

# CATRON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1, 2019

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## New Board Members (see below)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 19—Tribute to Jim Williams at 2:00 PM

FEBRUARY—Ana Baca-Vigil on the Baca family

MARCH—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

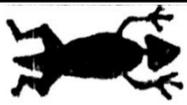
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### 2018-2019 CCHS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Helen Cress (575)773-4177 helenwcress@hotmail.com; Vice-president Chris Hill;  
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.

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



**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

As I sit and watch the snowflakes sift steadily to the ground I wonder what the new year will bring to the Catron County Historical Society and the museum. We, the board of directors, hope to bring all of you high-quality programs that, at the same time as entertaining us, record the history of those who have preceded us here. We are now working on the subjects we want to present, and we hope you will come to hear our presentations and inform us of the kinds of things you want to hear more about.

Starting on Saturday January 19<sup>th</sup>, we will pay tribute to Jim Williams, who spent his entire life in the Quemado area, until he was forced to move to the lower elevation of Florence, AZ in order to continue breathing. In regard to this program, I would like to invite everyone to attend who has a story they could share about Jim. He was very much a "people person," and I believe he impacted many lives. The stories need not all be funny, though I suspect many of them will be, but any story you have will be welcome and treasured and will be recorded so it can be shared with family and friends. You do not have to be a CCHS member in order to attend. The program will be scheduled for 2:00 PM at the Quemado Community Center.

In February, on a date to be announced, Ana Baca-Vigil of Grants, NM will present a program on the Elisao Baca family. This is a history we have pursued for a very long time and we hope for a full-house attendance. The date and time are to be announced when a date has been set.

March will be the month when we have our program on windmills and will be offered by Barbara Adams and Doris Clymo. Again, the exact date, time, and location will be given late, and there will be flyers around the county when the time for the event approaches.

We are planning events in the Community Center in Quemado during the winter months. While we have winterized the museum, it is so extremely cold there. We will be holding meetings there once again as late spring and summer arrive as long as the meeting is set to be held in Quemado. As soon as those warmer months draw near, we will also be wanting to have presentations in other towns in Catron County. We would love to hear from folks in other towns in the county who have people of interest about whom we might talk.

We want you to be involved in the organization and to criticize us if you feel that we have made an error, even though we are all much more fond of praise. But we want to know if we get something wrong or if we offend anyone.

Let's start out with a bang and keep the momentum going! Happy New Year to all!



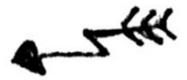
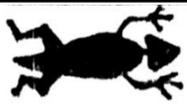
**THE CATTLE DRIVES**

By Bert Laney

I've decided I'm not much good at last  
I just sit around and think of the past  
I think of the times in those hard old years  
When we went to Magdalena to deliver the steers.

In those early days when we made a sale  
Then we rounded up our cattle and hit the trail  
Then came days of worry and night of fears  
Lest a horse shake the saddle and stampede our steers.

*(Continued on page 4)*



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**JANUARY 19:** Tribute to Jim Williams at 2:00 PM at the Quemado Community Center.

**FEBRUARY:** Ana Baca-Vigil on the Baca family at the Quemado Community Center.

**MARCH:** History of Windmills at the Quemado Community Center. Presented by Barb Adams and Doris Clymo. Date and time to be announced for February and March events.



### ANN LEONARD

By Marnie Ashby

When we met her sixteen years ago, she came complete with stories of adventures around the globe (from Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa to the high plateau desert of the Gila National Forest.) Annie arrived here straight from Estes Park, Colorado. The whole time, while residing here in New Mexico, nary a day passed without her riding that faithful friend, Saturday, or hiking the Gila.

She was known as the lady with the white trick horse and had so many friends. She carried those

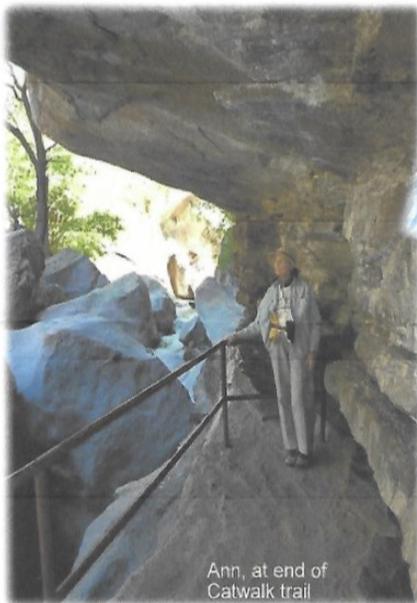
friendships with her wherever she went along with all the wonderful memories and experiences shared with those special friends. Every year it was yet again another adventure and chapter in her life and sharing it with us.

One such shared experience was while riding in Colorado with a friend, whereupon they came across a large eagle's nest at the top of an apple tree in an apple orchard. Annie climbed off her horse, proceeded to climb the apple tree and sit in the eagle's nest (it was empty, of course) to get a bird's eye view of the countryside with her friend capturing, yet again, another memorable picture of Annie.

With her generous nature, she shared her life with many and took the time to listen to others and help them when possible. We will never forget this wonderful, talented lady and hope the next leg of her journey proves to be every bit as exciting and wondrous as the previous ones.

Flying high on her steeds, it is easy to imagine her continuing to do what she loved most. May her coming adventures be everything she expects and as always enjoying it to the fullest.

Rest now, dear Annie, and get ready for the next part.

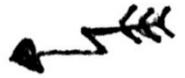


Ann, at end of Catwalk trail



*Ann Lucile Leonard*  
*She Began her Journey on*  
*September 10, 1934*  
*Rochester, New York*  
*The Last Leg of this Journey*  
*December 3, 2018*  
*Reserve, New Mexico*  
*New, New and Wonderful*  
*Adventures Await Her...*  
*Have a Fantastic Journey, Annie*





**THE EXCHANGE**

By Helen Cress

**T**he Exchange was a Quemado business as far back as I can remember throughout the 1940s and half or more of the 1950s. My brother Jim told me it was at one time a mattress factory, but what I best remember is that you could trade for items you needed. The first people there in the business that I recall were JB and Anna Mae Stout and JB's brother, Roger Stout. My parents traded there regularly. I can't bring to mind an incident where they ever traded for anything

I was told that when a local man, Hollis Houston, died after a long illness in 1955 the mortuary in Socorro brought his body when ready for burial to Quemado, and when the whole procession went to the cemetery to inter him, JB Stout was in the procession going there. Suddenly, his vehicle went off the road and came to a stop in the bar ditch. When someone went to the vehicle to check on him, he was dead. This informant said that was the only time a mortician brought a body to Quemado and went back with a different body on board.

JB was survived by Anna Mae, his wife, and Roger, his brother. At some point in the rather near future, Roger and Anna Mae were married.

When the store was sold, still in the 50s, it was purchased by Ed and Barbara Bell. Ed was then a state policeman in Quemado, and Barbara tended the store. Ed was, after some years, offered the chief of police job in Grants, and the family moved there. They sold the business to Jesse and Barbara Oliveira, who also bought their house. They later sold it to JB and Elsie Davis Armstrong.

JB and Elsie were tragically killed in a car accident near Magdalena while returning to Quemado from purchasing supplies for the store. They left behind three teenage children, all in high school. The oldest were Alton and Debbie, and the younger boy was Dale Armstrong, now married to Gail, our state Representative, and they own the TLC Plumbing Company, hugely successful all over the state.

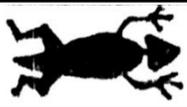
In 1994, Bob and Nelcine Roland bought the store from the Armstrongs. They sold it to Don and Pam Hilliard in 2000, who were there until some time in 2003. The business went back to Bob and Nelcine, who were carrying the papers on it, and again they ran it until 2005, when they sold it to Eric Skrivseth. He had financial problems with it and declared bankruptcy in 2010. That was when my husband and I were building our house, so suddenly we had to travel to Springerville when we needed supplies. Bob and Nelcine brought foreclosure proceedings then to try and salvage what they could on the value of the buildings and property. I met the fellow who ran the business for a period of time, then left and his son ran it briefly. I was not able to get the names of these folks from anyone I asked, but called Joe Siminski, who has run the store for the past several years and he said the owner is named Elden.

I am very grateful to Bob for providing me with a large portion of the history, which I had missed because I was elsewhere making a living and raising my children.       ◇◇◇

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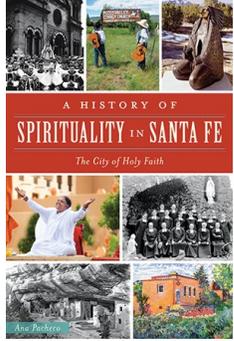
I thought of those times when out on the plain  
We rode all night in the wind and rain  
In an effort to check those drifting steers  
For that was our job in the tough old years.  
  
The cowboys today might think it was hard  
To be routed out to stand night guard  
And I'm sure they would further complain  
If the night was dark with the drizzling rain.

*(Continued on page 5)*



BOOK REVIEWS

*A History of Spirituality in Santa Fe: The City of Holy Faith,*  
by Ana Pacheco, reviewed by Laura Brush



The city of Santa Fe, whose name in Spanish is literally Holy Faith, is also known as the City Different. The author, who is the city historian, weaves both of those threads into a documentation of various spiritual groups in the city and environs. As stated in the Forward, the book ranges “from geology to the-ology”, as the author believes that the volcanic history of the area creates an environment conducive to spirituality.

The author spends little time with the Native American belief system which existed there for centuries, although she does describe some ways in which it was blended into the conquering religion forced upon them. She begins her detailed discussion with the Roman Catholicism of the Spanish conquistadores. There is a fair amount of history – Isabella’s desire to convert all non-Catholics which spurred the Spanish drive into the New World, for example, as well as how that played out on the ground. Jews arrived in New Mexico in significant numbers in the mid-1800’s, first as merchants arriving on the Santa Fe Trail and then staying to set up shop. Protestants also began arriving in numbers at that time, in connection with the Spanish-American War which ended with New Mexico becoming US territory. These three religions, including smaller Christian groups such as Quakers, Latter-Day Saints, Freemasons, and the United Church of Christ, comprise about half of the book.

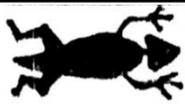
The rest of the book ranges over other groups, some of which are familiar and some I, at least, had never heard of. She provides a brief description of their beliefs, the history of their arrival and development in Santa Fe including key people, and locations of churches or other “homes”. These groups include Buddhism, I AM, Sikhi (Sikhism), First Assembly of God (Pentecostal), Shalom Ministry, Gideon International, Alcoholics Anonymous, Church of Antioch, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Greek Orthodox Church, Russian Orthodox Church, Cowboy Church (Cowboy-Up International), Baha’i, Hare Krishna, Islam, Self-Realization Fellowship, Salvation Army, Christian Science, Eckankar, Oneness, Gong meditation, Uniao de Vegetal, Unitarian-Universalism, and Wicca. Some of these clearly are not religions but are included due to their spiritual focus.

The book contains a timeline, bibliography, index, and 119 photos. A useful reference in understanding the City Different.



(Continued from page 4)

For plenty of nerve they must not lack  
To mount that horse with the hump in his back  
For so it was in those long ago years  
When we drove to Magdalena to deliver our steers.  
  
As we circled those steers from night `till dawn  
I could see that they were badly drawn  
But granted steers we did not dread  
For in those days we sold by the head.  
  
So we struggled along `cross mountain and hill  
Hoping each day a few more miles to kill  
We were always glad when we reached the rail



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### TREASURER'S REPORT

by Barb Adams

BALANCE 11-1-18.....	\$7,860.42
Expenses	
Utilities .....	128.30
Entertainment .....	83.54
Calendars .....	62.25
Equipment.....	49.91
Office Expenses .....	50.00
Income	
Memberships.....	1350.00
Christmas Party.....	529.24
Silent Auction.....	289.52
Calendars.....	65.00
Donations .....	50.00
Books & DVD .....	28.05
BALANCE 12-29-18.....	\$9,853.23

(Continued from page 5)

And this is why I'm telling this tale.

But even then when our race was run  
 Sometimes our job was not quite done  
 It depended on what our contract said  
 And how that contract read.



If in the contract it read O.B.C.  
 On board those cars they had to be  
 And so it was in the lean old years  
 When we drove to rail-head to deliver the steers.



### 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).**

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