

GUAJALOTES, ZOPILOTES, Y PAISANOS

NEWSLETTER OF THE HILLSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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VICE PRESIDENT: LARRY COSPER
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BOARD: JAY LETT MATTI NUNN PATTI NUNN
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RECORDING SECRETARY: LUELLE WRIGHT

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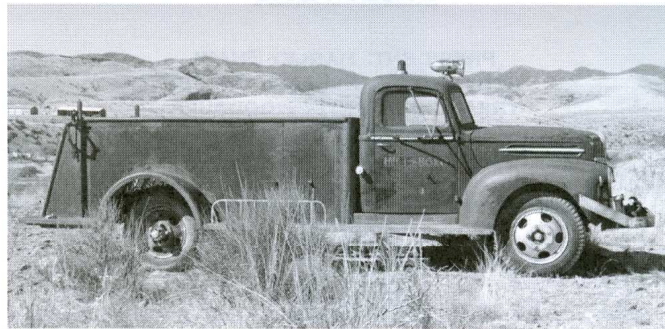
KARL LAUMBACH
R. D. BRINKLEY
CHRIS ADAMS

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VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

A FIRE TRUCK COMES HOME

Hillsboro Historical Society recently brought Hillsboro Fire Department's first fire truck back to Hillsboro. The 1946 Ford was originally owned by Hot Springs Fire Department. It was spotted at the Hooker Salvage yard near Moriarity by Pam Taylor, a friend of Nancy Jones.. Nancy passed the information along to Matti and Bill Harrison, who suggested that the Historical Society purchase it. Kathy and Adrian Lovell were in the Moriarity area and stopped to check it out. They seconded the opinion that the Historical Society should acquire the truck. The idea circulated rapidly around town and within a few days, contributions to buy it arrived from the Harrisons, Richard and Gloria Spellman, Harley Shaw and Patty Woodruff, Jan Haley and Gary Gritzbaugh, Bob Shipley, and Kathy and Adrian Lovell. Bill Harrison and Joe Shank drove up and hauled it home.

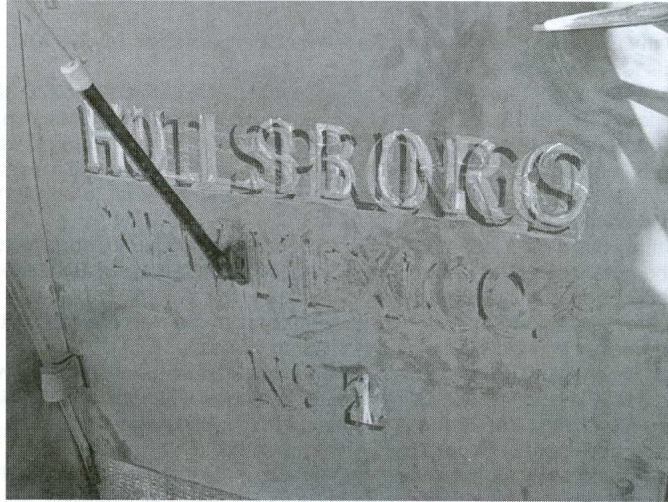


According to Lonnie Rubio, the truck had made one trip to Hillsboro before our town acquired it. Sometime in the late 1940s, four houses burned on Elenora Street. These were located between what is now the Bedford house and Suzanne Poole's "Sheriff's House" on the south side of Elenora—in the spaces now occupied by the residences of B.J. Rutledge, Mrs. Huber and Chip, and Rita Rice. At the time of the fire, Hillsboro had no fire department. Hot Springs and Hatch departments both responded. However, the distance was too great for them to arrive in time to save the buildings.

Sometime in the late 1950s or early 1960s, Hillsboro acquired the same truck that had responded to the above call. We do not know if it was purchased or merely given to our fire department. We would like to learn more details about the truck, when and how Hillsboro acquired it, and about the Elenora Street fire. This all would make an excellent feature for a future newsletter.

Present plans are to clean and stabilize the truck in its present condition and get it running well enough to move during town events or parades. Our decision to keep it as is, rather than try to restore it, was partly influenced by the fact that the signs of both Hillsboro Fire Department and Hot Springs Fire Department can be seen on the doors,

along with the numbers 2 (for Hot Springs) and 1 (for Hillsboro). We feel that the truck displays more history in its current condition than it might if completely restored.



Hillsboro Historical Society Meeting Minutes
Quarterly Meeting – Hillsboro Community Center
February 14, 2009 3:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm by President Harley Shaw. Present were Matti Nunn, Patti Nunn, Patty Woodruff, Paul Torres, Larry Cosper, Sonja Rutledge, Harley Shaw, and Luella Wright.

Patty distributed and explained the new Board Member Notebooks she had purchased and prepared. Each contains the legal documents, minutes, financials, and a Time Donation Sheet. Since all hours/materials can be used for "in kind" contributions when we apply for grants it is important that we keep these data current.

Harley acknowledged several volunteers for their donations: Matti and Patti for the organization of our existing collection; Matilde Holzwarth for the design of our new letterhead and thank you notes and for the framing of several Annual Hillsboro Heritage Day Posters; Matti and Bill for hauling our newly acquired historical Hillsboro Fire Truck and for providing shelter for it until a new home is found; Sally Mayeux for consulting on the 501c3 2009 IRS filing; and the board expressed thanks and appreciation to Harley for composing and publishing the first Hillsboro Historical Society Newsletter.

The minutes of our last meeting of November 11, 2008, were approved as written. The motion for approval was made by Larry and seconded by Paul. The motion passed unanimously. Harley introduced Luella Wright as our new volunteer secretary.

Patty presented the Financial Report including a Balance Sheet and Financials for 2008 and reports for 2009.

As of February 2009, our Checking account has a balance of \$775.32 and Savings has \$12,010.35. We now have \$12,000.00 in contributions designated for the Courthouse purchase and another \$8,600.00 in pledges. Sonja made a motion to reimburse Patty for the notebook supplies and cashbox purchased. Paul seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Matti and Bill wish to donate their time and expenses for the hauling of the fire truck.

Harley has sent a letter to Allen Bojorquez apprising him of our progress toward the purchase of the Courthouse. Sonja suggested that we ask Allen to send a letter to Jim Sullivan, the owner of the property.

Harley announced that we are now members of the New Mexico State Historical Society and the Sierra County Historical Society.

Old Business: The group discussed the nomination process for the open Board position. Sonja suggested Bob Cunningham as a possible candidate and Harley suggested Ike Wilton. The Board agreed to table the discussion until Sonja has approached each about the possibility of their serving.

In order to allow for the consistent rotation of the terms of the Board Members, the length of the terms were determined to be as follows: Larry, Harley, and Sonja will begin with 3- year terms; Paul, Matti, and Patti will begin with 2- year terms; and Patty, Jay, and the Vacant position will be 1-year terms. Larry presented the motion. Sonja seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding where to put the temporary storage unit we hope to receive in which to store our already acquired collection of artifacts. Also discussed was possible temporary storage for historic pieces until we could find a storage unit. The Metrikin workshop was mentioned, and Harley and Patty agreed to explore the possibility. This would be considered a temporary solution only.

New Business: Discussion pursued regarding the nomination of additional Advisory Committee Members. R. D. Brinkley and Chris Adams were suggested by Larry. Patty made a motion to accept these nominations. Sonja seconded. Motion passed

unanimously. Larry will confirm Chris' willingness to serve; Ron has already agreed to be an advisor.

Also under New Business the Board discussed the formation of a Fire Truck Committee possibly including Bill, Adrian, Larry, Harley, Gary G. Patti will ask Bill to Chair the Committee. The Board also discussed the possibility of a party to introduce the Fire Truck to the community. Sonja suggested having it at the Fire Station as soon as possible. The group seemed to favor having it sooner rather than later and Larry will pursue the necessary arrangements.

Patti and Matti reported on the filing system they have developed for the Society's existing artifacts. Discussion followed regarding Suzanne Poole's plans for the "Sheriff's House".

Patty reported that the Library Board responded positively to the HHS request to sponsor the Home Tour during the Hillsboro Heritage Day which will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2009. Discussion followed regarding the progress of the Music Committee. It was unanimously decided to postpone and reschedule, the Home Tour—possibly in August or autumn--rather than try to combine it with Heritage Day/Music Festival. Since our checking account is low, Patty suggested we might need to borrow from the Trust/Savings Account for the Courthouse for any encumbered expenses for Heritage Day. Members do not want to do this if it can be avoided, but would rather receive bills and pay from profits after the event, if this is possible.

Harley reported on recorded oral histories from Evans and Graham. They have been transcribed by Nichole Trushell, and Larry said he would have the digital files printed into a hard copy.

Discussion followed regarding the HHS Newsletter. The Board was very impressed with the first newsletter by Harley and definitely would like to continue it as a quarterly publication. It was suggested that we go to the community via the Newsletter and emails for a name for the newsletter and possibly offer a prize to the winner.

Discussion followed regarding having presentations at future combined board/Community Meetings. Possibilities would include: A representative of the BLM; Karl and Toni Laumbach; Chris Adams of the Forest Service on Apache history; Ron Brinkley on Ladder Ranch. The Board felt this would be a good way to help pique the interest of community people and promote the HHS.

Matti mentioned the importance of preserving the old gas Pump at Rubio's. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 5, 2009, in the evening. The exact time to be determined later.

A motion to adjourn was made by Larry and seconded by Patty. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Newsletter: As noted in the minutes above, we're looking for a permanent name for this newsletter. I (Harley) pulled the current name out a hat, just so we'd have something for the front page, but we'd like to hear suggestions from the community over the next 3 months. The board made noises about some kind of prize for the person coming up with the best title. Not sure what that might be, but we can certainly come up with something entertaining, if not valuable.

COURTHOUSE NEWS

As of March 1, we have \$12,785.00 in the courthouse purchase fund. Patty has been contacting other potential contributors as time allows.

Karl and Toni Laumbach (Toni is the deputy director of the Farm and Ranch Museum in Las Cruces) wandered around the site with us a month or so ago and made recommendations regarding stabilization, restoration, and interpretation needs.

ORAL HISTORIES

Nichole Trushell of Kingston finished transcribing the Art Evans-Donald Graham tapes. This tape was recorded by R. D. Brinkley during a five and a half hour trip around Ladder Ranch. The transcription amounts to 41 typed pages and includes a lot of reminiscing by Art and Donald about ranching around Hillsboro. Art was the previous manager of Ladder Ranch. Donald grew up on a ranch at Kingston and is now one of the best repositories of local history for the area. He is working on book of his own. These two were prompted during the interviews by Brinkley and Steve Dobrott, current manager of the Ladder Ranch.

OTHER HISTORIC PROPERTIES IN HILLSBORO

Patty discussed the future of Suzanne Poole's "Murphy House" with a representative of Ms. Poole. He indicated that she had plans for the house.

VOLUNTEERS AND ADVISORS

We now have three members of the advisory board.

Karl Laumbach is a well know archaeologist and historian who lives in Las Cruces. One of Karl's ongoing projects is a biography of Frank Bojorquez, perhaps the most famous cowboy in Hillsboro history. Patty and Harley had the privilege of spending an evening with Karl, his wife Toni, Lonnie Rubio and Ron Brinkley. We could only absorb a small part of the history that was exchanged.

R. D. Brinkley is a descendent of Thomas Jefferson Ross, an early co-owner of Ladder Ranch. Ron lives near San Francisco, but travels here often to continue into digging history about the area.

Chris Adams is a professional archaeologist who works for the U. S. Forest Service on the Black Range District. His special interest is local Apache history.

AND A LITTLE INTERESTING HISTORY

What follows here is a story about Hillsboro's 1914 flood from the files that Matti and Patti recently organized. We've all heard about the 1914 flood, but here is a first-hand account by Hattie Given, who was there. Her granddaughter, Emma Bernice Given De Vol, sent this copy to Nell Meyers Thwaits in February, 1989. I have retained Hattie's punctuation and spelling.

THE FLOOD WHICH SWEEPED THROUGH THE MAIN BUSINESS STREET OF HILLSBORO, NEW MEXICO

June 10, 1914

"Truth is stranger than fiction."

On the evening of June 10, Mother and I started for town to attend our regular O. E. S. meeting. On our way, we stopped at a neighbor's and remarked that we wished the we'd brought our umbrella, as the clouds were gathering in the sky. Paul walked down with us; and I said to him, "If it rains you can come for us." We opened our chapter with eight members. The rain soon came down in

torrents; and the hail beat upon the windows so that our voices could not be heard across the room. Our Patron had communications, which he read to us, while terrible lightening and crashing thunder rent the air and caused us to cover our eyes and ears; but we finished our work and closed with prayer and Farewell.

By this time the creek had begun to rise and we thought best to make coffee and have a lunch; which we did and sat down and had a jolly time never thinking that it was more than a shower which would make the street muddy. Meanwhile Mr. Murphy, our Worthy Patron, had been out investigating, and told us that we better lie down in the chamber room. The lightning was flashing terribly terribly and heavy thunder was pealing forth. So, to take our attention Brother Murphy told us a story about a Captain who told his men, when under fire, not to duck when the bullets flew by; and while the Captain was admonishing them, a bullet whizzed by his own head and he very naturally ducked; "There," he said, "Don't do it that way, I mean."

Evidently something was drawing Brother Murphy away; for he left us again. Meanwhile the husband of one of our members, himself a star, came to us. Still the storm increased till we could see that the creek was filled from bank to bank when the brilliant flashes of lightening came; and rivers of water were rushing through the yard and down the Main street. Every few minutes the flashes told us that the water was higher, and yet higher. Then great trees and sheds came on the waves.

From the bar-room, across the way, we could see the men standing in groups; then the door was closed; the lights went out. Then a terrible crash of falling timber and glass told us that the whole front of the drug-store had fallen out; still another crash and the backend, where Dr. Given's office was, falls; then farther down the street we could hear crash upon crash as the terrible waves demolished after building after building. Higher and higher crept the water. The large, two-story building we were in swayed. Now and then above the roar a scream could be heard. Soon many lanterns dotted the hills directly opposite us; and on rushed the cruel water. When the waves reached the tops of the windows—almost to the floor of the second floor, where we were, the only man with us in the hall advised us to get into a tree which stood close to our hall, but no one would venture even though the floor was shaking under us.

Several of the women were beside themselves; but I felt that the building was still safe and would be safe for some time to come. Still it was a horrible sensation to feel the building shaking. Still the water came down; we sat in the open windows pretending to eat crackers, to make the men, who were watching us, think that we felt safe; but we couldn't swallow.

More lanterns dotted the hill and all stood watching us. Then, indeed, we felt that we were doomed. But God designed different. Our work was not yet done.

The rain stopped and the waters began to recede. Doctor Given was the first man to get to us; then Paul; then others; and the hall was soon emptied of all excepting Sister Murphy; she, alone, refused to leave the hall. We knew that she was waiting for Tom; but the thought that Tom (Brother Murphy) would never come never entered our heads. We were carried to the school house hill and left

sitting in the coal shed. Soon Doctor Given returned saying, "We think that Tom Murphy has been drowned." Doctor and I at once went back to the hall and then to the Murphy residence; then, indeed, we feared the worst. We waited all night and until 11 o'clock a. m. when word came that the body had been found, almost four miles below the town, in a bush 50 feet above the ordinary level of the water. That will give some idea of the enormous proportions of the flood. The bringing in of the body and the subsequent burial needs no description. Masons, Odd Fellows, and O. E. S.'s were present to pay tribute to a loved brother. A mason for forty years and a star for four, always faithful even to the last, when he gave his life to help us. For we know, from remarks that he made to several before the flood swept him away, that he considered that we were in imminent peril and was determined to get to us and do what he could to get us to safe ground even if he died in the attempt. When someone remonstrated with him and tried to keep him from making the attempt to return to the hall, he said, "I'd drown to save my old woman." He did.

We all mourn his loss in company with his estimable wife.

Many buildings were demolished; some have fallen since. The property loss was great for such a small town. At least two dozen buildings were flooded to a depth of from a few inches to six feet. And, in the business section, several were completely destroyed.

REQUEST FOR STORIES

We intend to make this newsletter a quarterly, published apace with our regular board meetings. If anyone has stories to tell, history of houses or mines, anything appropriate that they might contribute, please send or email them to:

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Also, if anyone is interested in helping with the newsletter, I'm always to share the labor (that is lighten my own work).

Our next regular meeting will be May 5, 2009. 6PM. Hillsboro Community Center. 6:30 PM.