierra Electric Co-op incorporated June 19, 1942.
- The information from stories, events, dates related to me, Fred " Stretch" Luna by my great-grandmother, Dolores Madrid Chavez { Abel} and my grandmother, Romelia {Romie} Madrid Chavez Luna Bird { March 17, 1895- September 30, 1994}.

These little quarterly newsletters, including copying and mailing, are paid for with funds generated by turning in Bullock's Grocery receipts. If you are a Bullock's customer and haven't dedicated your receipts to other town activities, we'd be happy to receive them. And thanks to Bullock's for their support.

Also, the Hillsboro Historical Society now has a link on the Hillsboro Community web page maintained by Satomi Lander: <http://www.hillsboronm.com/>. You can download all past newsletters from this web site. Thanks much, Satomi, for including us.