

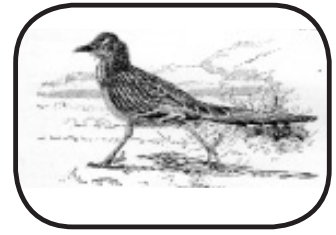
# Guajalotes, Zopilotes, y Paisanos



Turkey



Vulture



Roadrunner

## Hillsboro Historical Society

May 2016. Volume 9 Number 2



Looking west on Main Street. Building on far left was part of the building that became the Black Range Museum. The rooms shown are no longer present.

## Board

**President:** Larry Cospers

**Vice Presidents:** Barbara Lovell

**Treasurer:** Joe Ficklin

**Secretary:**

**Directors:** Sonja Rutledge, Patti Nunn, Garland Bills, Steve Dobrott,  
Steve Elam, Harley Shaw

**Advisory Board:** Karl Laumbach, Chris Adams, Craig Springer, R. D. Brinkley, Patricia Woodruff,  
Penny McCauley, Mark Thompson, John Tittmann, Lynn Mullins

**Newsletter Editor:** Harley Shaw

## From the President

Greetings...your HHS board has been very busy since our last update. We took possession of the Black Range Museum on May 1 and the work began in earnest. We had an Open House on May 7 which was well attended by members; we received numerous compliments and acknowledgements of appreciation for again making it available to the public. Joe Ficklin built some great steps for the door and Robin Tuttle interviewed visitors and compiled their responses to questions on what they liked and would like to see. On May 10 folks got started on inventorying the contents and assessing their condition..a big job! May 14 was the Kingston School House Open House and by all accounts was a success. We continue to raise funds and will be soliciting bids to repair the roof of the Black Range Museum in the near future. Thanks for all your support and interest...we will keep you posted!



## News, Comments, Activities

**K**udos to Barb Lovell, Ray Reid, and the Kingston Spit and Whittle Club for fixing up the schoolhouse. We have a few folks around who remember attending school there. The Kingston Spit & Whittle Club is one of the oldest continuously active social clubs in the western United States. It was founded by a group of local miners in the 1880's, the heyday of the silver mining boom in Kingston. The Club has been meeting in the Kingston school (c. 1891) for over 50 years. Web page: [www.kingstonnewmexico.com](http://www.kingstonnewmexico.com).



**Steve Morgan as Leopold**

One of the highlights of the schoolhouse open house in Kingston was Steve Morgan's chautauqua of Aldo Leopold. Leopold is known as the "Father of American Wildlife Management" and he was a major force in the establishment of the Gila Wilderness. The Aldo Leopold Wilderness in the Black Range above Kingston is named for him. His most famous book is *Sand County Almanac*. Steve's characterization will help people understand Leopold's contribution to land use philosophies and why the area on the Black Range bears his name.

**Board Director Garland Bills** has spearheaded fundraising for the museum, along with initial planning for restoration. He writes:

"Three cheers! Hip-hip-hooray! The HHS now owns the Black Range Museum! Well, 37.5% of it anyway. We have a \$50,000 note to pay off, but, considering the amazing response already received from a few "Foundational Donors" we should soon retire that debt. But buying the museum is the easy

part. Now we have to make it functional, and that task is daunting. We have three major challenges to confront: emergency repairs to prevent further deterioration, especially the roof to stop obvious leaking. We have to seal holes in the building to keep out rodents and water. Finally, we need catalog what's in the museum and care for what we find. This task is particularly challenging because must work slowly and carefully to itemize each item, but we need to protect the collection from water, rodent, and insect damage. We have barely begun an inventory of the collection. We select an item, dust it, assign it a unique accession number, photograph it, and enter it into an Excel database with a brief description. This inventory process is extremely time-consuming. As we inventory each item, we have to provide basic protection and where necessary move it away from where the roof leaks.

"Even with volunteer labor doing these tasks, we will have to pay for materials. In addition, we have to plan more comprehensive protection of the building and the collection. One aspect is to stabilize and restore the exterior and interior of this old 19th century building as well as the wonderfully unique adobe water tower behind the building. All of this will be expensive, so we need to apply early on to public and private foundations and agencies for grants. This will require research on the history and significance of the building and its contents, and the assistance of construction and museum experts in identifying best preservation practices and estimating each component of cost. As you can see, the task is enormous. We need all the help we can get including financial."

**Hillsboro Historical Society meets at 6:30 PM the second Tuesday of every month at the Community Center. Everyone welcome.**



## THE BLACK RANGE MUSEUM

Harley Shaw, Garland Bills and Barbara Lovell

With the purchase of the Black Range Museum, Hillsboro Historical Society is moving into a new era. In our bylaws, we recognize two primary missions: collecting and dispersing information on the history of our area and preserving historic sites and artifacts. Since our inception nearly 10 years ago, we have addressed the first mission via this newsletter and, more recently, via the gift shop and educational center. By purchasing the Black Range Museum, we've taken a significant step toward fulfilling the second objective. The Museum is one of two historic sites we had hoped to protect; the other is the old Sierra County Courthouse and Jail site. We still have hopes of acquiring that site as well.

But for the present, we have our hands full restoring the museum building and cleaning, sorting, interpreting, and recording the many artifacts it contains. Everyone on the Board is looking forward to discovering what all is there. No doubt we'll be seeking other volunteers--we're tackling a big job for our small town. While the many artifacts within the museum are important, the building itself is perhaps the most historically significant artifact of all. We've only begun to research its history, and we're discovering how little we really know.



**Black Range Museum-2016**

What we have been able to document so far is that the building was in place before May 10, 1893, because it appears on a copy of the Sanborn-Perris map of Hillsborough bearing that date. How long before that date the building was built, we do not yet know, although some evidence suggests it was built in the 1880s. We're hoping to learn more about its construction date by digging into the Sierra County records. The most prominent owner of the building was our purported (notorious?) madam and stagecoach owner, Sadie Orchard. According to her only full biography, written by the late Patsy King, Miss Sadie, whose maiden name was Sarah Creech, came from Kansas. Her early history is obscure, but involved at least one, perhaps two, marriages before she landed in Kingston. Apparently she had already started her boarding business, with favors, in that town. About the time Sadie moved to Hillsboro, she married Henry Orchard and was soon operating two hotels--the Orchard Hotel and the Ocean Grove Hotel. The Orchard Hotel had, perhaps, been owned by Henry before the two were married. It sat on the east side of what is now State Highway 27, just as you come into town--roughly where the fire

station sits now. The other was named the Ocean Grove Hotel was housed in our building. We might speculate that the Orchard Hotel was maintained as a respectable establishment for businessmen and other travelers. The Ocean Grove was probably where Sadie's girls did most of their business. Its small rooms could well have been "cribs." In addition to reportedly renting rooms "by the hour," Sadie had a restaurant in the northwest room of the museum. However, the our bulding had other usages preceding Sadie by perhaps 10 years. We've yet to discover what these were.



**Sadie Orchard (on right) at home.**

At some point, Tom Ying moved from Lake Valley and took over the restaurant. We've yet to discover the exact years he operated in the Ocean Grove and whether he initially worked for Sadie. Tom may have had had restaurants in other buildings. His first, apparently was in Lake Valley, rather than Hillsboro. Also, we have a photo of "Tom Ying's Restaurant" (below) in a building that obviously is not the Ocean Grove. So far, we've not identified this other building.

At this time, we don't know who built our building or how it was used before Sadie owned it. It was standing for perhaps 10 years before she turned it into a hotel and restaurant. The Sanford-Perry map shows two additional rooms on the west end of the building that are not present today. One of these was being used as a bank in 1893.

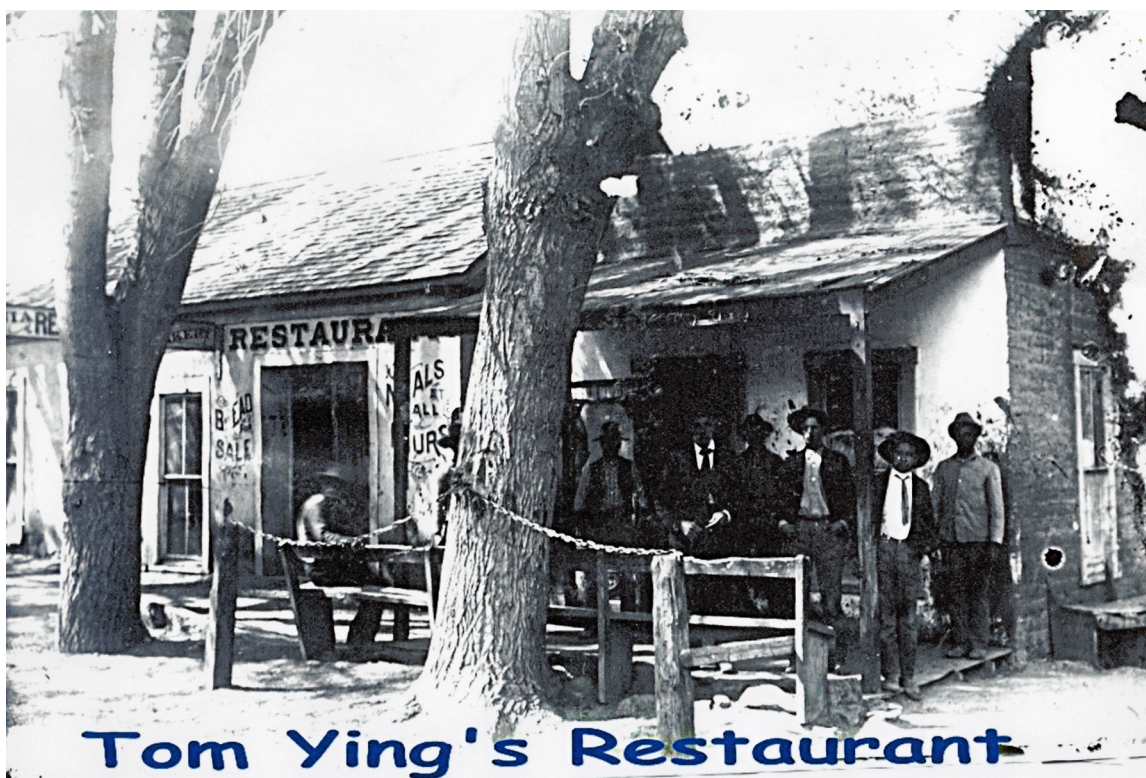
So we have a lot to learn. Barb Lovell, Robin Tuttle, and Garland Bills have already been digging into files in Santa Fe and Truth or Consequences. Wading through those old hand-written county records is one of the most difficult kinds of historical research. And all too often, the information found is so obscure and contradictory that it leaves us more confused than when we started. More often than not, the recorded "facts" don't jibe with the anecdotes and tales that have been written and told in the popular press. Miss Sadie herself was known for creating her own myth as she went along (the Kansas farm girl claimed to be from London, for example). We're working to get things straight, but I fear we're facing the addage that came from the movie, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* – and I paraphrase, "Son, in the West, when the facts contradict the legend, always write the legend." We'll see.



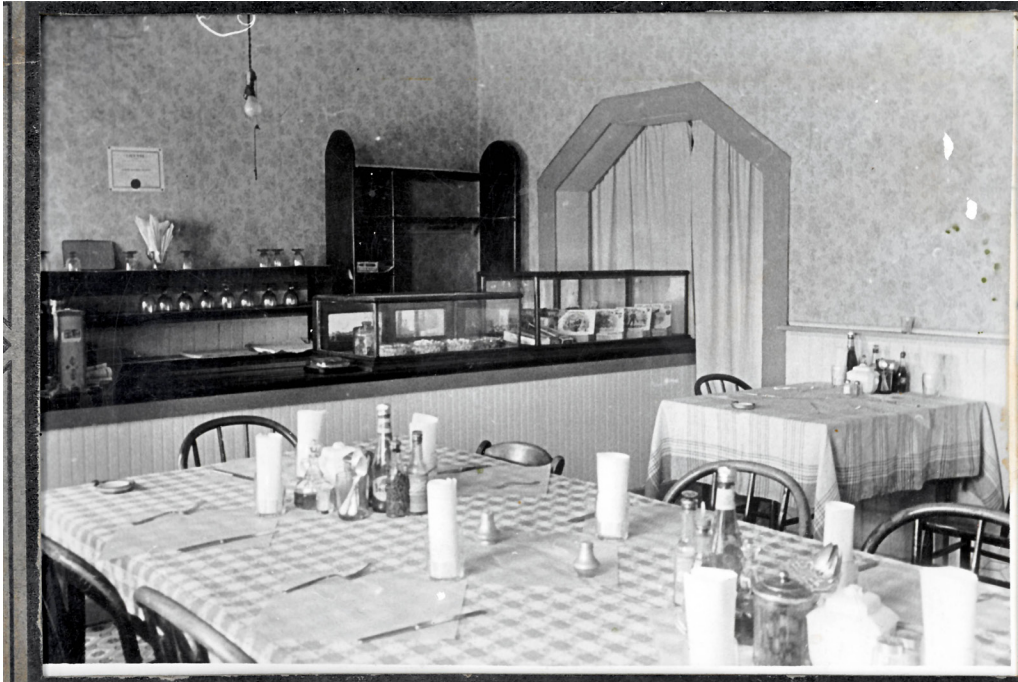


Tom Ying

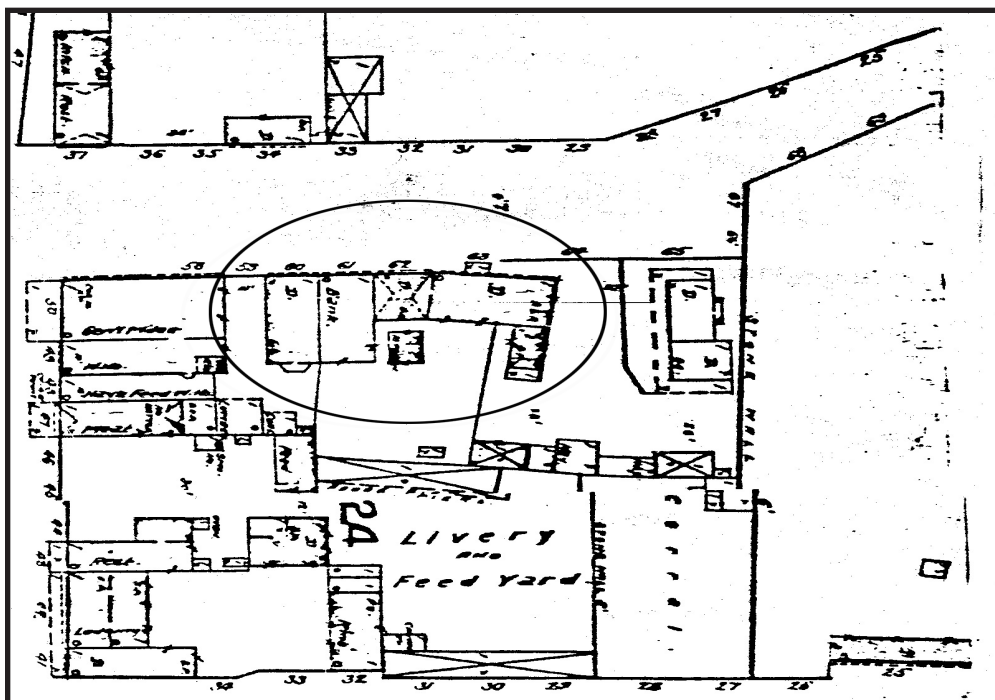
Undated photo of Tom Ying and Friend



We're not sure where this building stood in Hillsboro. Originally, we thought it was Ying's restaurant in the Orchard Grove building, but on close inspection we've decided it doesn't match structurally. The person standing at the corner of the building may be Ying.



Restaurant in front room of museum--date unknown believed to be Tom Ying's.



Segment of 1893 Sanborn-Perris map of Hillsboro. Circled area is the building where the Black Range Museum resides. The two large western-most rooms are no longer present. The building to the west is now Sue's Antiques. It has been enlarged since the museum building decreased in size.



## HILLSBORO TIMELINE

Harley Shaw

For those who haven't figured it out by now, I intend for this timeline section to be an ongoing series intended to compile a basic history of our town and its surroundings. Instead of Hillsboro Timeline, it might more appropriately be called a Percha Watershed timeline or even a "Perchaland" timeline, taking a lead from the introduction of the book *Around Hillsboro*. Unfortunately, any title leaves an impression of a delimited time and area. History doesn't recognize such boundaries, so I can't predict where this assemblage may lead. With luck, these short sections will eventually come together in a more coherent chronology of the landscape where we live. The past two sections have attempted to place the brief history of our region into a perspective relative to a larger, geologic, timeline. From here on, beginning approximately at the end of the Pleistocene, some 15,000 years ago, I hope to focus on shorter periods within that larger time frame and increase the resolution with which we view them. For reasons you'll see below, I'm finding this to be a challenge.

Geologists and Paleontologists call the ice ages the Pleistocene and the period in which we live the Holocene. The changeover between the periods happened about 15,000 years ago, when many ice-age species, especially large mammals had disappeared from the land, the vegetation had shifted and changed drastically as the glaciers receded, and humans appeared on both American continents. To this day, specialists studying such deep history disagree, often with feeling, over whether the changing climate or the arrival of humans caused the demise of the mammoths, mastodons, camels, primitive horses and a host of other large mammals. At that time, humans weren't abundant enough or industrious enough to be blamed for the changing climate.

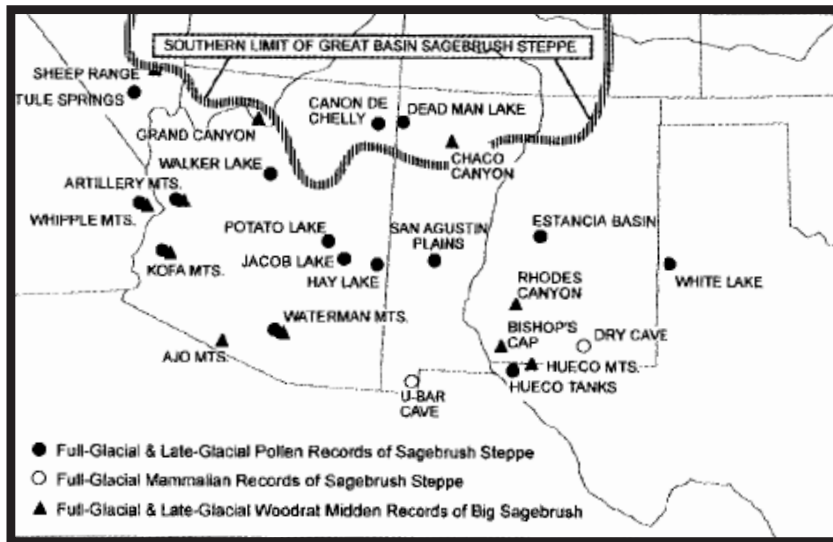
This broad outline of the changeover is pretty much accepted for the continent as a whole. The trick lies in trying to apply it to a specific area, ergo our Perchaland. Within our watershed, the terrain was probably more or less as we see it now by 10,000 years ago. The last uplift within the Emory Caldera had left the rugged ridge we call the Black Range; the steep, rocky eastern face had shed water and debris downward and across the alluvial flats between the mountain and the Rio Grande. These flats were undoubtedly already being creased by the canyons we call Percha, Animas, Seco, Palomas, Trujillo, and Berrenda, etc.

What we don't know much about is what plants and animals were present during this transition between the Pleistocene and Holocene? When did humans begin to wander the slopes? What effect did these humans have on the plants and animals that existed at that time? Precise answers to these questions for our region are hard to find. The rugged east slopes of the Black Range were avoided by most of the early European explorers, both Spanish and Anglo. The area became one of the last bastions of the Apaches, adding another repellent to any outsider who would prospect or explore the region. Although the Apaches are no longer a danger, the terrain and vegetation continue to repel field scientists.

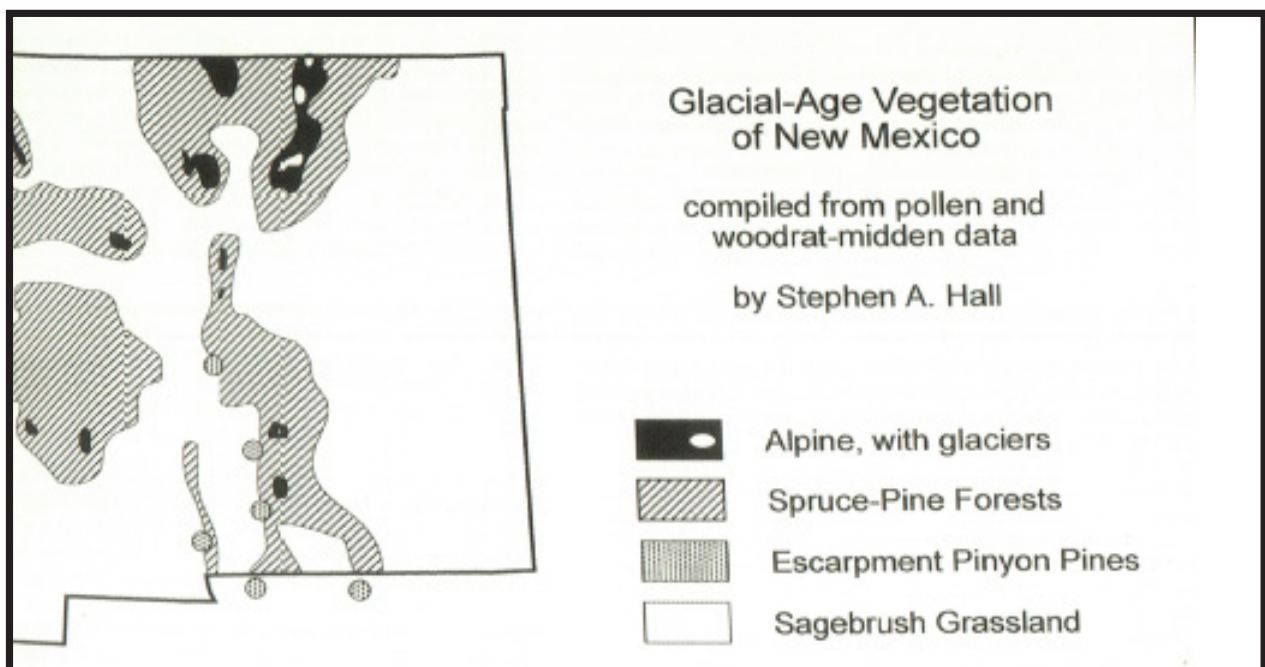
Over the past 75 years or so, paleobiologists have used three basic tools in trying to piece together the history of vegetation and associated wildlife: analysis of pollen layers from cores drilled downward through the bottoms of ancient lakebeds; analysis of plant and animal remains found in ancient packrat middens; and actual fossils or bones of animals unearthed where wildlife concentrated. In 2005, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science compiled papers by geologists and paleontologists into their Bulletin 28, entitled *New Mexico's Ice Ages*. This publication reveals the amazing amount of information available about the Pleistocene and early Holocene in New Mexico. It also reveals how little of this information has been derived from the Black Range.

In this book, Geologist Stephen A. Hall wrote the chapter on Ice Age Vegetation and Flora of New Mexico. Hall began his career as a museum aide in paleobiology at the Smithsonian in 1963. Working his way through the Universities of Oklahoma, Iowa, and Michigan, he received his Ph. D. in 1975. He retired as a Professor of Geography at the University of Texas in 2002 and has continued to write, consult, and do research. He has published an astounding 160 technical papers over the course of the past 53 years--most of them dealing with southwestern paleobiology. Two maps presented in his 2005 paper are revealing. The first shows the locations in the Southwest where various kinds of paleobiological data have been gathered. Note that none of the samples occurred in the vicinity of the Black Range. The second shows Hall's interpretation of data gathered from these sources. Simply put, all of the flats surrounding the mountains were covered with sagebrush-grassland; Spruce-fir forests came well down the mountains slopes. Ponderosa pine was essentially missing, and pinyon woodlands were sparsely scattered.





Locations of various sources of ice age vegetation data excerpted from Hall's 2005 paper. Note the demarcation of the present southern limit of big sagebrush near the top of the map.



During the Ice Age, big sagebrush extended throughout the lowlands of New Mexico and southward into Mexico. Spruce-fir forests covered the mountains. Ponderosa pine was missing, and a few patches of pinyon were scattered in south-central New Mexico. Compare this with the approximate current range of big sagebrush in the Southwest shown in the first map. The Black Range is shown as entirely spruce-fir forest, with one peak, perhaps Hillsboro Peak with Alpine vegetation. Ponderosa pine forest, pinyon-juniper, and chaparral are all missing.

So we have the latest “best guess” about the major plant cover of the Black Range. It looked something like the higher slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains northeast of Santa Fe appear today--a higher and colder type of forest. Of course, this is painted with a broad brush; we know little about the smaller plants that might have been scattered within. And I repeat--none of the data used to bring about these conclusions came from the Black Range. Our assessment is necessarily a projection of findings from other places upon our own locality, but its safe to say things were colder and wetter back then, and the landscape where Hillsboro now sits was probably covered with spruce, fir, and aspen. Downhill towards the Rio Grande, the flats were covered with big sagebrush and grasses, where creosote bush and tarbush now grows.

How this colder vegetation was reflected by the fauna in the region and what remained by the time the first humans wandered up Percha Creek are complicated subjects. Paleontologists have cataloged dozens of now-extinct species in New Mexico that all disappeared as the climate warmed during the Pleistocene. These include elephant-like mammoths and mastodons, giant bison, small horses, and a host of large carnivores. This is a story that has been told many times over and won't be repeated here. Only smaller species survived--mainly bison-sized sized and downwards. Evidence of the the early species that disappeared have been found in caves and buried along rivers or around the edges of ancient lakes. The take-home message for our story of Perchaland is, much as in the studies of paleobotany, no information exists for our immediate region. We can only extrapolate from other areas and guess what might have existed here. Nearest sites are one cave deposit near the north end of the Black Range and records from the old lakebeds in the Plains of San Augustin, Jornada del Muerto, and Lake Otero.

The story is much the same for human presence at the end of the Pleistocene. The term Paleoindian has been applied to humans that were present at the end of the Pleistocene. Records of these do not go back much beyone 11,000 years ago. Two cultures have been recognized--the Clovis and Folsom, both named for locations where their artifacts were first found. Both of these cultures seemingly disappeared very early in the Holocene, or at metamorphosed into other cultures. What is puzzling is that a very long hiatus exists between the most recent artifacts representing the paleoIndians, and those of the early Mimbres cultures--a group that is well-represented in Perchaland by archaeological digs and subsequent publications. The writings about the Mimbres within our region provide us with much finer resolution, starting some 1800 years ago. We'll need at least one, maybe more, issues to cover the subject.

---



---

#### PERCHA WATERSHED TIMELINE

15,000—1800 years ago	Arrival of humans. Vegetation zones moving uphill; ponderosa pine increasing. Grassland and creosote bushing appearing in plains. Little known about presence of Archaic (Clovis or Folsom )cultures in our watershed. Mostly surficial geological activity.
130,000- 15,000 years ago	Continued warming. Disappearance of many large Pleistocene mammals. Most geological activity surficial--continued canyon formation, rearrangement of surface layers, landslides, stream aggradation. Vegetation generally shifted downward from present distributions. Mixed conifer (spruce-fire) forest probably reaching downhill perhaps to 5000 feet (elevation of Hillsboro); pinyon-juniper woodlands in sparse patches, if at all. Ponderosa pine missing. Flat lands toward river covered with big sagebrush and grasses.

#### ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Louise Ratigan of Roswell writes to Barb Lovell: “While you are cleaning the Kingston School library, see ifthere is a book *The Cigarette Makers Romance*. I want to read it. I found it when I was going to school there. . . and the teacher took it. I’ve been curious about it ever since.

To “Kingston Kids”: Remember when the gutter came loose and fell down and when it rained it washed a hole in the adobe wall of the school at the corner by the wood shed. The little kids could crawl out the hole and go outside. The teacher couldn’t see them going out. The reading bench was in front of the hole.... It took the teacher a few days to find it. Good bye hole...





**HILLSBORO  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SECOND ANNUAL  
ANTIQUES  
FESTIVAL**

*SEPTEMBER 2-4, 2016* **FRI 5-8 P.M.  
SAT/SUN 10 A.M.-5 P.M.**  
*admission: Fri \$8.00, Sat/Sun \$3.00 • Dealers from across the Southwest*

Put this on your calendar for  
Labor Day Weekend!

## Home Tour in Hillsboro

Saturday, September 3, 2016 10am-4pm

Exploring Elenora Street: Three Centuries of Living  
Homes Gardens Church Ruins

\$10/adult Donation



## MUSEUM STORE

**Hours: Friday, Saturday,  
and Sunday, 11am to 4pm.**

**Phone: 575-895-3321.**

## MEMBERSHIP

**OUR MEMBERSHIPS ARE ON A FEBRUARY 1 TO JANUARY 31 BASIS. ANY APPLICATIONS WE RECEIVE AFTER NOVEMBER 15 WILL BE CONSIDERED 2016 MEMBERSHIPS VALID FROM FEB 1, 2016 TO JANUARY 31, 2017.**

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

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annual business membership that includes ad in newsletter.

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for

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.