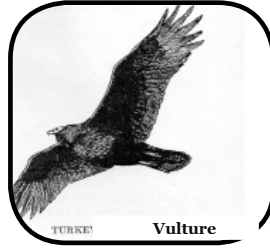


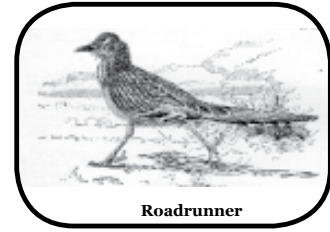
Guajalotes, Zopilotes, y Paisanos



Turkey



TURKEY Vulture



Roadrunner

Hillsboro Historical Society

August 2015. Volume 8 Number 3



Feature: How the Mountain Pride got to Lincoln

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From the President

Sonja Rutledge

We've had a busy summer at HHS. Store activity has dropped off some, we're not sure why. Summer is usually the time of most traffic through our town. A lot of our time and energy has gone to preparing for the Labor Day Antiques Festival. Barb Lovell, Robin Tuttle, and Garland Bills have been scrambling to make sure we're ready for this new event. During the Antique Festival, we will announce the successful bidders in our sealed bid auction for the four Native American art pieces. Also during the Labor Day weekend, Janie Dobrott and Becky Porter will be hosting a home tour. Programs of the weekend events will be available at the Community Center and the HHS store. It is shaping up to be a lively weekend.

We still get queries regarding of the Fountain Trial reenactment. For the present, we have no definite plans to do a re-run, but who knows what the future holds? In the meantime, I'm happy to report that our own Hillsboro Community Playhouse Actors are working (playing?) hard on a new play. Written and directed by our own Steve Siegfried, its title is "Home on the Range: a half-baked horse opera in three acts." We're shooting for an opening in early November and can only hope the audience will have as much fun watching as the cast has had putting the show together. Stay tuned.

We are still exploring the feasibility of acquiring the Black Range Museum. We have had the property appraised, independent of the historic materials. At present, we are searching for someone qualified to assess the value of museum contents. As always, economics limit the rate at which we can proceed.

We want to thank board member Steve Dobrott for hosting another Ladder Ranch tour in June. This tour went a little further afield and the participants were able to see bison and other wildlife. As manager of the Ladder Ranch, Steve has an extremely busy schedule. These tours are consistent fundraisers for HHS. We can only say that we truly appreciate Steve's willingness to help.

HHS partnered with with Hillsboro Community Center do a cleanup and tree trimming around the Black Range Museum and community park. Also, Larry and Bruce Cosp hung the antique Hillsboro businesses mural at the back of the stage in the Community Center. It is truly good to see that valuable piece of our history come home at last.

News, Comments, and Activities

Musings on Hillsboro History

Harley Shaw

Our little newsletter, *Guajalotes, Zopilotes, y Paisanos*, is in its eighth year—pretty good longevity for a publication in a town made up mostly of senior citizens. The newsletter has helped us accomplish one of HHS' two major missions—to compile and disperse information on the history of our area. During the time HHS has existed, the amount of published historical information for our area has magnified at least ten-fold. In addition to this newsletter and our Arcadia Press Book, *Around Hillsboro*, a large volume of written information and photos has accumulated online, mainly in Craig Springer's blog (<http://hillsborohistory.blogspot.com/>) and Bob Barnes' Black Range Rag (http://www.blackrange.org/The_Black_Range_Rag). Someone looking for information on Hillsboro history has a lot to choose from.

The internet has become a wonderful medium for dispersing large volumes of information to a wide audience with minimum cost. Blogs and web pages bypass the tedious and frustrating process of editing and review required by commercial or university presses. Digital publishing also avoids the large costs involved in self-published books. But online publishing is inevitably temporary, and continued existence of blogs and web pages is usually dependent upon the efforts of a few motivated individuals. Once their work ceases through loss of interest, leaving the area, or death, the posted information eventually goes away. A serious role of HHS might be to develop a paper archive of histories that currently exist only in digital form. This would basically amount to printing material found online and placing it into our present filing system, which, I might mention, is currently maintained and updated regularly by Mattie and Patti Nunn—an important and relatively invisible service for HHS.

Nonetheless, I'm concerned that we still do not have a comprehensive interpretive history for our area. When you look for books, little more than *Black Range Tales* or *Around Hillsboro* can be found. The former is entertaining and depicts some aspects of the formative days of the towns, but the reader seeking reliable facts must read judiciously. As its title says, the book is a collection of tales, and some of them are definitely apocryphal. In writing *Around Hillsboro*, we tried to keep it factual, but the space limitations of the photo-book format restricted its range and depth. The book might actually provide an initial outline for a more comprehensive history of our area.

Something we discussed while compiling *Around Hillsboro*, is the fact that we have no commonly-used name for our region, which is geographically delineated, more or less, by Kingston, Hillsboro, and Lake Valley, pulling in, perhaps, chunks of Animas Creek as well. Once we step outside of our own little settlements, we don't know what to call ourselves. We're talking about a landscape roughly bounded by a line going from Nutt to Kingston to the ridgeline of the Membris Mountains (alias the Black Range) to the head of Animas Creek, thence downstream to the Ladder Ranch Headquarters, across to Hillsboro and back to Nutt via Lake Valley. This boundary is fuzzy and would vary depending upon the subject at hand. But we're talking about well over 500 square map miles, much of which is rugged. If you ironed it out flat, the true surface area might double. I'm thinking HHS needs to have a contest seeking a name for our interconnected region. "Around Hillsboro" doesn't quite fit.

So there's work to be done for some ambitious scholar(s). Such a comprehensive history may be a job for a professional historian, perhaps working with some local advisors. Writing stories about people and places is fine for us amateurs; understanding the forces at play across many decades requires a lot of research using archival resources not available in Hillsboro or on the internet.

How Did the Mountain Pride end up in Lincoln?

Harley Shaw

Of late, a few members of HHS have visited the museum in Lincoln County and rediscovered the stagecoach once owned by Sadie Orchard and, later, Fred Mister. The question of why it is in Lincoln and how it got there has once again arose. In looking through my own files, I realized that we don't know much about the coach's history once it left Hillsboro. I did discover an article entitled "Seligman Stage Coaches Revisited" written by Arthur Seligman Scott, grandson of New Mexico Governor Arthur Seligman. It is marked "Draft", and I wasn't sure how I had acquired it. An online search revealed Mr. Scott contributing regularly to *Voces de Santa Fe* :(<http://vocesdesantafe.org/social/index.php/homepage>). Mr. Scott's article is posted at: <http://vocesdesantafe.org/social/index.php/explore-our-history/santa-fe/item/829-seligman-stage-coaches-nm-history-museum>. He has graciously given me permission to draw from it:



Mrs. Arthur (Frankie) Seligman rear window. Her daughter Richie, is on top foreground. Others are unknown. Photo was probably taken by Arthur Seligman 1916-18. (Personal photo collection of Arthur Scott).

"The photo above clearly shows "Mountain Pride" above the door and a painted image of the Apache Chief, Victorio on the door. The stage had been named after the Mountain Pride hotel in Hillsboro. The woman looking out the rear window is my grandmother, Franc E. (Mrs. Arthur) Seligman. I believe the woman in the foreground on top is her daughter and my aunt, Mrs. John March, nee. Richie Seligman. This photo was taken at the Lake Valley, New Mexico train station probably around 1916-18. The stage line had closed and my

speculation is that this was when my grandfather purchased this coach. . I know he dabbled in photography, so I would guess he took this photo. He owned two stage coaches at the time of his death in 1933

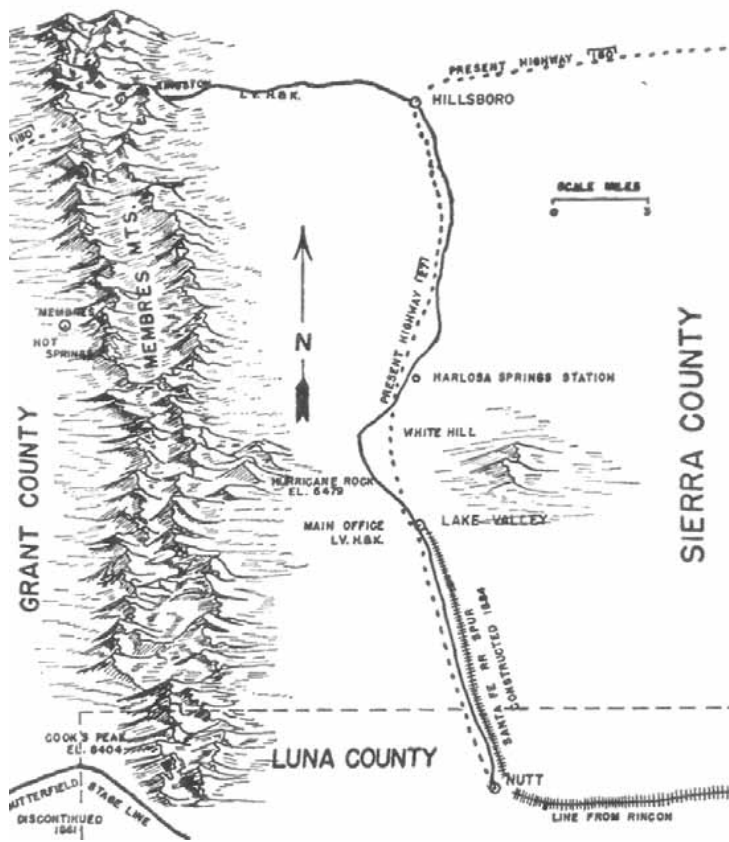
“ . . . after my grandfather had died my grandmother donated two stagecoaches to the New Mexico Historical Society (precursor of the Museum) in 1935. One was ‘the Mountain Pride’ s . . . a “Concord style coach built by the Abbot-Downing Company of Concord, New Hampshire. . . .

“The “Pride” was used to carry passengers and mail on the stage line that ran between the Aitcheson, Topeka, and Santa Fe railhead at Lake Valley, New Mexico and the then thriving mining towns of Hillsboro and Kingston. The stage line was founded between 1878 and 1882 by L. W. Orchard

“The stage line was operated by Orchard until 1902 when he sold it to Fred Mister. Mister continued to operate the stage line until 1916 at which time he closed it. The mining had petered out by then, population in Kingston and Hillsboro dropped, and World War I started. I believe the Seligman photo above was taken about this time. I think the Mountain Pride was then sold to Arthur Seligman. After Governor Seligman’s death in 1933, his widow donated the coach to The New Mexico Historical Society in 1935. ”



Seligman “Mountain Pride” stagecoach at Lincoln County Courthouse State Monument, 2011. Photo courtesy Josef Diaz, Curator of Southwest and Mexican Colonial Art and History Collections, New Mexico History Museum



Map of Mountain Pride route from New Mexico Historical Review, Vol. XXVI, No. 2, 1951, "Short-line Staging in New Mexico" By William Swilling Wallace.

months for adequate protection of the coaches. For the winter, it is planned to close two of the open sides with canvas. The problem, of course, is simply one of providing enough protection for preservation, while allowing enough exposure for good exhibition purposes. It is quite probable that eventually a new room to the building will be added to house the coaches. At the present time no openings are large enough for their entry and no room is available for their display."

Mauzy's hopes for the care of the Mountain Pride were apparently optimistic. In his article, Arthur Scott says:

"During my childhood in the forties, the Mountain Pride was exhibited by the Museum Of New Mexico in an alcove in the center courtyard of the Palace of the Governors. I remember it being in an extreme state of disrepair. Much of the damage could have occurred prior to the donation."

So Arthur Scott and Wayne Mauzy have provided us with insight regarding how the "Pride" arrived in Santa Fe. Why and how it was sent to Lincoln is a less clear, and I am trying to recover the details. So far, I'm finding that trail a little harder to follow. I emailed Gary Cozzens, Manager of the Lincoln Historic site. His reply: "From what I have been able to find out, the stage was brought to Lincoln from the Palace of the Governor's in Santa Fe sometime in 1981 or 82. While in Santa Fe it sat outside and was weathered. The Palace became concerned about the state of the stagecoach and decided it could be better protected in the courthouse in Lincoln. When it arrived, in order to put the stagecoach in

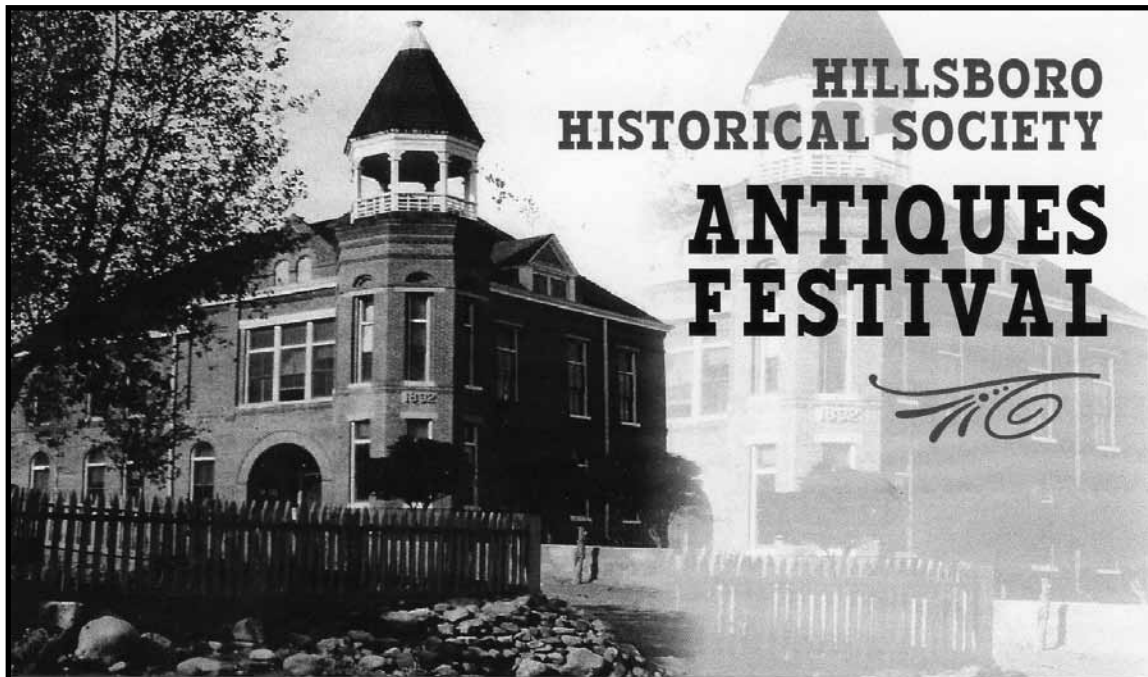
In "Western Stage Coach Days." (*El Palacio*. Vol. XXX-IX Aug. 14-21-28, 1935 Nos. 7-8-9), Wayne Mauzy noted:

"... Since acquisition of the coaches a shelter fashioned after the native ramada has been constructed by the Museum in the patio of the Palace of the Governors near the back wall between the ends of the library building and the offices of the Museum, in the only remaining unbuilt space available. It is an ideal location for exhibition of the coaches as it corresponds well to where such vehicles would be housed, or where a ramada would be built, in any Spanish establishment or hacienda of the old southwest. A secure waterproof roof replaces the ordinary native cover of brush or straw. The adobe wall of the patio forms a dry cover on the back side. It is hoped that this will provide sufficient shelter for the summer

the old Courthouse, the doors were taken off the building and the stage was partially taken apart and then reassembled in the building. Then in 2009 when the New Mexico History Museum opened in Santa Fe, the Museum of New Mexico tried to take it back to Santa Fe. Since they could not get the stagecoach out of the building, it still sits in Lincoln. Things are different now than they were in 1981 and with current historical preservation laws, the doors of the Courthouse will not be removed again in order to take the stagecoach out of the building. However, if the stagecoach were to be removed, I suspect the Museum of New Mexico would like it back before it is returned to Hillsboro.“

I asked if HHS might be involved in care or restoration of the Pride, even if it had to remain in Lincoln. He answered: “On the restoration, yes, but then the issue becomes a space to do it. Where it sits would be problematic in that there is no room to move it around, with one possible exception.”

A year or so ago, I discussed the Mountain Pride with Richard Sims, Director of State Historic Sites. He, too, felt that the Pride was misplaced but at least protected in Lincoln. For the present the legal and physical obstacles required to move it seem insurmountable, and no one but Lincoln has a place to keep it. Historically, the Pride is really ours, but it is safer where it sits. Perhaps HHS should pursue the notion of being involved in its protection, interpretation, and care, even if it is an orphan living 200 miles from home.



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Leonard Peltier
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Acrylic on canvas
Minimum bid 3000



Buffalo Hunter
Leonard Peltier
Framed 20.75 x 16.75
Acrylic on canvas
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Dan Viets Lomahaffewa
Framed 26 x 23
Collagraph on paper
Minimum bid 3000



Untitled ca. 1996
Bernie Granados Jr.
Framed 18.25 x 18.25
Paint on poster board
Minimum bid 2400

Bids will be received through September 7, 2015.
No Bids under the minimum will be accepted

Bid forms are available at the HHS gift shop on Main Street in Hillsboro, New Mexico, open Friday, Saturday and Sunday (11-4) and can be downloaded from the HHS website. For more information, please contact Robin Tuttle at 575-895-5187 or at ROBLTUT@yahoo.com.

www.hillsboronmhistory.info

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