



# **GUAJALOTES, ZOPILOTES, Y PAISANOS**

**Newsletter of the Hillsboro Historical Society**

**May, 2013  
Volume 6 Number 2**

**Editor: Harley Shaw**

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## **ACTIVITIES**

### **Membership**

As of May 13, 2013, we have 25 individual, 16 family, and 3 business members. Supporting businesses are: Aldos Attic, Black Range Vineyards, and Spit and Whittle Club. Memberships last from February to February. A membership form is on the back page of this newsletter. For those that haven't, please renew.

### **Financial Report**

As of May 7, 2013, the HHS has \$39,716.91 in assets. The HHS has collected \$1,000 in membership dues; \$363 in donations; \$450 in fund raising revenue for restoration of the historic fire truck; and \$126.24 in sales of "Around Hillsboro," for a total of \$1,939.24 in income. We also collected \$218.30 in Bullocks receipts revenue. Of the \$225.27 in expenses, most was spent in publishing the quarterly newsletter. The Treasurer transferred \$5,000 from HHS cash reserves into a money market account. The HHS share for museum shop painting, phones, and security deposit was \$571.53.

### **Events**

During the past quarter, we have had two programs regarding the history of our area.

**Francisco Bojorquez.** On April 13, Karl Laumbach, historian and anthropologist from Las Cruces, gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation about Francisco Bojorquez. Bojorquez was without doubt the best-known and most skilled cowboy and horseman to ever work in Sierra County. He also served as Sierra County Sheriff, a Sierra County Commissioner, and was on the NMSU Board of Regents. Karl is a member of our advisory board and is working

on a biography of Bojorquez. It will be a major addition to the literature of Hillsboro history.

**Green Fire.** The second program was a presentation on May 11 of the movie, *Green Fire*, a biography of Aldo Leopold and history of his development of The Land Ethic. While Leopold never lived in Sierra County, his work developing forest and wildlife policies in New Mexico, and his role in developing the wilderness area concept left a significant imprint on our area. A significant portion of our own Black Range is managed as the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Area. Leopold is best known now for writing *A Sand County Almanac*, which has become one of the foundational texts of the American environmental movement.

**Fountain Murder Trial.** Several practices sessions for the Fountain Murder Trial Reenactment have now occurred, and parts have been assigned. Garland Bills and Val Werker are directing the play. Garland notes:

"A reenactment of the 1899 Fountain murder trial will be performed in the Hillsboro Community Center on Saturday and Sunday of the Labor Day weekend. This sensational 'trial of the century' took place in the old Sierra County courthouse in Hillsboro and concerned the disappearance of Colonel Albert Fountain and his eight-year-old son. Tried for the murder were Oliver Lee and James Gililand. The principal prosecuting and defense attorneys were Thomas Catron and Albert Fall, who would be appointed the state's first two senators when statehood was achieved in 1912. The reenactment will be performed and staged by area residents. More volunteers for the reenactment and other events will be welcomed with open arms.

"A number of related events are planned for the reenactment weekend. *Among the Dust of Thieves: A True Story of the Final Days of Mesilla's Colonel Albert Fountain* will be screened every 90 minutes at the Historic Sheriff Murphy House (circa 1891) on Elenora Street. Authors of books on the Fountain Murder Trial and related events and characters will present lectures or read from their works and offer and sign copies for sale each day. Tents along Main Street will house vendors offering antiques, historic artifacts, and art. The Hillsboro Historical Society will provide an updated and expanded walking guide to Hillsboro's historic sites and a new publication highlighting local businesses including histo-

ries, contact information, hours of operation and lodging rates for accommodations. A horse drawn wagon will circulate along Main and Elenora Street providing a tour of Hillsboro and transportation to the Murphy House and the Hillsboro Community Center."

### **Museum Shop.**

The HHS will have two rooms within the building at 10701 Highway 152 as its new home. The rooms will be ready for move in by the end of May or sooner and will house the HHS Education Center and Museum Gift Shop. Phones have been installed and the HHS number is 575-895-3324. With the help of members, painting is complete and furniture and display cabinets are being gathered. We hope to fence in, gravel and plant the back yard space. We anticipate an opening in June and may coordinate with the opening of the Black Range Vineyards Wine Bar for a Hillsboro "street party." We also plan to bring the Peltier Paintings home to display, along with the Lomahaftewa and Granados paintings and sell them in the shop.

### **Fire Truck**

HHS has decided to seek outside help to get the old Hillsboro fire truck functional. Current plans are to hire Albert Sanchez of Palomas Creek to repair the brakes and shift the engine from the salvage truck to the Hillsboro truck. Albert owns a trailer large enough to move these trucks to his shop, and he is excited about the project. His rates are competitive. We've had a brief holdup, in that Albert is having some minor (we hope) neck surgery. He hopes to begin work on the trucks by the first of June. Once these larger tasks are accomplished, the Hillsboro truck will be able to move on its own power, and our group can begin to shift the fire-fighting equipment between the trucks.

### **EDITOR'S COMMENTS AND NEWS**

Even though a lot is going on within HHS, especially the museum shop and the Fountain play reenactment, I found myself without many thoughts for this short commentary. Most of the news is in other parts of the newsletter. So I did a quick review of all of the newsletters we've produced to the present. The total is 18. I'd like to think they've improved as we've gone along, but I'm aware that some come out better than others. A lot of that is related to the material we receive from

members. In going back through the old issues, I discovered one promise we haven't kept. In our very first newsletter, I promised we would include a write-up on a historic house in the area each month. Seemingly, I instantly forgot that planned item, because we haven't had a house history since. I'm going to try, as long as suitable houses hold out, to correct that omission, starting with this issue.

History comes in many forms. I've always found the simple accounts of life during particular periods much more interesting, even more exciting, than the constant barrage of gunfighters, warfare, and politicians that dominates the southwestern literature. Also, I feel that history includes everything right up to today, so we don't have to constantly reach back to the 1890s to find suitable material. How people lived and what they were thinking in recently-passed decades can remind us of how things have changed in our lifetime. Our feature piece for this issue is another of Bobbie Ostler's stories about growing up in our area in the 1970s. Bobbie was in second grade in 1974. I'm hoping that Bobbie's long-term plan is to assemble all of these stories into a memoir soon.

### **LOCAL HISTORY**

#### **George Washington**

By Bobbie Hale-Ostler

Second grade was a dark disaster with the life-changing viral infections, tonsillitis and bouts of strep throat. I missed quite a bit of school and the teacher made it clear I was not welcomed in her class. I had no idea that adults yelled. The teacher had the appearance of a professional with her neat skirt suits and bee hive hair style. But sadly, she was the first adult I met who abused prescription drugs. The principal, Mr. Sitz refused to let me transfer to another class. So my parents pulled me out and I finished up second grade at home. My mom would pick up weekly school assignments from Mr. Sitz. Time after time, my mom and I would make the trip to Deming to visit Dr. Hosley the same doc who delivered my mom and me. Dr. Hosley, always clad in a black suit and carrying an ancient black leather doctor's bag would say, "You have another virus." Mrs. Hill's third grade class was a wonderful contrast. As usual, I was leaving early from Happy Flats, east of Hillsboro to catch the # 7 bus at 7:15 each morning. Mrs. Hill made me and everyone feel equally welcome in

her class. Her voice and mannerisms were soft and soothing. This was back in the days when students still had the freedom to openly profess our faith, even our Christian faith. I remember sharing with the class being baptized during summer vacation before the third grade started. Mrs. Hill allowed silent prayer before tests for anyone who wanted to pray. I could write such journal entries as, "My New Year's Resolution will be to shoot my .22 rifle better," without the threat of being suspended or having the authorities rush in. Because of these freedoms, I could write uninhibited and I discovered my passion for writing. That was also the year that I excelled in a speed reading program.



**Bobbie at age 7**

It seems that third grade was also the time period when the viral infections spiraled into mononucleosis. I could not find any specific diary entries of coming down with mono. I don't remember going to Dr. Hosley but he did diagnose me with mono. My little diary is scattered with numerous entries such as "Sick today. Sick again today. Better today. Sick again with a bad sore throat, drinking tea by the fire." I did not realize that mono would be the turning point that would affect the rest of my life. I cannot remember any specific details of

mono symptoms other than sleeping a lot, having a constant aching body and feeling a bit isolated. My sister, Kathleen, must have recognized that I was isolated as she brought George to me in a burlap sack on George Washington's Birthday. Since it was Washington's Birthday, I was adamant to name the female cat George.

George must have come during a time of sickness as I remember sitting at the fireplace when Kathleen walked in with the sack. Kathleen untied the sack and as soon as the cat sauntered out, I yelled, "Welcome home, George Washington!" She wagged her tail and walked from room to room marking her new territory. She finally came and rubbed herself against me letting me know that she was my new owner. Our Shepherd mix Daisy was accepting of George and never chased her. Mom said George cannot go outside for at least ten days so that she knows this is her home. George and I bonded very quickly. She would curl up with me next to the fire place and enjoy the last few fires of winter. She would sleep with me for a few hours before roaming the house on her nightly prowling. Keeping George in full time for the first few weeks was a challenge as spring was making its debut with budding trees, the creek rising and mom burning last year's garden. George would sit on the wide wooden shelves on the window sill looking out at the new wonderful world. The smells of the old garden drifted in the smoke tantalizing me and George. At last, ten days came and went and George could be let out. I would follow her. And what a wonderful time it was to be set free. The red ants were already out and soon George discovered lizards. Mom was busy pouring over the seed catalogs and drawing up plans for the new garden. Soon the four leaf clovers would pop up. I celebrated St. Patrick's Day with my annual tradition of gathering four leaf clovers.

Spring always came with promises of new beginnings and the hope of warm weather. Warm weather gave me hope that I could have some relief from an achy body. I lived to get up before the sun just to run barefoot in the garden to watch the sunrise while singing the old hymn, "I Come to the Garden." Our first garden was just outside the large gate facing east. Often coyotes would come as close as the garden--to taunt me as I would throw rocks at them and miss. They taunted my bad aim and I would scream at them "You leave me and my pets alone!" It was an amazing miracle to watch the lettuce, radishes, carrots, spinach, tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage and turnips grow

bigger each day. Summer suppers were made of large fresh salads. One of my favorite dishes was wilted spinach salad. North Percha Creek would run high and swift during the snow melt of the Black Range Mountains. I cherished going to the creek and would go several times a day. I would find George at the creek once in a while. Sitting by the rising creek calmed my nerves as I often sat for a long time in prayer. The creek held another world full of treasures such as tad poles, guppies, and water skippers. Water cress was plentiful and I would pick it to add to our fresh garden salads. At sunset, I would slip into the fruit orchard and drink in the sweet aroma of the tree's blossoms. I would often sit in my favorite apple tree to wait for the bats to come out for their nightly meal of gnats and other creepy creatures. George was smart enough to also follow the rules I obeyed, "Come in before dark" as she would slip in through a cracked window or the front door to avoid nightly enemies such as coyotes and owls. It was a comfort to be home after dark drinking hot tea with George curled up in my lap. George was the only one who understood the force that seemed to pull me from the house to the great outdoors. These days I still spend as much time as possible outdoors. And I have a cat, Sophie Sanchez, who does her best to comfort me when I have flare ups of pain. I have given up on regular medicine and doctors for now in hopes of finding an answer to the chronic pain. As soon as I mention that I had mono a couple of times, I get very negative reactions. Most docs don't believe that I could contract mono more than once or that I have not recovered from it. The doctors simply want to fill me up with anti-depressants. So, I strive to pray for others worse off than me, use herbs and good nutrition, and to roll with the punches.

It's spring once again and the Hillsboro cottonwoods are full of new green leaves out in our back yard in Albuquerque giving me hope of warm weather and new adventures.

## FOR SALE

### Books and Newsletters:

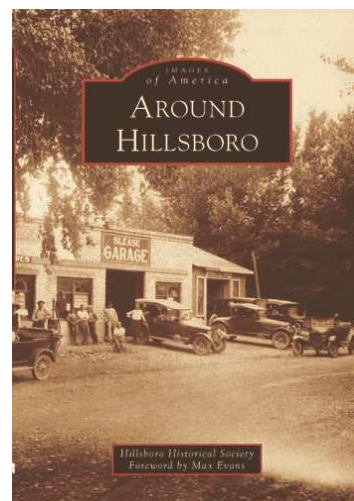
**Newsletter volumes 1 to 5 on CD:  
17 newsletters. \$10.00 postage paid.**

Contact:

Hillsboro Historical Society.  
P. O. Box 461.  
Hillsboro NM 88042

### Articles in HHS newsletter volumes 1-5:

- Vol. 1, No. 1: Emmett Faulkner obit. Dove histories by Harley Shaw.
- Vol. 2, No. 1: Eastern Star women in 1914 Flood. From the archives.
- Vol. 2, No. 2: CC Crews and Luna B. Leopold Flood Article.
- Vol. 2, No. 3: Legacy of Chavez clan by Stretch Luna and Javelina history by Harley Shaw.
- Vol. 2, No. 4: Hillsboro High School. Patricia Sze.
- Vol. 3, No. 1: Two women sentenced to death. 1972 Flood. From the archives
- Vol. 3, No. 2: Miscellanea of historical information. Significant dates. Stretch Luna.
- Vol. 3, No. 3: List of Hillsboro Business, 1912-1913. Delia Crafton. Notes on wildlife history. Stageline. From the archives.
- Vol. 3, No. 4: The Lake Valley Range War.
- Vol. 4, No. 1: Judge Frank Wilson Parker, Frontier Lawyer, Political Warrior.
- Vol. 4, No. 2: Stormy Night: Bobbi Ostler—personal memories of 1972 flood. Also book report on *Tempest over Teapot Dome*.
- Vol. 4, No. 3: Soda bottling in the Black Range.
- Vol. 4, No. 4: Life on North Percha through three generations. Mary Reid and Bobbi Ostler.
- Vol. 5, No. 1: Diary of the Hunt. Edward Tittmann.
- Vol. 5, No. 2: New Mexico Constitutional Convention. Recollections by Edward Tittmann.
- Vol. 5, No. 3: First Grade. Attending school from North Percha. Bobbi Ostler.
- Vol. 5, No. 4: Letter from Ida Beals. 1889.
- Vol. 6, No. 1: Hillsboro to Kingston Toll Road.



**\$21. 99 plus postage**

### INTERESTING LINKS

<http://hillsborohistory.blogspot.com/>.

Hillsboro blog maintained by Craig Springer. Lots of good stories about our area.

[http://www.blackrange.org/The Black Range Rag/The Black Range Rag.html](http://www.blackrange.org/The_Black_Range_Rag/The_Black_Range_Rag.html). Created by Robert Barnes. Now back online with a lot of new information. Good for both local history and natural history. And lots of links to other sites.

<http://www.hillsboronm.com/>. Community organizations and functions around Hillsboro

and Kingston.

<http://www.blackrangelodge.com/>. Historic bed and breakfast with accommodations in the pines.

<http://barbershopcafe.com/>. Check ahead for hours and menu.

<http://www.blackrangevineyards.com/>. Currently in Mesilla, New Mexico. Soon to open in Hillsboro.

<http://www.aldosattic.com/>. Fine bird prints and literature of nature.

### HISTORIC HOMES

#### The C. C. Crews House.



**Date Unknown**

This is purportedly one of the oldest remaining houses in town. Dr. Charles Cotilda Crews came to Hillsboro in 1879, Although already a trained physician by the time he joined the Confederate Army in 1861, he fought on the frontlines throughout the Civil War, ultimately reaching the rank of Brigadier General. We featured a story about him in the May, 2002 (Vol. 2, No. 2) issue of this newsletter and won't repeat the details of his life. He moved to Hillsboro in 1879, where he served as a physician and owned local mines. He died in 1887 and is buried in the Hillsboro Cemetery.





**2013**

We are not sure exactly when the house was built. After Crews' death, it passed through several ownerships and, at one time had deteriorated to a roofless adobe shell. It has now been restored. Current owners are Inga and Mark McCord, who continue upgrading it. As one of the oldest and historically significant homes in Hillsboro, the McCords have truly made it a "gift to the street."

## MEMBERSHIP

The Hillsboro Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to collect, preserve and share the history and historical artifacts of the Hillsboro, Kingston and Lake Valley communities in New Mexico. Its membership comprises supporters and volunteers who may choose to participate in many aspects of the Society's mission including fundraising, collection and conservation, oral histories, education and interpretation, special events and programs. Member benefits include the Historical Society quarterly newsletter, priority registration for lectures, summer programs and field trips, and an invitation to our Annual Dinner and Silent Auction. Dues are \$25 annually for individual or family and \$50 for business memberships. Please mail this completed Membership Subscription, along with your check made payable to **Hillsboro Historical Society, P. O. Box 461, Hillsboro NM 88042.**

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Phone Number ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer interest \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annual (from Feb to Feb) individual or family membership

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annual (from Feb to Feb) business membership that includes ad in newsletter

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Newsletter sent (check one): Digital by email

Hard copy mailed

We prefer to send the newsletter via email. If we have no email address for members, we will mail them a hard copy.