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AMERICAN

BICENTENNIAL

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Lincoln County News

LINCOLN COUNTY NEWS (Box 459)

SUMMER-WINTER 1975

CARRIZOZO, New Mexico 88301

Lincoln County busy in 1800's



Ruidoso founded long time ago

by Al Stubbs, Editor
Lincoln County News

While White Oaks was just beginning to blossom, a sawmill and post office materialized in what was to become Ruidoso.

At about the same time, Billy the Kid was killed in Fort Sumner by Sheriff Pat Garrett.

Ranches and farms dotted the Hondo Valley, and Roswell and Eddy way east and south were a part of historic Lincoln County. John Chisum was a big man in the area, as J.J. Hagerman and Charles B. Eddy were to become big men.

Eddy played a leading role in the development of Capitan (Gray), Coalora, Carrizozo and that area of Lincoln County because of his bringing the railroad to the area.

Carrizozo would never have been born if the town fathers at White Oaks had not become greedy and attempted to hold up the railroad on right-of-way land prices.

If coal had been of sufficient quality and quantity in the Capitan area, that town today might have been a metropolis.

Along in the 80s the Coes were strong over on the lower Ruidoso. A few years later Bert Bonnell would be born at Bonito City where Bonito Dam is now located. So would his brothers.

Fort Stanton was still a fort in 1880-nine years later it would become a hospital-a Merchant Marine Hospital.

At the turn of the century, Corona already was ranch country of long standing. Willis R. Lovelace arrived on the scene there to ranch just after 1900.

Bill Gallacher and family lived at White Oaks. So did Nettie (Lee) Lemon and many others.

White Oaks reached a peak population of 2,500.

Lincoln was the county seat, and horseback and wagon travel was rather thick between the populated areas of Lincoln County before the turn of the century and during and after the Lincoln

County war.

Mining was strong in the Nogal area at the same time as mining was potent at White Oaks. An old Spanish mine dating back to the 1600s was being reworked, among others.

Schools were big news-at Nogal, Lincoln, White Oaks, Capitan and elsewhere. Post Offices dotted the area at towns which no longer exist and in the ones which do.

White Oaks was a "culture center" because many of the inhabitants came from the east and were used to high-level cultural activities.

Lincoln County has as colorful a history, probably, as any other single county in the United States.

The lawlessness in the early days, gold and precious metals mining, the railroad, fruit growing and many other factors combined to give the county a history of note. Old Lincoln and the Lincoln County War events will live on and on into future centuries.

Not too many decades ago, the Hull bowling alley in Ruidoso was also the social center.

And Model Ts were maneuvering down Picacho Hill on a road that left much to be desired.

Hunting trips from the Pecos Valley into Lincoln County by wagon took two weeks sometimes-most of that time spent in travel.

Persons from Lincoln County have made musical history, also. Curt and Louise Massey, who lived in My Adobe Hacienda in the Hondo Valley, made a song by the same name-written by Louise Massey-very famous.

They hit the national spotlight-for years-musically.

Ruidoso Downs race track and Sierra Blanca Ski area certainly are part of the colorful history of Lincoln County. Robert O. Anderson built the ski area and later sold it to the Mescalero-Apache Indian tribe which now operates it.

The race track, under Gene Hensley as principal stock holder (Continued on Page 2)

This old wagon no doubt saw service in the early days of Lincoln County--the tree and the wagon probably are about the same age. The wagon is on the Oliver Porter ranch out of Nogal today--a memento to pre-auto days in Lincoln County.

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Most colorful county in the U. S. of A.



Bill Gallacher

part of history

Bill Gallacher's mother ran a boarding house in White Oaks here Gallacher grew up, though he was born in Cathage, New Mexico, which was in Lincoln County when the county ran from the Rio Grande to the Pecos.

Gallacher's father was the first man to uncover coal in the area—1 miles this side of Socorro.

Gallacher, now 89, and John W. Harkey, 86, friends for 75 years, tell about the early years in Carrizozo and White Oaks and the area.

Harkey lives here, Gallacher in the Gallacher ranch north and west of Carrizozo at the north end of the Malpais. Gallacher's father was killed in a mine accident before the turn of the century—at White Oaks.

Harkey came to this area when he was 10 years old—75 years ago.

White Oaks had "every kind of business you can mention—every kind of mineral, water, timber," Harkey recalls.

Harkey and Gallacher recall that George Ulric was president of the White Oaks bank before it was moved to Carrizozo to be located in what is now the Masonic building.

In 1910, Carrizozo "was bigger than it is now," Gallacher said. The railroad had been here about eight years in 1910 and attributed to the rapid growth of the community then. They recall the round house fire of 1907 which virtually destroyed the railroad yard and scorched and burned engines and train cars in the area.

The two old-timers recall that Gov. W.C. McDonald, the state's first governor, was from Carrizozo.

Both men recall Coalora—coal mining community near what later was to become Capitan. Capitan was first known as Gray.

They recall tragedy, too, when a prominent citizen and civic leader of Carrizozo took his own life at the El Cibola Hotel.

The IOOF moved from Coalora to Carrizozo after the coal veins "squeezed out" in the Capitan area and the railroad to Capitan was abandoned.

"I could have bought the railroad ties for a song," Harkey recalls.

Gallacher's father moved from Illinois to Cathage, N.M., in '78 and to White Oaks in 1887.

Bill Gallacher was six years a member of the Lincoln County commission and was in charge of the rationing agency here during World War II.

Johnny Miles was governor, then, Gallacher remembers.

"Barbara at the bank was secretary of the rationing board," Gallacher said.

Art Rolland was the first mayor of Carrizozo—he was a druggist.

Dr. Paden moved from White Oaks to Carrizozo. Paden's drug is still a part of Carrizozo.

The two old-timers saw the Hoyle house built and knew the Hoyle brothers.

Dr. Paden's brother-in-law, Dr. Lane, also was a doctor in White Oaks and was a leader in the community.

Gallacher and Harkey knew J.J. Hagerman and John W. Poe.

They remember that "old man Lee, a sea captain," ran a saloon in White Oaks but never took a drop himself.

Harkey's wife attended school in White Oaks.

During the bank panic in 1929, the "bank went broke", the old-timers remember well. A.D. Brownfield was appointed receiver.

Well, they said, two of the three banks here went broke. The First National—run by Bruckley—stayed open.

There was a run on the First National, and people were standing in line to withdraw their money.

Two men walked up to Harkey and asked him to get out of line. He did, and the panic here was apparently over. The bank flew in money from Denver to meet the run.

"A lot of fellows took it (money) out but put it back," Harkey recalls.

Ranches in the early days include the Bar W "Where Spencer was bookkeeper." The Spencer family owns the ranch today.

The I Bar X was owned by Frank Gooden.

Bynn Brannum bought out the I Bar X.

"The Jimmy Cooper ranch was out north. Henry Corn and Sherwood Corn were sheep ranchers..." Gallacher said.

The "People's Store," a dry goods store, was where Prehm's is now.

A blacksmith shop was where the motel is, operated by a Mr. Lance. Truman Spencer brought the Lance ranch.

Charlie Mayer was the blacksmith. Paul Mayer ran the livery stable.

"Mayer could make anything," Harkey said of the blacksmith.

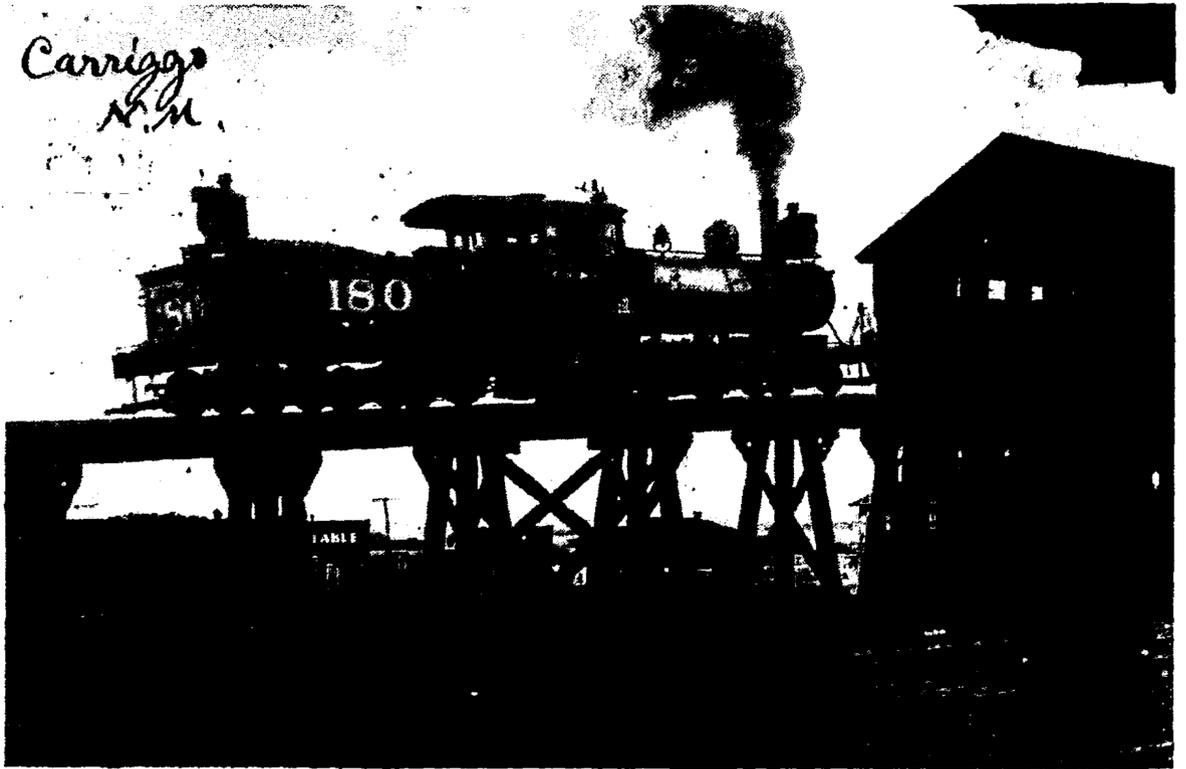
Gallacher bought a wagon from the livery stable a long, long time ago. Iva O. Wetmore ran the livery stable, then Charlie Stevens.

It was where White's store stands today.

Stevens later was elected sheriff.

The stage in the early days ran from San Michel below San Antonio to White Oaks.

"Nogal was one of the oldest towns in the country, there was



'Carrizozo's history if linked to the steam engine and railroading. This picture shows a steam engine and coal chute in Carrizozo about 1909.

All empty sixshooters

gold there," Harkey said.

Six Bar W ranch men were at a dance in Nogal one night—dances were common in Nogal.

"After the dance was over, they all emptied their six-shooters in the air," Harkey recalled.

George Sly had a ranch right in the middle of Nogal. He ran only horses, Gallacher remembered.

Art Davis ran the store at Nogal—the old school house and dance hall is now the Presbyterian Church in Nogal.

Harkey is a cousin of Dea Harkey, author of "Mean as Hell." Harkey lived and died in Carlsbad.

Dee Harkey sold lots of books in Lincoln—with John's help, Harkey recalls.

An old "White Oaks boy," John Owens, was sheriff of Lincoln County when Lincoln had an "Adobe jail," the old-timers said.

Sheriff Owens never wore a gun—relied on reason, Harkey said.

Many ranchers in the old days traded at the P.G. Peters store at Angus. Goods for stores came out of Las Vegas, a supply point in those days.

Farms and homesteads dotted the area—from Angus up the Bonito Canyon. Bonito City was right where the dam is.

Harkey went to school at Bonito City.

Construck and Hubert ran the store in Bonito City.

Streams used to flow more than they do now.

Harkey worked ten years and eight months with the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad. He has a real estate agency in Carrizozo.

The first eating place in Carrizozo was run by Jimmy Lee. It was known as "The Eating House."

Along the railroad was the Western Union office, Star Cafe (R.A. Walker), pool hall, Joe Romero's bar and "The Eating House." Mrs. Walker is a current-day resident of Carrizozo.

Across the street from the corner was the Campbell Company saloon.

A.W. Fall had the Three Rivers ranch—Tommy Ryan bought out Judge Fall.

In Corona, the Corona Trading Co. was active. It was first owned by the Ilfield company.

Gallacher sold his first 20 cent wool and 10,000 ewe lambs to the Corona Trading Co.

Gallacher and Harkey both were instrumental in getting a hospital built for Carrizozo.

Harkey headed up the operation, with Gallacher assisting where necessary along with other citizens.

Both men recall a big poker game in the pool hall many, many years ago.

Harkey was playing—it was 3 or 4 in the morning.

He grew tired, and Gallacher took over his pile of chips and began to play.

Soon he drew a real hand—four queens—and cleaned out the game. Bill Norman operated the pool hall.

Gallacher and Harkey recall many good times together in the early days and many joint projects for the betterment of Carrizozo and the area.

They both have been around and active—for a long, long time.

Centennial-Carrizozo townsite....

The Carrizozo townsite was established by J.J. Hagerman and Charles B. Eddy under auspices of the Alamogordo Improvement Company, according to Johnson Stearns, president of the Citizens State Bank and somewhat of a historian and lifetime resident of the area.

The townsites of Alamogordo and Tularosa were established the same way, all about 1900 or so, Stearns says.

This was the time when the railroad was being pushed into this area from El Paso by Charles B. Eddy, financier and developer who earlier with Hagerman had established a railroad line into the Pecos Valley and who had developed water resources in the Pecos Valley.

Later the Carrizozo townsite was sold to Ira O. Wetmore. The El Cibola Hotel was first known as the Wetmore Building.

Old-timer Frank English Sr. did

(Continued on Page 4)

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All-American race is born

(Continued from Page 1)

and president in the early years and with Walt Wiggins as track publicity man and sparkplug, introduced the world's richest horse race, The All-American Futurity combined purses exceed a million dollars.

The names of many breeders and trainers have become widely known, such as that of Walter Merrick and others.

Many people remember when Cedar Creek was the only ski area in the Ruidoso area. Now the Ruidoso area boasts one of the best ski runs in the west.

The Mescaleros have turned ranching into a profitable, big business. An annual livestock sale attracts buyers from near and far.

The annual quarter horse sale at the race track is another big drawing card and has quite a history.

Part of the history of Lincoln County is the traditional Aspenade and "Octoberfest" where thousands of people drive into the county and Lincoln National Forest to see nature's big show—turning of the aspens and other colorful vegetation—from the crimson maples to various shadings of green on the mountainsides.

The Maid of Cotton contest is traditionally held in Lincoln County at Ruidoso.

Annually the pilgrimage—although not in Lincoln County—is made to the grave of Eugene Manlove Rhodes, noted author, nearby.

The Lincoln County Fair at Capitan—in new quarters after a fire in recent years—is part of the history of the county. Some of the best wool in the world is grown on Lincoln County ranches.

The late T.J. McKnight and the McKnight family are part of the county's sheep ranching history.

Lincoln County produced a prime candidate for governor, former State Sen. Joe Skeen, who may be a candidate for the U.S. Senate next go-round.

Fern Sawyer, who was World's Champion Cowgirl in the late 1940s—competing in Madison Square Garden—is a resident of Lincoln County and has extensive ranch holdings in Lincoln County.

She lives in one of the most impressive homes in Lincoln County—probably the most impressive.

The O Bar O ranch has a colorful history.

Lincoln County in recent years has been booming—particularly in the Ruidoso area where building continues unabashed by anything.

Water development is a part of the history—starting with Bonito Dam a long time ago to supply water for steam locomotives. Today, Bonito provides water for various communities in the counties—plus Alamogordo and Holloman Air Force Base.

Also recently approved formation of a water and sanitation district.

Also Lake is a water storage project. Lincoln County Youngsters-4-H and FFA—have for decades starred at the New Mexico State Fair and Eastern New Mexico State Fair at Roswell—particularly in showing sheep and beef cattle.

Blue ribbons are common—not uncommon—for them.

The new Hondo school replaces

one that eventually became an apple shed—but which is now abandoned.

The Rose quarterhorse ranch at Hondo is a recent addition—pointing to the importance of quarterhorse breeding and raising in the area.

Buena Suerte ranch in Roswell is a multi-million dollar quarterhorse facility, with Go Man Go as the stud which continues to produce winners at Ruidoso Downs and other tracks.

Businesses outside of Lincoln County have branches now in Lincoln County. Ruidoso has two banks, Carrizozo one, Ruidoso Downs, branch, and Capitan, a branch.

Assets continue to grow. Ruidoso is and now has been a convention center for years.

The Inn of the Mountain Gods, opened recently by the Mescaleros, provides a fine new convention facility in incomparable surroundings.

Ruidoso had a history of open gambling until Gov. Ed Mechem's first term—when open gambling was outlawed.

Slot machines dotted every drug store, bowling alley, etc., in Ruidoso in the "old days" and some fabulous poker games were recorded—at least in memory.

The lumber industry always has been strong in the area. The first commercial operation in the Ruidoso area was a sawmill—soon followed by a Post Office and gradual development in the late 1880s.

When artesian water was discovered under the floor of the Pecos Valley, that area was a part of Lincoln County.

Water has always played an important role in the history of Lincoln County—past and present. Water provided the growth ingredient for vast orchards both in the Bonito and Hondo valleys and in the Pecos Valley.

Rough years have reduced the apple-growing industry—but it continues to be a part of the economic base of the county.

Ranching is the mainstay—because Lincoln County encompasses so much territory. Lincoln County is big,

developing, healthy. Fifty years from now, its history will include many things not now envisioned.

Even then, White Oaks and old Lincoln Town and coal mining will be a part of recorded and remembered history. The Lincoln County Water War and its cast of fabulous characters will never be forgotten.

That saga will be re-enacted this weekend in old Lincoln.

History will repeat itself this weekend—as it has every August since 1940—except for the war years and just beyond.

Billy will ride again—and Buckshot Roberts will meet his demise—along with Tunstall, McSween and the other "members of the cast."

Some people remember when Nogal had seven saloons and a hotel.

They recall the Wingfield store in Ruidoso and Montie's Riding Stables.

They remember steam locomotives puffing twice a week into the Capitan area.

They remember the miners turning out for dances at White Oaks on Saturday nights—with another work day ahead—Sunday.

They remember the sheep and cattle marketed through the Corona Trading Co., the livery stables, the blacksmith shops.

They remember the roundhouse at Carrizozo when it was operational.

History—there is more of this in Lincoln County than is recorded.

When Smokey the Bear sees his last days on earth, he will be buried in a new park at Capitan. When a bear cub 25 years ago, he became nationally famous when he was found with scorched paws in a forest fire in the Capitan Mountains.

He soon will be transported from Washington D.C. to Ghost Ranch in New Mexico where he will spend his final days and months.

Then—back home—permanently—to Capitan.

The Pine Lodge area of Lincoln County has quite a history. The lodge there was famous before fire destroyed it some years ago. Open wooden water troughs furnished water to summer and permanent residents in the Pine Lodge area. There were mine holes in that area, too.

Indians—Mescalero-Apaches—furnished history, too. They remain a strong part of Lincoln County history. From teepees and the warpath to the Inn of the Mountain Gods is a long, long step.

Part of the history of Ruidoso centers on a disastrous flood in 1941—a flood which washed 75 cabins downstream and which destroyed all irrigation and retardation structures on both the Ruidoso and Bonito rivers—and the Hondo—which is a continuation of both rivers.

That flood changed the channel of the river at spots, and resculptured the terrain.

Bert Bonnell and brothers at the Bonito Valley, the Ballard family and many others—Coes, Wingfields, Robinsons—all helped make history.

More recent history finds Peter Hurd, world famous artist and wife, Henriette Wyeth Hurd,

residents of Lincoln County. She comes from a family of famous artist and is renowned as an artist—especially of portraits.

Robert O. Anderson, chairman of the board of Atlantic-Richfield Co. owns a great deal of the lower Lincoln County along the Hondo and Ruidoso Rivers.

He has a handsome home and layout in the Hondo Valley and has been a resident for some 20 more years.

He had his in Roswell, where he also maintains a home. The Lincoln County Livestock Co. is part of his operation.

Carmon Phillips is a pioneer resident of Ruidoso and has photographed the area for many decades.

In the old days, travel also was thick from Lincoln County to Dona Ana County—a political center of the late 1880s.

Tularosa and Alamogordo had their beginnings when the railroad was built just after 1900.

Lincoln County stretched way north almost to San Miguel county and to the Pecos River. It was one of the largest counties in the U.S.

Much has transpired within this county. This pre-centennial year we look into aspects of history which are appealing. Most of the story is here—in these pages. We wish it all could be here.

Credits

Many people have contributed to this edition containing history of colorful and active Lincoln County—pictures, information, etc.

We regret that it was not possible to interview every old timer and to run all of the fine old pictures we obtained.

Persons who contributed many, many pictures each include: Della Wingfield Hale of Chama; Mrs. George Davis of Portales; Johnson Stearns of Carrizozo; Nettie Lemon of Carrizozo; Frances Gardenhire Shaw of Capitan; Mrs. Ellen Queen Cady of Carrizozo; Louise (Bonito Lou) Payton of Nogal and LaLuz; Bertha LaFave Chavez; Mayor Floyd Siegrist; U.S. Forest Service; and others.

Each contribution is appreciated. They helped make the Bicentennial and historic Lincoln County section.

The News is indebted to the New Mexico State Planning Office. Much of the history of old Lincoln, town and photographs were borrowed from "Lincoln, New Mexico, A Plan for Preservation and Growth" published by the State Planning Office.

This section was produced through the combined efforts of the Lincoln County News staff, Paul and Eleanor Payton, publishers; Al Stubbs, editor and manager; Peter Aguilar, pressman and printer; Frank Hoff, printer and offset cameraman; La Nell Fish, Compugraphic equipment operator and Juanita C. Lucero, Compugraphic equipment operator, and Eddie Herrera, part-time employee.

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50 cents plus 25 cents postage and handling.

Part of picture

New Mexico Transportation Company, headquartered in Roswell, has been a part of Lincoln County for 40 years—providing scheduled bus service to the area.

Many people get their first glimpse of historic Lincoln County from the windows of New Mexico Transportation buses.

New Mexico Transportation Company, Inc., is a home-owned New Mexico Corporation, having been incorporated in 1935, with its General Offices and main operations located in Roswell, New Mexico. 1975 marks the 40th anniversary of the Corporation. Prior to 1935, the Company was founded in the 1920's by Paul

McCutchen and he owned and operated the Company until his death in 1963.

The company operation covers the eastern part of New Mexico and portions of West Texas, bounded in general by the major cities of Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Amarillo, Pecos and El Paso, Texas, and serves other major cities, such as Hereford, Texas, Clovis, Roswell, Artesia, Carlsbad and Alamogordo, New Mexico and intermediate points including Lincoln County.

Major service and maintenance of the fleet is accomplished at one central location, Roswell.

... 'Newcomers' principals in war ...

Disturbances in Lincoln County form a general background to the county's most notorious outbreak of violence, known as the Lincoln County War. The war really began with the prominent ex-soldiers in the west side of the county. Most of these men were foreign-born and had come into the area with Carleton's California Column during the Civil War. They saw the opportunities for profit in land and business, and they stayed. They were newcomers pushing and shoving to make a place for themselves; not one of the principal actors in the Lincoln County War was a native of New Mexico.

Emil Fritz came from Stuttgart, Germany. He emigrated to California to look for gold,

volunteered into the Union Army in 1861, came to New Mexico as a captain in the California Column and was mustered out in Albuquerque in 1866.

Lawrence G. Murphy was a native of Wexford, Ireland, who had once been a divinity student. He emigrated to America and joined the army, serving in Utah and New Mexico. When he was mustered out of service in 1866, he became post sutler at Fort Stanton. He stayed until 1873, but when charged by the Post Commanding Officer with sharp practice and profiteering, moved to La Placita (Lincoln) where he had recently opened a second store, and where he was soon engaged in unscrupulous practices again. Shortly after the move he took Fritz as a partner in the business. Fritz died in 1874, and in 1877, the firm became J.J. Dolan and Company, Murphy going into semi-retirement on account of poor health.

James J. Dolan, first one of Murphy's clerks, then his junior partner, now took as a junior partner John H. Riley, the rancher who had shot Patron. Both of these men were native Irishmen like Murphy. Dolan had received his discharge at Fort Stanton in 1869; Riley was a small rancher. A second junior partner was J.B. Mathews, who had been a Confederate soldier and later a farmer near Roswell. Like Dolan himself, Riley and Mathews had been junior partners of Murphy's.

First Murphy and Fritz, then Dolan, Riley and Mathews, en-

joyed a virtual monopoly of trade in the area. They charged local farmers exorbitant prices, and used the law to harass any farmer who refused to sell to them. The "Big Store", as their establishment was commonly called, was backed by Thomas B. Catron, the

leader of a group of Republican lawyers and businessmen known as the Santa Fe Ring.

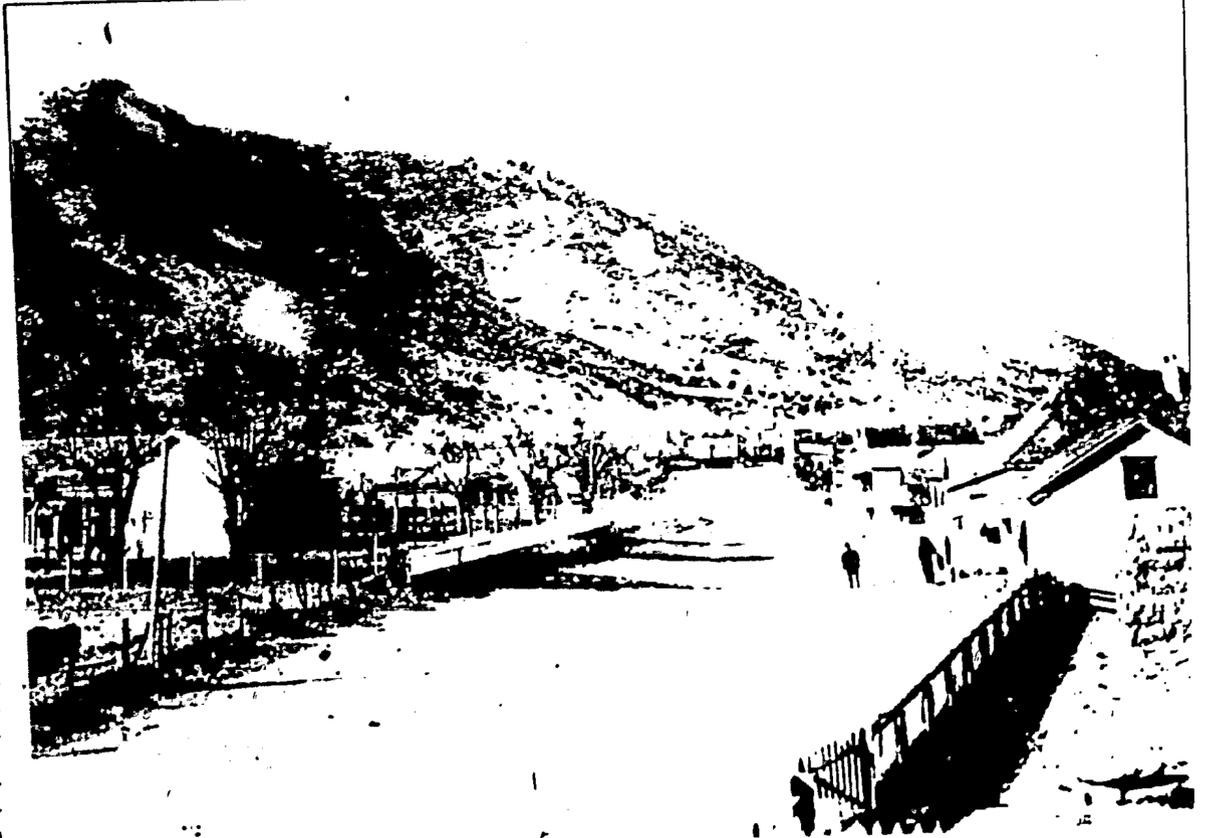
The Ring speculated in land and directed New Mexican elections by buying Hispano votes. Catron was the owner at one time of more than a million acres, probably the

largest private land holding in the history of the United States. He was from near Lexington, Missouri, and lived to become a U.S. Senator and ambassador to Chile.

The firm enjoyed influence far (Continued on Page 6)



William Bonney



An early street scene in Lincoln shows the Bonito Inn on the left and the picket fence that was there into the late 1930s. The Penfield House, the Tunstall-McSween store behind it and the Watson touse further back are visible on the right.

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Trainmaster

(Continued from Page 3)
the building. He has lived in Carrizozo since 1906.

The widow of the late John Gallacher operated the El Cibola in the early days. Her husband was killed in a mine accident at White Oaks.

Johnson Stearns says his father O.S. Stearns was trainmaster for the El Paso and Southwestern after his arrival here in 1910—from the Erie Railroad in the east.

Every Tuesday and Friday, the train went to Capitan in those days, where coal was being mined in Salado draw near Coalora. Capitan was known as Gray in those days.

Granville A. Richardson first secured a patent on the land where Carrizozo is located on July 20, 1901, papers at Citizens State Bank show.

That same year Richardson and his wife conveyed the property to the Alamogordo Improvement Co.

People involved in the Alamogordo Improvement Co. were directors William A. Hawkins, John A. Eddy, Alexander S. Greig, James L. Bickford, John L. Campbell, Charles B. Eddy was a vice-president and director.

Feb. 2, 1907, the Alamogordo Improvement Co. sold the townsite to the Carrizozo Townsite Co.

Johnson Stearns' mother, arrived in Carrizozo in 1906. Her first husband worked for the Cumbres Pass Railroad, but they didn't like the winters in Colorado. So they moved here.

Stearns' father, O.S. Stearns, arrived on the scene in 1910. The couple was married in 1913.

O.S. Stearns was yardmaster for the railroad until his death in 1935.

The Stearns bought a place on the Bonito in 1921 and sold it in 1929 when they bought a place in Nogal Canyon (now the Oliver Porter Ranch).

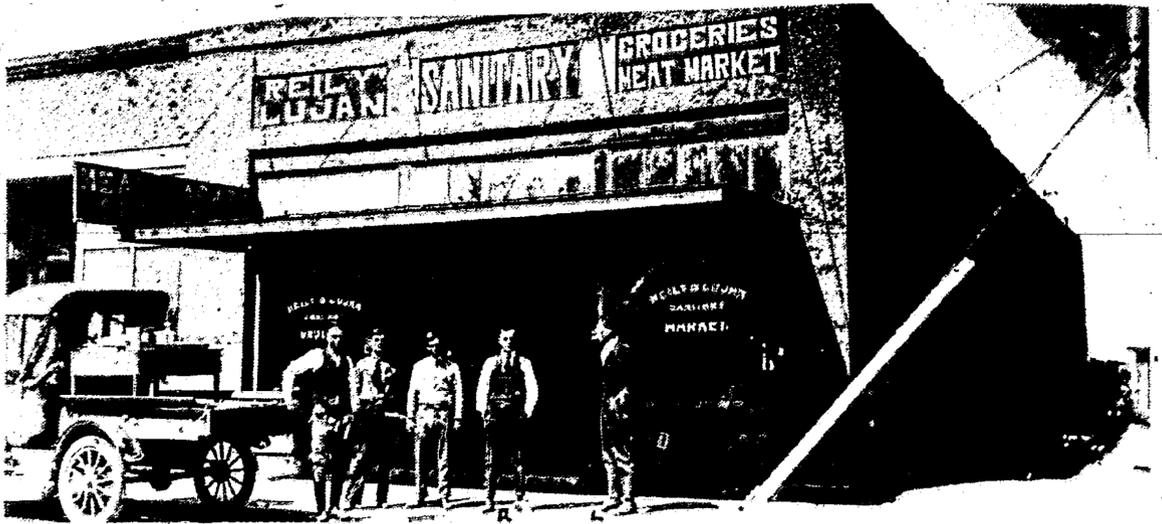
Johnson Stearns went to work in 1926 for the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad when he was a clerk, terminal trainmaster and brakeman—not all at the same time.

But he has been a banker for many, many years.

Carrizozo is a railroad town, however, and it was more so in the old days.

Almost every old timer had some connection with the railroad in the days of yesteryear.

And the railroad today is a strong factor in the economy of Lincoln County—the Southern Pacific—outgrowth of the El Paso and Northeastern Railroad and later the El Paso and Southwestern.



Pictured in Carrizozo in 1920 is the Reily-Lujan store. The man in the center is reportedly the father of Sally Ortiz, long-time resident of Carrizozo. Riley is fourth from left; Lujan, right.

Bonnell ranch at Glencoe

(Editor's Note: This writeup from times past reveals the "flavor" of a portion of Lincoln County, Bonnell's Ranch at Glencoe).

They had a Halloween party at Bonnell's Ranch upon the Ruidoso Creek on the highway to Roswell.

Everybody who is anybody knows about Bonnell's Ranch. It was made for a Halloween party. The big cottonwoods which rustle their leaves above the ranch house are gold now and red apples fall "plop" on the roofs of the cottages where guests sleep. Between "plops" you can hear the song of the Ruidoso down in the meadow below the house.

All the folks from up and down the creek came to the party. They came early and stayed late. They brought fancy boxes with Halloween decorations filled with lunch for the box supper.

Mrs. Bert Bonnell sat down at the piano. Wilbur Coe, her brother, took up his fiddle and Mrs. Will Tittsworth, her sister, got out her guitar.

They played "When the Azeleas Are Blooming White" and all the old-time melodies.

Under pumpkins swinging from the ceiling and in the light from burning logs; the dancers did their stuff. They danced "Put Your Little Foot" and the Schottische. They whirled to the square dance.

Bert Bonnell, whose hair is white and face is young, called the figures. He stomped his foot to the time. He swung the girls around.

When Mrs. Bonnell and Mrs. Tittsworth got tired, their sister-in-law, handsome Senator Louise Coe, sat down at the piano. Mrs. Elzy Perry took over the guitar.

Kahlers early residents

Mrs. Cecil Holley, formerly Floye Shoemate and her husband, stopped in Carrizozo to visit Mrs. Nettie Lemon and came by the News to tell a little history of her grandfather, William Kahler.

The Kahlers moved to Carrizozo about 1900 from Texas. Mr. Kahler had the water rights for the town and hired Mexicans to use wagons to deliver water to the townspeople. His two younger daughters, Mollie and Gussie grew up in Carrizozo and married there. Mollie married Bob Hoffman and Gussie became Mrs. Shoemate.

John Kahler, a brother, also lived in Carrizozo and was a contractor who built many of the early buildings. His wife, Dora, had a millinery shop and is still remembered by some for the hats she made.

An Englishman named Cowper, staying at the ranch for awhile, looked on with interest.

"Come and dance," said Senator Louise Coe when a square dance started.

"Oh, I can't," said Senator Louise Coe when a square dance started.

"Oh, I can't," he cried in alarm. "I'd simply wreck it."

Pretty soon he was in the thick of it.

They held the "most popular girl contest" with a big cake as the prize.

Frank McCutcheon, agent for the bus line, was down from Roswell to preside at the contest and the box supper bidding.

Pretty girls piled up the votes at a penny apiece in a fund for the Glencoe Woman's Club.

Mrs. George Coe, 79, wife of the sole survivor of the Lincoln County War participants, won the cake.

"Folks," cried McCutcheon, leading Mrs. Coe proudly around the dance floor, "she's lived on the Ruidoso for 40 years, prettiest girl here and only one who told the truth about her age!"

Handsome granddaughters were among those who applauded.

They spread out the supper and poured hot coffee and apple cider.

The logs burned low and the clock struck two.

They started the Schottische again.

"Elena Escudero and I were from the city and we couldn't take it. We left for our cabin in the frosty air, dragging our aching feet."



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Galena - Nogal

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The story of communities in Lincoln County is pretty well told in a history of Post Offices. This article appeared in the 1962 "A History of Lincoln County Post Offices," written primarily by postmasters at the time or former postmasters or persons closely associated with Post Offices.)

NOGAL

Roy Harman

The Nogal Post Office was originally known as Galena having been established under that name on November 4, 1880 with George Welliford as its first Postmaster. On May 9, 1882 the name was changed from Galena to Nogal. Galena means native



Mrs. Jack Shaw's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff T. Gardenhire, came to Capitan area in 1916—ranching nine miles north of Capitan on the Half Circle Two Bar Ranch where the Gardenhire children grew up. Mrs. Shaw was Frances Gardenhire before her marriage to Shaw—who came to Capitan in 1928 as chief engineer at Fort Stanton.

lead sulfide and was derived from mining operations in that vicinity. The name Nogal means walnut and came from the black walnut trees that grew in Nogal Canyon.

From the list of Postmasters given at the end of this history it is interesting to note that Thomas W. Henley served two different times and that his father was Postmaster before him and his brother afterward. Also three of the McDaniel family have been Postmasters there. The first money orders were sold at the office on October 26, 1893.

Mrs. Pearl Stearns who is now Postmaster at Nogal has served longer than any of her predecessors. She received national recognition in 1959 while she was attending a convention of the National Association of Postmasters in Washington, D.C. At that time Mrs. Stearns at 76 years of age was the oldest active Postmaster in the United States.

Though the compulsory retirement age is 70, under an obscure regulation, she has been allowed to continue until she has 15 years service. In the human interest story written up in a Washington newspaper she was termed "The guardian of a little place by the side of the road" where she dispenses mail from the post office and supplies from her little general store and station.

Although all mining operations have ceased the little community is now the home of a number of retired people as well as those who want to get away from the tensions of large towns.

Colorful
Lincoln
County

Equipment has improved mightily since the days of the 1938 Yellow Coach pictured.

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New Mexico Transportation Company

General Offices:
ROSWELL - NEW MEXICO

Tunstall slain on black day

.....

(Continued from page 6)

the Chisum family for assistance in protecting his property through legal measures. Chisum himself, however, was still in jail in Las Vegas, and the other brothers would not commit themselves. Tunstall was forced to return to his ranch with no promise of assistance.

Although his men were ready and wanted to confront the Brady posse, Tunstall decided to return to Lincoln on the morning of February 18. Four men who worked for him went with him. One of them was Dick Brewer. Another was a young man named William Bonney, sometimes called the Kid by reason of his youthful appearance.

William Bonney had been born in Brooklyn and had come west as a child, his family settling in Silver City, New Mexico. Some years later, he was arrested in Silver City for the theft of a load of laundry from two Chinese. He escaped from jail by climbing up the chimney and went to Camp

turned aside after some wild turkeys flushed by the horses. Two of the other hands had fallen back some distance. Tunstall was riding alone. Mounted men suddenly appeared, moving toward him. Shots were fired and Tunstall fell mortally wounded from his horse. Accounts here become confused, but it is certain that the mounted men were Brady's posse, and that none of them was injured in the encounter.

Brady was, not surprisingly, disinclined to do anything about the murder perpetrated by his posse. Seeking revenge, Dick Brewer, with eight or ten cowboys, formed a band called the Regulators. On March 9 they shot and killed two members of the Brady posse whom they had taken prisoner.

Sheriff Brady told his version of the killing of Tunstall in a letter to Catron, who referred the letter to Governor Axtell. Catron suggested that Axtell ask the President to send troops into Lincoln County to assist Territorial officers, and the Governor telegraphed Brady's story to Washington.

Axtell was being widely criticized in the territory for his evident indifference to the Lincoln County troubles. He finally did go to Lincoln on March 8 and spent three hours the following morning making an investigation. Dolan was with him all this time. After his visit, he issued a proclamation authorizing the post commander at Fort Stanton, Colonel George Purington, to assist Territorial civil officers in keeping the peace—which, in essence, meant that the troops were at the disposal of Brady, a partisan of the Murphy-Dolan faction.

On the morning of April 1, however, while walking down the streets of Lincoln, Brady and his deputy, George Hindman, were ambushed and killed. The shots came from behind the adobe wall surrounding the Tunstall store, and the killers were evidently Regulators, among them William Bonney. It is not likely that Richard Brewer was one of them.

Summoned by George W. Peppin, a deputy of Brady's twenty-five soldiers from Fort Stanton arrived in town a little after noon and began making arrests, including that of McSween. He and four friends were taken to Fort Stanton. Upset by the happenings, a friend of Chisum's, Doctor Levenson, who had just arrived in Lincoln, wrote two letters that night to two men who he thought should be apprised of the growing turmoil. One was the Secretary of the Interior Carl Schurz; the other was to President Hayes. The letters had the eventual effect of directing Washington's attention to the troubles.

On April 4 members of the Regulators who had been involved in killing Brady and Hindman were at Blazer's Mill, which stood on private land inside land that had become the Mescalero Reservation. The commissioners of Lincoln County had offered \$200 for the arrest of each of the killers, and a drifter from Texas named "Buckshot" Roberts, who had probably been in the posse that killed Tunstall, decided to collect the reward. The Regulators saw him riding up to the mill on his mule.



Horses and wagons were the means of transportation when this photo was taken in old Lincoln town. At left is the Maes house before the addition of the porch, and the two buildings which now house the Roman Maes (La Paloma Museum.) The Paloma Bar and Aragon store can be seen at right.

Roberts is shot

Dick Brewer, recognizing him as part of the Brady posse, sent a man out to try to persuade him to surrender. When the man did not come back, another member of the party was sent to investigate. He found the two talking and ordered Roberts to put his hands up. Roberts refused, and was shot in the stomach. Although mortally wounded, Roberts was able to drag himself into a doorway from which he shot and killed Brewer. Roberts himself died the same day.

The deceased Sheriff Brady was replaced by John Copeland, a McSween sympathizer who was soon removed by Governor Axtell on a hint from T.B. Catron. He was replaced by George Peppin, an adherent of the Dolan faction who hoped to use the U.S. Army to crush McSween and his followers. He tried to execute federal warrants against the men involved in the Blazer's Mill fight, on the grounds that the mill was part of the Mescalero Indian Reservation—which it was not.

Colonel Dudley, who had become commanding officer at Fort Stanton very shortly after the death of Brady, and was friendly with Dolan, had just received new and strigent War Department restrictions on the use of soldiers in civil disturbances. The orders were so specific as to prevent his dispatching troops against McSween's men, who would otherwise, no doubt, have been rounded up. McSween had meanwhile been released from custody, a grand jury having found no cause to indict him on the charges made by the Fritz heirs. By the night of Sunday, July 14, he and his faction—between fifty and sixty men—had occupied the McSween house, the Ellis Store and the Montano Store in Lincoln. Almost half of those who supported McSween were native New Mexicans, six of whom were among fourteen men who joined him in his own house.

Sheriff Peppin held most of the rest of the town. He had dispatched several men to the old torreón; supplies for these men were coming from the adjacent house of Captain Saturnino Baca. Outraged because the house was on his land, McSween sent a note to Baca ordering him to vacate the premises at once. Baca, who had once been commanding officer at Fort Stanton, sent for protection

from the Fort, saying he feared for his wife and new baby, who could by no means leave the house. Dudley, his hands tied by the War Department directives, had to refuse the request, but sent the post surgeon to investigate. Both sides seemed to think it would be all right to place neutral soldiers in the torreón, but the matter stayed unresolved. Peppin sent a deputy to the McSween house with warrants for the arrest of McSween and several of his men. The deputy was fired on and retreated. Peppin's force was further strengthened in the afternoon by the arrival of cowboys from Seven Rivers. Most of these were known outlaws like Buck Powell and Jesse Evans

For three days the factions remained barricaded, exchanging occasional shots. Peppin sent to Fort Stanton for help, which was regrettably refused. However, the soldier carrying the message to the sheriff was shot at. Peppin informed Colonel Dudley that the shot had been fired by the McSween men.

On the basis of this event, a board of inquiry met at Fort Stanton and recommended action. It was agreed that the situation at Lincoln did justify military intervention, and on July 19, Colonel N.A.M. Dudley entered Lincoln with a cannon and a Gatling gun. The two groups of McSween men in the Ellis and Montano stores, intimidated by the presence of the soldiers, left their positions, crossed the Rio Bonito and disappeared in the canyons to the north.

McSween wrote Dudley a note protesting the presence of the soldiers. Dudley sent a sarcastic answer. The Dolan men managed to fire McSween's house. Mrs. McSween ventured into the street to plead with Dudley to intervene. He rudely rebuffed her. He did, however, give sanctuary to the noncombatants in the house.

Just before nightfall, McSween's men vacated the house to escape the slow-burning fire. Billy the Kid ran out first with two men, one of whom was instantly shot. The Kid and the other man reached the river and disappeared. McSween and the rest, waiting too long to follow, emerged into a trap. They offered to surrender.

(Continued on Page 8)



William Brady

Grant, Arizona. There he killed a man, and escaped again to join the band of outlaws known as The Boys. He left them later to work on a ranch in southeastern New Mexico. Eventually, he found himself in Lincoln and hired on with Tunstall's Rio Feliz outfit. In the months that he worked there, a strong friendship grew between the Englishman and the young outlaw.

As the five men rode into Lincoln that day, two of the cowboys



James J. Dolan

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.....

'Murphy men' challenged

(Continued from Page 5)

outside the Bonito Valley. New Mexico Territorial Governor Axtell had borrowed \$1,800.00 from J.J. Dolan and Co. Moreover, the firm kept up distinctly cordial relations with the officers at Fort Stanton. By 1877, the firm was widely suspected of buying stolen cattle—including Chisum cattle—from some of the undesirable elements among the Seven Rivers cowboys, among whom was the known outlaw, Jesse Evans.

In 1877, however, "Murphy men" were being challenged by a newcomer. John Henry Tunstall, a twenty-three-year-old Englishman and son of a London merchant, acquired property along the Rio Feliz south of Lincoln. In trying to assume responsibility for the family business, Tunstall had first gone to Victoria, British Columbia, to join a firm in which his father had an interest. His reception by the other partners was cold, and he began to explore other means of vocation and security for his family.

An extremely cautious and meticulous man, Tunstall became convinced from his inquiries that the readiest way to wealth lay in the livestock business. Although he first considered raising sheep, he soon decided upon cattle.

Through family connections and letters of reference, he first attempted to acquire range in California. After several futile attempts he was persuaded to travel to New Mexico. Tunstall's letters to his family reflect his excitement and confidence in developing vast holdings in this "last frontier". Once in Santa Fe, he first tried to buy range held in land grants. However, recognizing the commonness of imperfect titles, the cautious Englishman decided upon deeded or homestead land. Finally settling on Lincoln County, he arrived there in November 1876.

Alexander A. McSween had arrived in Lincoln in the spring of the preceding year. He was Canadian by birth, well-educated, and frankly ambitious, both professionally and politically. He had been admitted to the bar in Kansas not long before leaving for New Mexico with his wife, the former Susan Hummer. Although he was placed on retainer by the Murphy-Dolan Mercantile, he soon got into a quarrel with Riley about a bill for legal services. He

was, moreover, honestly shocked at the shoddy supplies with which Dolan was filling his government contract to the Mescalero Indians. Disenchanted with the firm, he quickly became friends with John Chisum, handling many cases for him. Some of the cases involved cattle rustling and implicated the Seven Rivers cowboys thought to be working for the Dolan-Riley faction.

Shortly after establishing his Rio Feliz ranch, John Tunstall also saw the chance for an honest mercantile in Lincoln. Calling upon his early training and family resources, Tunstall opened a store in Lincoln. He was quick to see the lines of division which were created by his new enterprise. His interest naturally coincided with those in opposition to the Murphy-Dolan faction. Soon a bank was added to the Tunstall store with John Chisum and Alexander McSween listed as part of the operation. Sensing his impending downfall, Dolan made veiled threats against Tunstall. With the presence of an honest mercantile in the community, Dolan had begun to feel a loss of customers.

One particular instance pointed out the growing unpopularity of the Murphy-Dolan firm. Dick Brewer, a well-liked young farmer from the area, had bought his property from L.G. Murphy and Co. The firm had given him credit for the supplies he needed for farming—credit which, at the prices they paid for his produce, pushed him deeper and deeper into debt. McSween advised him that Murphy had no valid title to the land and suggested that he start trading with Tunstall. When he did so, he was threatened by



Alexander McSween



A rare picture; this is an early photograph of the Murphy-Dolan store in old Lincoln. The building has been stuccoed since and a different porch added, with flanking stairways to the second floor.

McSween, Chisum jailed

Dolan, but told him only that he could have the farm if he would pay for the improvements on it.

In October of 1876, McSween had been retained to collect an insurance policy for the heirs of Murphy's deceased partner, Emil Fritz. When, in August 1877, he notified the heirs that the money had been collected, Dolan instantly claimed the whole amount—\$7,148.94—asserting that Fritz had owed the firm that much. McSween disbelieved the allegation and refused to surrender the money.

In December, McSween, Mrs. McSween and John Chisum started for St. Louis. They planned to be gone several weeks and had let their plans be known. Dolan went to Las Cruces and convinced one of the Fritz heirs, Mrs. Scholand, to sign an affidavit saying that she believed McSween had no intention of turning over the insurance money. Dolan took the affidavit to District Attorney Rynerson, the close associate of Thomas Catron, then U.S. District Attorney for New Mexico. As Dolan was a client of Catron's and Catron had a longstanding grudge against Chisum, he sent a telegram which stopped the McSweens and Chisum. McSween and Chisum were arrested in Las Vegas. Chisum was held for several weeks on charges that certain clients of Catron's held court judgments against him. Catron's clients did, in fact, hold notes issued by an Arkansas meatpacking company in which

Chisum had been a partner, but his name on the notes had neither been written by him nor written with his knowledge. McSween left Las Vegas in custody of two deputy sheriffs on January 4, 1878. He was permitted to remain in Lincoln for two or three weeks to attend to business matters. Later, he was taken to Mesilla, since the papers relating to the Fritz estate were being held in the district court.

After an inconclusive hearing, McSween started back to Lincoln on February 5, in custody of Barrier, the deputy who had brought him to Lincoln from Las Vegas. When he arrived on February 10, he learned that all his property had been attached as security by Sheriff Brady, whose orders from Mesilla were to hold McSween in custody until bond was made. Horses and cattle belonging to Tunstall had also been attached on no legal grounds whatever.

Tunstall appealed to Sheriff Brady, protesting the seizure of his property in a case to which he was not a party. He was able to convince Brady that some of his

stock, six horses and two mules, were not held in co-ownership with McSween. Subsequently, Tunstall had the animals moved to his ranch on the Rio Feliz. Not long after, however, one of his cowboys informed him that Brady had sent a posse to the Rio Feliz to try to serve a writ of attachment applying to the animals Tunstall was keeping there. Tunstall turned to

(Continued on Page 7)



Mrs. Susan McSween



This is a picture of the Tunstall-McSween store building in the late 1880s after it was bought by James Dolan.



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Early Bonita residents

Mrs. George Davis, 109 Texas Dr., Portales, has many fond memories of Lincoln County because her grandparents were among the earliest settlers.

She writes that Mr. and Mrs. Ben R. Robinson moved to the Bonita near Parsons, N.M., in 1886. They lived in on the Bonita during the time White Oaks was on the boom and, Mrs. David says, her grandfather "made weekly trips to White Oaks in his hack delivering fresh vegetables from their garden. Also butter and eggs. It would require two days to make the trip. He also worked at the Parson mines, and Mrs. Robinson cooked for some of the miners."

Mrs. Davis, who supplied the News with several fine old pictures, writes:

"Your bicentennial edition would not be complete without pictures and a few historical facts concerning the Charles W. Wingfield and Ben R. Robinson families (my grandparents) who settled in Lincoln County in the early 1880s and remained there the rest of their lives.

"Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Wingfield came to New Mexico from Texas and settled on the Ruidosa in 1884. Mr. Wingfield was assessor Lincoln County from 1891 to 1895. At that time of his death, April 25, 1910, he was a

member of the board of county commissioners. Mr. and Mrs. Wingfield reared seven children, most of whom continued to live in Lincoln County. One of the sons being Ike N. Wingfield, who was born at Ruidoso Oct. 29, 1887—where he lived continuously and was the first postmaster of Ruidoso—having served from 1921 to 1936, was mayor for three terms

and also a member of the first school board for a number of years. Ike Wingfield passed away in 1954. He also served as county commissioner.

"Mr. and Mrs. Ben R. Robinson moved to New Mexico in 1886 and settled on the Bonita near Parsons, N. Mex. They were the parents of eleven children and most of them lived in Lincoln

County all their lives. Four of the Robinson children married four of the Wingfield children.

"Mr. Robinson served as county surveyor for a number of years in the early 1900s. He passed away in 1923 and Mrs. Robinson passed away in 1943.

"They lived in on the Bonita during the time White Oaks was on the boom..."



Mr. and Mrs. Ben Robinson of Bonita (Parsons) are shown in an early day photograph.



The old Parsons Inn which burned not too long ago is pictured as it appeared many years ago. At the time J.M. Rice was proprietor and postmaster.

MANCHESTER

Roy Harmon

The Manchester Post Office had an extremely short existence. Opened on June 10, 1881 with William L. Cornwell as postmaster it was closed October of the same year when Iris W. Blood was the second and last postmaster.

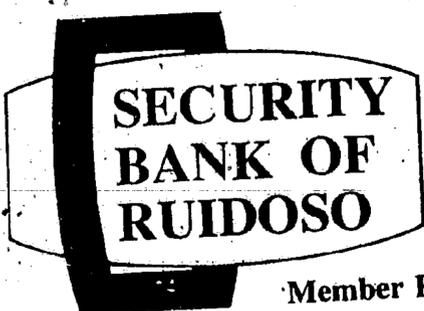
The story goes that a group of people settled this spot with the purpose of competing with White Oaks as a town site. In addition to the Post Office they proposed to open a bank. They even went so far as to have a shipment of money sent in for the bank and when the shipment arrived it had been packed in a keg. Everyone gathered 'round to see the keg opened and much to their dismay they found a few silver dollars on top with only nails underneath. So the bank never was opened and the post office lasted only four months.

Banking has changed

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there pitching for the
betterment of Lincoln
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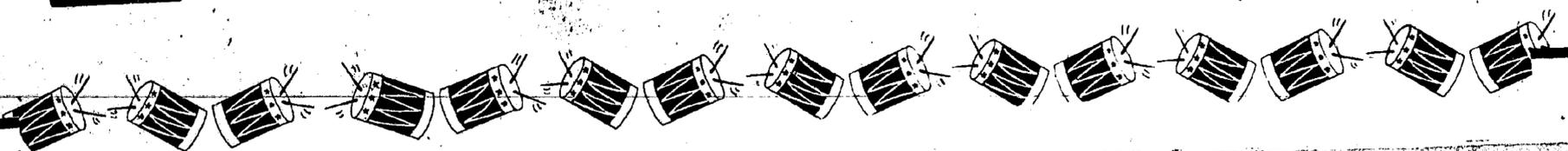
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.... McSween, companions killed

(Continued from Page 7)

and were approached by Robert Beckwith, one of Peppin's deputies, and three other men.

Someone in the McSween party fired, and Beckwith fell. His companions immediately returned the fire, and McSween fell dead across the dead body of Beckwith. All the rest of McSween's companions were also shot dead, except for one man who lay badly wounded. The Peppin men looted Tunstall's store, and sang and danced in the streets of Lincoln.

After this bloody encounter, the Lincoln County War began slowly to abate. As McSween was dead and his faction scattered, it was evident that the Dolan people had won. Still, the spate of violence did not cease immediately.

For some weeks there were minor clashes between Dolan and McSween partisans. Mrs. McSween fled Lincoln. A Mormon colony on Chisum's range, threatened by the Seven Rivers cowboys for having remained neutral, decamped for Las Vegas. Shortly thereafter, Chisum himself, and several other big cattlemen as well, began to remove all their stock from Lincoln County. The unsettled state of the area attracted new

drifters from Texas, and there was indiscriminate robbery and mayhem. In December, some McSween men, perhaps headed by Billy the Kid, reoccupied Lincoln, while Dolan and some followers hurried to Fort Stanton for protection.

Meanwhile President Hayes, having read the letters written earlier by Levenson, and receiving reports from a special federal agent in Lincoln, determined to remove Governor Axtell. He replaced him with a regular Army general named Lew Wallace, who had orders to end the troubles in Lincoln County. Wallace issued a proclamation of amnesty to persons who had been involved in the Lincoln County War.

Trying to reclaim some part of her husband's share of the Tunstall estate, Mrs. McSween hired a lawyer named Houston Chapman. Chapman was harrassed by soldiers from Fort Stanton, and was finally, according to the most reliable evidence, shot and killed by Dolan in a quarrel. When Governor Wallace heard this news he came down to Lincoln, put Dolan under arrest for the murder of Chapman, and met secretly with Billy the Kid to arrange his pardon in exchange for testimony. Colonel Dudley was tried in the civil courts for his failure to protect life and property and for conspiracy with the Dolan faction, and acquitted. Dolan was tried for the murder of Chapman, and acquitted.

Billy the Kid, meanwhile, approached Chisum with a demand for \$500 in payment for his services to the Tunstall-McSween-Chisum faction. He pointed out that he had fought the cattle thieves led by Jesse Evans, who had stolen Chisum cattle. Chisum refused to pay anything, not losing his usual composure even under threats. The Kid wavered, put away the pistol he had drawn, but swore that he would steal Chisum's cattle to get what was

owed him. He was as good as his word. From this time he pursued the legendary career of crime that led him to death at the hands of Sheriff Pat Garrett in 1881. Garrett was elected sheriff of Lincoln County late in 1880, and captured the Kid and two accomplices on December 21, surrounding them in an abandoned house at Sinking Spring, twenty-five miles from Fort Sumner. A change of venue for the Kid had been standing for two years, ever since he had arranged with Wallace to be tried. He was taken to Mesilla, there tried for the killing of Sheriff Brady and found guilty. He was brought back to Lincoln to be hanged, but killed his two guards and escaped. Pat Garrett found him at the house of Pete Maxwell at old Fort Sumner around midnight of July 13, and shot him dead in a dark bedroom.

The Jesse Evans gang headed back to the Big Bend country after the War. There they were scattered by Texas Rangers. Evans himself landed in the penitentiary, escaped after a year and a half and disappeared. Juan B. Patron, the probate clerk and leader of the native New Mexicans, was afraid to stay in Lincoln after the death of McSween. He moved to Puerto de Luna, where he was shot and killed by a drunken Texas cowboy



The house on the right was the Montano house (later the Garcia house) in this Lincoln street scene in the early 1900s. The middle house is the Salas house; just beyond it is the James Ramsey house.

in 1884. In the same year, Chisum died of a tumor. Dolan lost his store to T.B. Catron by mortgage foreclosure and went into territorial politics for twenty years, dying in 1898. John Riley returned to ranching and prospered; he died in 1916. Susan McSween remarried in 1884 and lived until 1931.



Pat Garrett



BONITO CITY
Aileen Lindamood

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The story of communities in Lincoln County is pretty well told in a history of Post Offices. This article appeared in the 1962 "A History of Lincoln County Post Offices," written primarily by postmasters at the time or former postmasters or persons closely associated with Post Offices.)

Bonito City, a silver mining town about 1880, was located in the widest part of Bonito Canyon, the site of which is now covered by Bonito Lake. When Chas. Metcalfe was appointed postmaster August 24, 1882 its population was around 500 inhabitants.

Lewis W. Bourne became postmaster February 12, 1894 and was a great grandfather of Mrs. Blye Skinner Cox who still lives at Nogal.

The incident most remembered about the town was the tragic Mayberry murder there. The entire family was wiped out with the exception of one daughter.

The office was discontinued January 31, 1911 and the mail was sent to Parsons.

Capitan Townsite

The Capitan townsite apparently changed hands in 1911, according to a newsletter published by the officers of the Lincoln National Forest dated October, 1911.

The item in the newsletter reads:

"It is rumored that the Capitan Town Site has changed hands and that Mr. P.G. Peters now has control, in any case town lots have advanced (asking price) about 100 percent. It is hoped that the arrangements made with the former owner in regard to a building site for Supervisor's headquarters will not be affected. In other items in the newsletters, the following news was transmitted:

--Mr. R.R. McPherson is erecting a building in Capitan to be used by him in conducting a general mercantile business.

--The burro which met its death through accident while being used by Forest Service in constructing the north Capitan Trail was paid for by the Forest officers in charge of the work.

--Forest Assistant Thos. F. McCullough, of the Alamo Forest will make a planting reconnaissance of the Lincoln commencing November 1. Mr. McCullough will inspect the entire Forest giving particular attention to the burned over area on the summit of the White Mountains.

--The Supervisor (James H. Kinney, Capitan) made a trip over the White Mountain District recently with Ranger Bryan and found the range condition excellent.

--The matter of cooperation in the construction of the Block Ranch telephone line has been

taken up with A.C. W.C. McDonald. However, Mr. McDonald (territorial governor) is so busy campaigning that it may take some time to get a reply from him.

--The barn and stock shed and corral at the Baca Ranger Station is practically completed. And work on the others at the different stations which has been delayed on account of the lack of a carpenter will commence after the election November 7.

--On account of the heavy stand of gamma grass over the entire Forest the fire danger will be considerably augmented and a sharp lookout will be imperative.

Lincoln Forest personnel in October of 1911 were as follows:

James H. Kinney, Forest Supervisor, Capitan; James A. Scott, Lee R. York, John L. Bryan, Jr., forest rangers or assistant forest rangers, all of Capitan; Ralph L. Bateman, assistant, Glencoe; John R. Colman, assistant, Lincoln; John V. Hobbie, assistant, Richardson, N.M.; Lewis J. Muncell, assistant ranger, Holloway, N.M.; Benjamin F. Naborus, assistant, Progresso, N.M., and Joseph Swain, assistant, White Oaks.

Sept. 22, 1900

(White Oaks Eagle)

...Six delegates selected to attend the county Republican convention at Lincoln: Chas. D. Mayer; T.W. Heman; Wm. E. Blanchard; R.E. Lund; Jose Serranco, Marshall St. John.

...Delegates to the Democratic county convention from Lincoln: Capt. Baca, Sepio Salazar, Juan de la Garza, Manuel Gonzales, Porfirio Chavez, Geo. W. Pippin, H. Moeller, Cleto Chaves.



John Henry Tunstall

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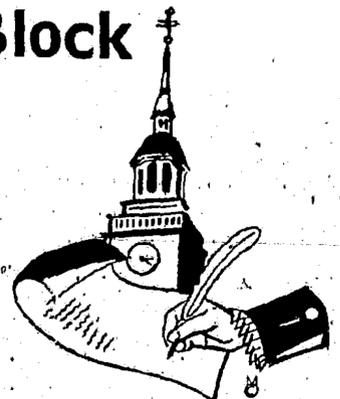
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White Oaks memories good, bad

Mrs. Nettie Lemon, who came to White Oaks in 1887 with her sea captain father and her mother and family in a covered wagon, has many fond memories of the old mining town where she grew up and was graduated from high school.

She also has some memories that aren't good at all. Mrs. Lemon resides in Carrizozo and has since the turn of the century except for a time spent in Kansas.

One of the unpleasant memories for Nettie Lemon was the death of her brother in a mine accident at White Oaks. Miners had set three dynamite charges, and only two of them apparently were heard to go off.

The miners finally figured that two charges had exploded at the same time—accounting for the three.

They were mistaken. When the miners went into check on what the dynamite had accomplished, the third charge went off during drilling. Her

brother was among the victims. The mine was the famous Homestake.

But most memories are pleasant of life in early-day White Oaks and later Carrizozo.

When the family moved to Carrizozo in 1902, "there were only two or three houses here," Mrs. Lemon recalls.

Mrs. Lemon lives in Carrizozo now with a niece, Mrs. Ellen Queen Cady, who was born in White Oaks in 1902.

Mrs. Cady's father, Ed Queen, was a miner who took over the mines about 1902 with two partners, Allen Lane and D.L. Jackson, Negro, who lived deep into his 90's at White Oaks.

Queen and partners sold out to eastern interests about 15 years after they took over the mines—which had begun to fade by just after 1900.

Mrs. Lemon's father, John Lee, had been around the world several times and finally settled in

Samoa. He married the daughter of missionaries there. Mrs. Lemon's brothers and sisters were born in Samoa except for one.

Her father was born in Scotland in 1835 and ran away to sea at the age of 14. He had his own sailing vessel.

He did not leave Samoa until 1875, living in Virginia, New Orleans and Texas before arriving in White Oaks in 1887 via covered wagon.

The wagon trip was not without incident. Almost all of the Lee livestock died after drinking alkali water along the Pecos near Carlsbad.

Captain Lee first ran a dairy in White Oaks, then a meat market and finally the "Little Casino" saloon and the "Headlight" saloon in Carrizozo.

Mrs. Lemon's first job was a teaching position on the Block Ranch near Capitan in 1904. In 1906 she moved to Carrizozo to teach, but only for nine months after which she became associated with the old-Exchange Bank—Carrizozo's first bank located in what is now the Masonic building.

She worked at the bank until she married R.E. Lemon in 1911. He was cashier for the El Paso Southwestern railroad.

Lemon went to work for the Wildcat Leasing Co. in White Oaks and later kept books for the power plant, the mine and the White Oaks Mercantile Co. there.

They moved from White Oaks to Carrizozo in 1916, never to leave.

Mrs. Lemon recalls making the milk run in White Oaks with her father. Milk was delivered to the mines in 10 gallon cans and pints and quarts were dipped out to

customers—10 cents a quart—from a wagon.

Mrs. Lemon recalls when the White Oaks stage was robbed of gold bullion which was on the way to the mint at Denver. The robbery occurred at the Taylor Station overnight stop in the Malpais where Louis Nalda's ranch is now.

She recalls the posse leaving White Oaks—but the robbers apparently were never caught.

White Oaks social life centered around churches and church groups and group "sings" Mrs. Lemon recalls. White Oaks also had a choral club. Teachers were sophisticated—from the east. Life was on a pretty high plane.

Baseball was a major White Oaks sport. Mrs. Lemon played on a girls' team which "often beat the boys."

Buggy racing for adults was another sports, along with horse racing. Mrs. Lemon says she and her brothers and sisters spent many long winter nights listening to Captain Lee and their mother tell of their days in the Samoan Islands.

She remembers a favorite tale about her adventurous father.

The incident occurred after the German takeover of the islands from England.

The German flag was flown over the English flag.

Captain Lee, "after a little partying," Mrs. Lemon said, took it upon himself to climb the flag pole and pull down the German flag. He ended up in jail that night, but was rescued by his missionary father-in-law.

White Oaks of Mrs. Lemon's years there was something else.

Morris B. Parker tells about it in his book "White Oaks." Parker tells of his years in White Oaks

where he was assayer. White Oaks produced four and a half million dollars in gold in 20 years or so of activity.

Parker wrote: "The forces of good and evil never did battle it out in the saloons and on the streets of White Oaks. Gamblers and goodtime girls never cut much of a figure there.

"It was, in truth, a pretty civilized place with churches and schools, literary societies and dramatic clubs, educated immigrants from the east, gentlemen and ladies who knew their way around in the world.

"It was not Cambridge, Massachusetts, of course, but neither was it Bridger's Wells or Poker flat. The boys went off to college and came back to marry the local girls." It sounds almost too normal and healthy to be true.

Historian Morris Fulton of Roswell wrote: "The people of White Oaks came mostly from an Eastern environment that had made them sensible and law-abiding. Saloons, gambling halls and other means of recreation and stimulation...they would not tolerate; but they did not intend to let White Oaks become a rendezvous for 'murders, horse and cattle thieves, and escaped convicts...'"

White Oaks began to fade after two fathers put such a high price on land wanted by the railroad to put a spur into White Oaks that the railroad instead went to Capitan.

Morris, in fact, says White Oaks committed suicide because the railroad was badly needed to haul ore from the mining community.

But White Oaks lives on—a few residents still reside there.

But the population is nothing like the 2,500 it was in its heyday when Nettie Lee was a student there in the same class as Bill Gallacher. But his story is another one.



Nettie Lemon today

Gold ore found

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The story of communities in Lincoln County is pretty well told in a history of Post Offices. This article appeared in the 1962 "A History of Lincoln County Post Offices," written primarily by postmasters at the time or former postmasters or persons closely associated with Post Offices.)

WHITE OAKS Roy Harman

In the year 1879 a traveler to California rested from his journey for a brief time with two prospectors who were camped at White Oaks Springs between Patos and Carrizo Mountain. In order to plot his westward course the traveler walked from camp to a distant high ridge. On his way he sat down to rest and while sitting there picked up some rocks he thought were pretty and put them in his pocket. When he returned to camp he showed the rocks to his hosts who recognized the rocks as gold ore. They asked to be shown the spot where the rocks could be found and the next morning while the traveler proceeded on his way the prospectors were busily staking claims. This incident resulted in the White Oaks gold rush and the establishment of the post office, June 4, 1880.

The White Oaks Post Office was named for the trees at the old spring and John M. McCutcheon was the first Postmaster. A stage line from San Antonio, New Mexico to Roswell, operated by

the Ozane Stages, brought the mail. This service was a great improvement over mail delivery before the post office was opened. According to the story a passerby would bring the mail. The letter would then be tied loosely on a burro and the burro made to gallop down the trail strewing letters for the miners to pick up.

The closing of the Post Office after seventy-four years marked the end of a community which started as one of the most promising in New Mexico. White Oaks is rich in legend of the west. Emerson Hough wrote a novel about it and called it "Heart's Desire". To many it was just that and to a great many others it had brought only heartache.

April 12, 1900
STAYING AT THE HOTEL
GALLACHER

(1900 White Oaks Eagle)
Hugh Strong, Carrizozo; F.M. Howell, Angus, N.M.; John Eakers, Nogal, N.M.; S.J. Freudenthal, El Paso; John Poston, Carrizozo; F.I. Marsh, Clarence Moulto, O.A.C.M.; Lum Bifield, Nogal; Liv Rrannum, Ranch; Henry Hall, Block Ranch; R.L. Ransom, A.N. Price, Jicarilla; Jas. Woodland, Chas. Campbell, Carrizozo; F.H. Payne, El Paso; J.H. Lightfoot, Capitan; S.I. Bean, New York. (There were two hotels; Hotel Gallacher and Hotel Ozanne.)

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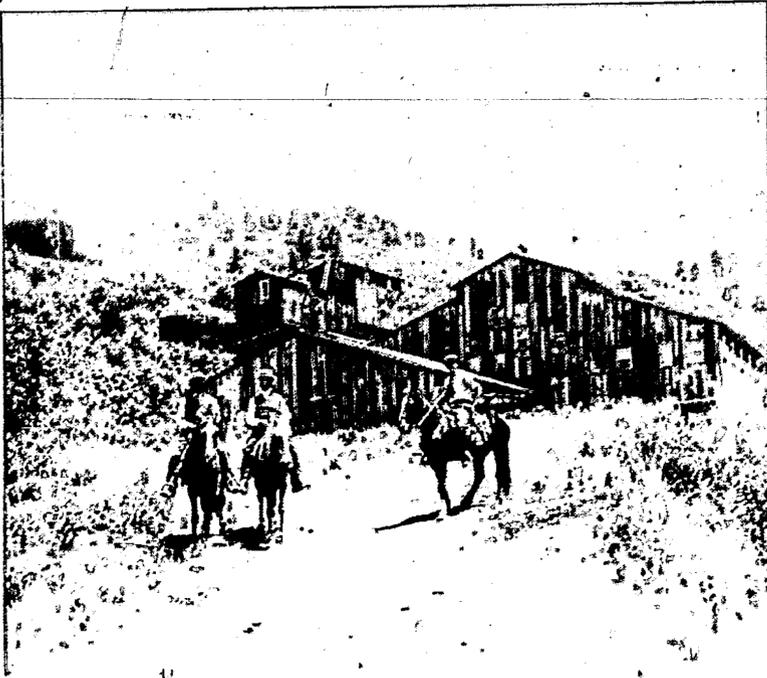
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Parsons busy town



The old Parsons Mill high above Bonito Lake and before Bonito Lake is pictured in its heyday. The hills are much more forested today.



Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Rice and daughters, Helen and Charlotte are pictured on the steps of the Parsons Inn (Hotel). Mr. Rice was proprietor of the hotel and also was the postmaster—the Post Office located in the hotel. The photograph was taken in the early 1900s—high up Bonito Canyon.



The Wingfield sisters are shown in 1924 outside the Whipple Cafe in Ruidoso with their teacher. Pictured are Howard and Ted Presser, Harold Lafferty, Dude Browning, Della and Opal Wingfield and the teacher, Mrs. Ted Browning.

Paris Exhibition

(WHITE OAKS EAGLE, Jan. 22, 1900)

Prof. J.C. Carrera, who is collecting New Mexico's Mineral Exhibit for the Paris Exposition, says a number of good things about the White Oaks country...

"At present the town of White Oaks is somewhat quiet, but the Old Abe mine there is producing handsome returns for its owners.

In one mining exhibit at the Paris exposition will be seen the most remarkable piece of gold ore yet brought from the bowels of the earth through the ingenuity of man. A piece of gypsum, not unlike a piece of ice penetrated by wires of virgin gold, makes this the most unique specimen of gold ore ever seen anywhere."

(What happened to the sample?)

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PARSONS

Dorothy R. Parnell

Parsons, nestled at the foot of Nogal Peak in the heart of the Sierra Blanca Mountains, was a bustling little community about the turn of the century. The promising gold mines attracted many investors from the east and other sections of the country. Extra revenue derived from the mining activity was a boon to the ranchers of the area, as well as to the outsiders that flocked in for work.

A building contractor from Chicago, John M. Rice, having faith in the mines built a large three story rooming house for the convenience of the stockholders when they came to visit their mine and moved his family to Parsons. During the many years Mr. Rice was postmaster the postoffice was located in one corner of the long dining room of the Inn.

Among the famous persons that were guests at the Parsons Inn were author, Mary Roberts Rinehart, and a Mr. Studebaker, one of the manufacturers of the famous wagon by that name.

The following quotation is taken from a letter written by Helen Rice, daughter of the postmaster, who now lives in Tularosa, New Mexico.

"I have looked up some of father's old papers hoping to find some data about the Parsons Post Office. I don't know who preceded Parsons, or when the office was established. Mr. E.S. Parsons may have been the first but I don't know.

"Father came to Parsons in 1898. I believe Floyd Parsons, son of E.S. was postmaster then. The father had inherited the mine from a brother who was drowned in a lake near Las Vegas, New Mexico.

"When I came to New Mexico in 1902 Father was postmaster and served until the summer of 1923. We moved to Lincoln after Father's stroke and he died in August. I helped take care of the office most of the time he served and after his health failed. We turned it over to Lizzie Grafton when we left but it was discontinued a short time later as they sold their home and moved to Angus.

"When we came in 1902 mail was delivered by Mr. Bingham horse back from Angus. Later came from Nogal by horseback, one of three McDaniel brothers delivering over the hill. They were followed by Marion Hust. After autos came into use, Jim Gatewood brought mail in a small car around Nogal Hill and Capitan Mesa, down Crockett Canyon to the Bonito and up the valley to Parsons. The mail route from Carrizozo to Roswell had been established by that time and Parsons' mail was left and collected at Nogal.

"After the post office was discontinued while Lizzie Grafton was postmaster I believe the mail

was delivered by carrier, I suppose from Nogal, to the few families left in the upper Bonito valley after most of them sold out to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, but that delivery was discontinued.

"During the early years at Parsons, Mr. H. Consbruck (Herman) was postmaster at

Bonito City, later that office was closed and mail handled through the Parsons Post Office, and Mr. Consbruck went to Parsons and helped Father with the mail."

High operating cost closed the mines in early 1920. The building that was once the Inn is about all that is left of the once busy community.

Blazer 'postman'

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SOUTH FORK

CORRINE McNATT

At the close of the Civil War, ex-soldiers discharged from the various units of the Union Army, particularly The California Column, began to settle in New Mexico. Some of these men drifted into this area and began to farm small patches of ground and trap for their living. They thus created a need for postal service to market the furs they trapped. The first Post Office established in what is now Otero County was located on the South Fork of the Rio Tularosa, now named Nogal Canyon. The official address of this Post Office was South Fork, New Mexico. At that time it was in Lincoln County. The nearest town with a post office, and the postal distribution point for South Fork was the settlement of Mesilla on the Rio Grande, one hundred and twenty miles to the west. Once a month a mail carrier made the long, hard trip from Mesilla to South Fork with the mail. He traveled on horse back and if the mail was heavy he led a pack horse. There is no record of the name of the first mail carrier. A Mr. Rockwood H. Blake was the first Postmaster.

In the year 1866, when the Post Office of South Fork was established there were a score or more of these ex-soldiers living within a radius of some fifty miles of South Fork. A few of these fellows could read and write but most of them could not and it was a part of the Postmasters' duty to write their letters and read their mail to them.

In 1874, the South Fork Post Office was moved to Blazer's Mill and Dr. J.H. Blazer served as Postmaster for the next eleven years. These were troubled times, the Lincoln County War was in full swing and Blazer's Mill and the South Fork Post Office were the scene of at least one bloody battle of that war.

Sometime during the year of 1885, the Post Office was moved again. This time to the home of the Indian Agent, and re-designated Mescalero, New Mexico.

July 19, 1900

(Headline)

"ROCK ISLAND COMING THROUGH WHITE OAKS!"

To Connect Immediately

Nov. 22, 1900

(Headline)

"GIGANTIC ENTERPRISE FOR LINCOLN COUNTY

The Bethlehem Steel Company Purchases Thousands of Acres.

Aug. 23, 1900

(Headline)

"Coal production in Lincoln County - 83,060 Tons"

WHITE OAKS EAGLE

May 14, 1900 (Headline)

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... Gray first postmaster ...

CAPITAN

Ann Earling and Oleta V. Cloud
Capitan, New Mexico is located in the mountainous region of Lincoln County, 70 miles west of Roswell and 20 miles east of

Carrizozo on Highway 380, at an elevation of 6,350 feet.

Before Capitan acquired its name in 1900, the town was called Gray, so named for Seaborn T. Gray who owned most of the land in the area, and who also was the



This is the Titsworth home as it appeared after construction in 1908 in Capitan. Jack Shaw and wife, Frances Gardenhire Shaw, purchased the property 18 years ago. It remains a beautiful, spacious old home--now surrounded by trees and shrubs.

only postmaster while the town was under the name of Gray. He served from August 20, 1894, when the post office was first established, until October 11, 1900, when the town of Gray was renamed Capitan.

About 1899 to the north and west of Capitan one and one half miles was the bustling coal mining town of Coalora. The town started with tents for living quarters and one tent was used for a school. Later houses were built by the Phelps Dodge Coal Company who at that time operated the coal mines. About a year later the railroad was built to Capitan and was used principally to haul coal to Carrizozo, New Mexico. Many runs were made both day and night moving coal from several mines in and around Coalora. Because of a greater quantity of coal owned by Phelps Dodge elsewhere, the Coalora mines were closed most of the buildings were moved to Dawson, New Mexico. A few buildings that were moved to Capitan after the mines were closed about 1905 still stand. The office was discontinued July 31, 1905.

The records show, that there were three post offices north of Capitan Mountains, Encinosos, Richardson and Spindle. Encinosa was established on May 25, 1915 and discontinued on March 31, 1920, with Postmasters Samuel Farmer, Rumaldo A. Duran and Martiniano Lucero serving during that period. The Richardson office was established on April 3, 1895 and discontinued on October 31, 1912, with these postmasters serving: Andrew M. Richardson, Joshua H. Steele, Henry A. Scott, Oliver B. McKissick, Lloyd Taylor and Samuel G. Bearn. The Spindle Office was established on February 13, 1917 and discontinued April 15, 1920, with the following postmasters serving: Eliza M. Spindle, David E. Spindle, John J. Mills and J.P. Pendergrass.

Upon the discontinuance of these three offices north of the Capitan Mountains, this area was and is now being served by a Star Route from the Capitan office.

For many years the only conveyance for carrying mail was horse drawn buggies and hacks and not until 1912 or 1913 was any mail transported to the Capitan office by automobile.

Not always was the post office housed in a building of its own. Many times patrons have been able to get their mail and buy their dry goods and groceries in the

BOGLE

Roy Harman

Bogle was established near the site of the former Hurlburt office. Following the pattern of the earlier office it was named for James L. Bogle, a pumper for the railroad at the Coyote pump station. He became the first Postmaster when the office was opened November 15, 1919. Bogle was succeeded by Charles Lester Williams and he by Mrs. Mattie Stewart before the office was closed September 3, 1925.

Notes: March 22, 1900

1900 White Oaks Eagle

"John Gallacher is out looking after the ranch his mother recently purchased from Spence Bros. in Mesa del Gallo."

same building. They had shopping centers in the early days, too!

At present the Capitan Post Office serves a population of nearly 700, besides the patrons on two Star Routes. The two Star routes run from Capitan to the Alto Post Office and from Capitan

to Pine Lodge.

The town of Capitan is the home of "Smokey the Bear", the national symbol of Forest Fire Prevention and it is hoped that some day a commemorative stamp will be issued honoring "Smokey".



This is the eighth grade in Capitan in 1926. Mrs. Jack Shaw (Frances Gardenhire) is shown third row, second from left. She provided the picture. Can you find Madeline Clark Cheney, (third row, first left) who resides today in Capitan; Hilda Key Young, Dub Clark, resident of Capitan; Helen Keller Pflingsten, Amelia Fritz McKnight (who lives near Tinnie), Mrs. Eunice Hust Jones, of Carrizozo, Berry Craig, Joe Evans, Bessy Ferguson, Mora Ferguson Titsworth, Ruth LaMay Young, Pearl Pflingsten, Annie Parker, Louise Fritz, Maudie Fritz, Callie Morris, Warren Rockwell, Percy Parker, Mrs. LeRoy McKnight, Gene Prockwell and others.

... Tinnie is old ...

TINNIE

Arthur Clements

The post office at Tinnie was established in 1903 under the name of Analla but was changed to Tinnie in 1909 in honor of the small daughter of Mrs. Oney Ramond. Mrs. Ramond was postmaster until April 7, 1914 when Henry D. Murray was appointed. He was followed by Andrew N. Coward, October 22, 1921. Mrs. Ramond again became postmaster January 6, 1923 and with the exception of a short break when Walter B. Rose was postmaster she continued until her retirement. Mrs. Virginia Ramond Guest, her daughter, followed her as postmaster and served until Arthur Clements was appointed December 12, 1959.

Robert O. Anderson of Roswell bought the building in 1959 and

decided to preserve the old country store. He spent several thousand dollars, adding a porch all around the building, a tower and a pavillion besides putting in the Silver Dollar Bar and a steak house. Many of the old things were in the place but a lot more were gathered from as far away as San Francisco by John Meigs an artist who lives at San Patricio. Meigs was commissioned by Mr. Anderson to plan and oversee the building. The building program is about finished but the search for antiques and other interesting memorabilia continues.

"The telephone from White Oaks to Carrizozo station is up and in use. White Oaks had the report of the proceedings of the Kansas City Convention just as readily as any railroad town in the country."

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The Fosters were neighbors of the Gardenhires eight miles north of Capitan in the late teens.

Coal field attracts promoter Chas. Eddy

Coal fields in Lincoln County and precious metals drew the attention of Charles B. Eddy, promoter and financier in the 1890s—resulting in railroad developments which had tremendous impact on the area but which eventually left the mining town of White Oaks "high and dry."

Eddy's endeavors, however, helped make the town of Carrizozo which today remains a railroad town to a certain extent.

If coal fields in the Capitan area had proved commercially profitable, the entire economic history of Lincoln County might have been changed.

Decisions made by Charles B. Eddy and decisions forced upon him regarding coal fields in Lincoln County had tremendous effect on the history of Lincoln County at the turn of the century.

William A. Keleher, historian, tells the story in "The Fabulous Frontier (1945)."

In a chapter concerning Charles Bishop Eddy, Helleher tells the story.

Eddy was the man who with J.J. Hagerman built the Pecos Valley railroad in the 1890s—a line which still serves Carlsbad, Artesia and Roswell with freight shipments

and the hauling of potash from the Eddy County potash mines.

Hagerman and Eddy had a parting of the ways, however, before 1900, and Eddy became interested in building a railroad from El Paso to White Oaks.

Eddy saw a thriving cattle industry, coal and previous minerals mining at White Oaks, the possibility of a tremendous lumber business from the Sacramentos.

Before 1900 he and associates acquired the Three Rivers Ranch of George B. Barber and took options on coal mines at Salado near what was to become Capitan.

He and his associates supervised diamond drilling on Carrizozo flats and studied gold mining properties at White Oaks.

At the time, El Capitan Cattle Co. ran over 40,000 head of cattle, the Carrizozo Company, 30,000 head and Angus VV ranch, 20,000. All business for a railroad.

On April 16, 1897, many financiers and capitalists from the east converged on this area of New Mexico to study the situation.

Oliver Lea and Albert B. Fall were in the greeting party. After leaving a private railroad car at San Antonio, the group travelled in splendidly appointed hacks and

coaches—camping out nights.

They visited White Oaks, Nogal, Salado, Mescalero Indian Reservation, Tularosa and other points.

By Oct. 1, 1897, the eastern capitalists (railroad and coal mining executives included) told Eddy that they would back a railroad from El Paso toward White Oaks.

By Oct. 8, 1897, the El Paso and Northeastern Railroad Co. had been incorporated by Charles B. Eddy.

Construction was soon started on the 170-mile line with 150 miles of it to be in New Mexico.

The primary objective was to mine and ship coal from the Salidao mines.

On April 13, 1898, Oliver Lee sold his Alamo Ranch: 1 water rights to the Eddy brothers. The townsite of Alamo Gordo (as it was first known) was laid out. La Luz became a boom town with the railroad under construction.

Representatives of the railroad company obtained options on some 75 ranches in the Sacramento Mountains—expecting to interest Pennsylvania farmers in them.

By June 29, 1899, track had been laid from El Paso to Three Rivers. By Aug. 3 of that year, the track had been completed to Carrizozo flats or White Oaks Junction (now Carrizozo).

White Oaks residents were nervous because rumors had it that the railroad would bypass White Oaks.

Eddy and the railroad started a branch line to the Salado coal fields.

CAPITAN FOUNDED

Feb. 1, 1900, the Eddys purchased acreage from S.G.S.T. Gray, platted a townsite on the old Safford place just across the Salado and named it Capitan.

The railroad was built from Carrizozo to Capitan. Coal mines were opened.

But, the coal mining was shortlived because of mining difficulties and the unavailability of acceptable grade coal in commercial quantities.

Eddy had to admit that the Salado coal field was a flop. By May 1, 1901, the coal field was abandoned and machinery was pulled out of the mines.

Eddy took a new look at White Oaks coal fields. The White Oaks and Kansas City Railroad Company was incorporated.

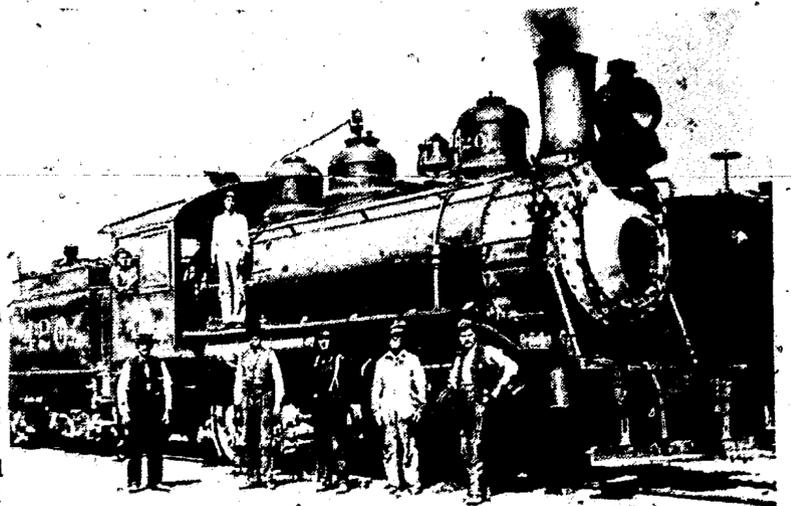
But, Eddy started construction of the El Paso and Rock Island from Carrizozo to the Pecos River (Corona-Vaughn, etc.) and bypassed White Oaks—which soon became virtually a ghost town.

Eddy soon thereafter became interested in the Dawson coal fields in Colfax County—a very successful enterprise. White Oaks was all but forgotten.

The railroad, however remains important to Carrizozo and Lincoln County although the spur to Capitan has long since vanished and White Oaks never realized a railroad dream.

Southern Pacific freight trains ply through Carrizozo and Corona from El Paso to Vaughn daily—which might not be true if Charles B. Eddy hadn't had a big dream.

A portion of that dream came true.



The man in the center is O.S. Stearns, father of Johnson Stearns of Carrizozo, when O.S. Stearns was trainmaster here. Mr. Stearns came to Carrizozo in 1910 from the Erie Railroad and was general yardmaster here for the El Paso and Southwestern.



Carrizozo was a railroad town in the past and remains such today on a different scale. Pictured is "downtown Carrizozo" across El Paso and Southwestern train cars. Carrizozo at one time was a major stop for passengers—with hotels, dining rooms, etc., in good supply to take care of through passengers' needs.



Smoke indicates a train on the track between Carrizozo and Capitan before the line was abandoned after a coal mining venture in the Capitan area proved to be economically unprofitable. The line was the El Paso and Southwestern—founded by Charles B. Eddy, financier and promoter.

VERA CRUZ

Ailee Lindamood

This Post Office of two years existence was established to serve the Vera Cruz gold mine located on the west side of the Tucson Mountains about ten miles east of Carrizozo.

It's only postmaster, Fletcher A. Blake, served from July 5, 1881 until the office was discontinued on June 25, 1883. The failure of the gold mine was the cause of its discontinuance and the mail was sent to Nogal.

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Alto is perched on mountainside

ALTO

Aileen Lindamood

"Alto" is Spanish for high and Alto it is—perched 7,318 feet above the sea on the mountainside. When the office was established May 2, 1901 William H. Walker was the postmaster and he built the present post office building and the log cabin which stands near it. The office has been moved from time to time through the years but never very far away. It has been moved from the present building to the log cabin, from the cabin to across the creek, then back again several times depending on the whim of the Postmaster.

Alto has always been, as it is now, a community of ranching families with cattle, gardens and orchards. When there was abundant rainfall the rancher raised his own feed for stock. When drier years came the cattle were summered on the National Forest under government permit and were wintered in the valley on land owned by the ranchers. The vegetable gardens and fruit trees bring green beauty to the hillsides in spring, summer and fall and snow blankets the earth much of the winter.

Alto has long been a favorite haunt for tourists because of its picturesque setting. Two chinchilla farms are now operating nearby and the Sierra Blanca Ski Area Development has brought more activity. A new motel has been built near the Post Office and tourists come in larger numbers these days. Former residents often drop by to reminisce. Mr. and Mrs. Tom High of Walters, Oklahoma stopped in so he could show her where he mailed her love letters back in 1904. She was Lucy Jane Wilder then, of Capitan. They married August, 1905 and left for Walters by covered wagon to make their home. He worked for Elga Peebles on the Little Creek Ranch and the Peebles family still live at Alto. Five generations of the Peeble family have received their mail in Alto.

Mrs. W.N. Hightower has been a patron of the office since she moved to the community in 1900. She lives alone at her home in Eagle Creek Canyon except during the winter months.

Before the post office was established the famous author

Eugene Manlove Rhodes was a teacher in the community in 1891-1892. According to his son, Alan H. Rhodes at Vestal, New York, this is the story of his first day at school:

"This school had the reputation of being quite a tough one, the big boys were nearly in manhood estate, and had already run off several teachers who had gone there to teach.

When Gene Rhodes showed up one nice morning to teach the school, the boys began to grin at each other, probably thinking how much fun they were going to have running this new teacher off the place. Even the girls were giggling among themselves at the prospect of the approaching hilarity.

When the pupils were all inside the school, Gene drew his six-shooter out of the waist band of his pants and rapped right smartly on

the desk. Very clearly he said, "School will now come to order." It sure came to order promptly and continued that way all the rest of the term.

The Grandfather of the present postmaster was Frank Lesnett who came through Alto with his wife in a Studebaker hack, drawn by two horses. They were on their way to Ruidoso where he opened a store and became Ruidoso's first postmaster in 1882. Lesnett's son-in-law, John A. Haley, was the father of the present postmaster. Haley was a newspaper publisher at Carrizozo and served as a postmaster at Carrizozo. So Aileen Lindamood who presides as the postmaster at Alto today is a third generation of her family to serve Lincoln County in that capacity. She and her husband operate a store in connection with the office much the same as the first postmaster did in 1901.

Lesnet serves

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The story of communities in Lincoln County is pretty well told in a history of Post Offices. This article appeared in the 1962 "A History of Lincoln County Post Offices."

RUIDOSO

Mannie Badillo and Joe Dryden The first Postmaster of Ruidoso was Frank Lesnet who took office in May 1882. He was a grandfather of Mrs. Aileen Lindamood, who is now postmaster at nearby Alto. At the time the office was established it was in a building across from the old Dowlin Mill. Lesnet used to sell pigs, grain and various other products to increase his earnings. When it was necessary for him to be away from home, Mrs. Lesnet and her two children would ask a neighbor to stay with them to help protect them from wild animals and Indians. After several years the Lesnets moved the post office to the still standing Old Dowlin Mill where they lived upstairs and conducted the post office down stairs.

The office remained in the mill until around the turn of the century when a Mr. Prude was Postmaster. He moved it into a building on Highway 70 somewhere across the street from where Clayton Bennett is now. During this time the mail was

brought from Fort Stanton by either stage coach or pony express.

Issac N. Wingfield, who became postmaster in 1921, was the son of Charles Wingfield, the third postmaster. During his term of office the post office was moved to upper Ruidoso across from the Wingfield home, the location of the recent Munsey Real Estate. Wingfield rode horseback to and from Ft. Stanton to get the mail. He used two horses and the trip took all day so mail delivery was two or three times a week depending on the weather.

By 1937 when Jack Hull became postmaster the mail came from Tularosa, via Hollywood, to Ruidoso. At that time the Fourth Class office served about three hundred patrons, had twelve post office boxes and stamp sales ran about \$25.00 per week. Gradually the community became a summer resort. Many homes were built and people started moving in. On July 15, 1938 it became a Third Class office and a clerk was added to the office. It was moved to just east of the Adobe on July 1, 1947 and became a Second Class Office at that time. When Hull retired in 1957 the office had grown to serve 2500 patrons in the winter and ten times as many during the summer.

A new, large and modern post office with 3000 square feet of interior floor space was built in 1961. The building is located conveniently on Main Street just east of Montie's Riding Academy. New bank type counters and screen line and more boxes were installed. With modern fluorescent lighting, enlarged floor space and large maneuvering area this plant should take care of Ruidoso needs for a long time. The present building was occupied in February of 1961 and dedicated May 7, 1961.

Mail now comes in and out via Star Routes to and from Roswell, El Paso, Alamogordo and Tularosa.

Colorful
Lincoln
County



Callie Thompson, upper right, was the teacher for the White Oaks public school in 1913. Students at the school in this picture (1913) are: Lillie Lee, Ellyn Queen, Fannie Orthofer, Winnie Taylor, Hattie Littell, Lawrence Queen, John Littell, Fred Schale, Oliver Swain, Aileen Wells, Martha Taylor, Beulah Lee, Florence Ward, Robbie Taylor, Mildred Taylor, Miller Price, Arthur Falerton, Fred Current, Roley Ward and Leroy Ward.

No post office

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The story of communities in Lincoln County is pretty well told in a history of Post Offices. This article appeared in the 1962 "A History of Lincoln County Post Offices," written primarily by postmasters at the time or former postmasters or persons closely associated with Post Offices.)

GLENCOE

Gladys Nosker

The first mail service to Glencoe was without benefit of Post Office Department. When someone from the neighborhood was in Fort Stanton they would pick up mail for everyone in the community and leave it at the Jap Coe Ranch (now the Bonnell Ranch). First official mail service came by stagecoach from San Antonio, New Mexico via Fort Stanton and on to Lincoln.

Jasper N. Coe, the first Postmaster of Glencoe, sold his first stamps on November 14, 1901 and mail was received and dispatched twice a week. By the time money order service was begun at the office on April 18, 1906 mail came three times a week. Now it arrives six days a week and comes from Tularosa.

The Glencoe office has been moved several times and destroyed by fire and flood. In 1920 when Mrs. Ora G. Tully was Postmaster the coming of the new highway made a move of store and office to a new site on the highway necessary. When Buck Nosker became Postmaster in 1941 he moved it about one mile east. On September 29 of that year it was destroyed by flood and temporary quarters set up in the Womans Club building at the Bonnell Ranch. A new building was raised on the Nosker property facing highway 70 which fire destroyed in 1944. Again temporary service was set up, this time in a trailer house. The building was replaced on the same foundation and the Post Office is still there as Gladys L. Nosker, appointed Postmaster in 1949, did not move it.

Although the Glencoe Post Office has been established since 1901 it has always been a fourth

class office. The families served by the office are from the same farms that were homesteaded in the early days and most of these farms are still owned by the same families.

'Gringo mail'

CORONA

Audrey Owen

In 1898 the people of the Corona community had to go to Pinos Wells or White Oaks for their mail. A stage coach carried mail from Las Vegas to White Oaks coming through the mountains west of Corona to Pinos Wells. Oftentimes a patron would board the hack at Corona with writing materials, ride the twenty miles northwest to Pinos Wells, call for their mail, answer it and then ride the stage back home. This route was known locally as the "Gringo Mail" and Rebecca Salas was Postmaster at Pinos Wells. It was their custom when a patron called for his mail to hand everything in the office out to him and let him find his own then give what was left back to her.

In 1902 the Corona Post Office was established in the front of a store owned by Franklin A. Dubois who was the first Postmaster. The city hall now stands on the site of the first post office. This office now serves some five hundred patrons and is the northernmost office in Lincoln County.

Part of the information given here was supplied by Mrs. J.A. Simpson of Corona who lived there when the office was established.

HURLBURT

Roy Harman

Hurlburt postoffice was established October 6, 1908 at what was then known as the Coyote pump station, east of Carrizozo on the Southern Pacific Railroad. The office was named for F. Hurlburt, a Southern Pacific pumper, who became its first Postmaster. Martin G. Lyons succeeded Hurlburt and served until the office was abolished March 31, 1915.



Students of the White Oaks Public School, May 23, 1898. The teacher, upper right was Miss Bessie Austin. The following students are pictured: first row—Florence Wharton, Nettie Lee, Blythe Beggs, Pearl Keith, May

Lawther, Miss Austin, and Gressela Kastler, second row—Mabel Stewart, Ida Grumbles, Lorena Sager, Mabel Ramsdale, Addie Lalone, Edith Parker, Ida Hoyle, and Ida Koch.

Gardenhires arrive

Mrs. Frances Gardenshire Shaw, whose father, Jeff Gardenhire, brought the family to Capitan in 1916, has many recollections of early day Capitan and area.

The family lived on the Gardenhire Half Circle Two-Bar, nine miles north of Capitan--an area where about 70 families resided in the early days.

Mrs. Shaw has other roots in Lincoln County. Her mother's brother, Willis R. Lovelace came to Corona and settled and was a prominent rancher in the Corona area during his lifetime. The late Holt Lovelace was his grandson.

Jack Shaw, Mrs. Shaw's husband, also has deep roots in Capitan. He came to Fort Stanton in 1928 from Dexter and worked at Fort Stanton as engineer for 37 years and five months before retirement.

His main job in the early days was to keep the boilers fired and steam and power flowing at Fort Stanton when the plant was coal-fired.

Fort Stanton, Shaw says, used 300 carloads of coal a year--with the coal coming by railroad to Capitan (via two switchbacks from Carrizozo to Capitan) and being dumped in Capitan. It was hauled from Capitan to Fort Stanton by truck.

Capitan was larger in the 1930s than it is now, Mrs. Shaw recalls. She was acting postmaster at Fort Stanton in the early 1930s. George Titsworth, a pioneer and community stalwart in Capitan, was postmaster.

The Shaws live in the Titsworth house--a mansion in downtown Capitan. The Shaws purchased the two-story, roomy and homey, old home 18 years ago.

George Titsworth built the house in 1908.

Titsworth was a merchant and car dealer in Capitan. For many years water from his well supplied the town and the railroad. Shaw worked for Mr. Titsworth on days off. Mrs. Shaw's father worked at the Titsworth store--located about where the Capitan Branch of Ruidoso State Bank is now located.

Fort Stanton dates back to the 1950s (as a fort) but in 1889, it became a Marine Hospital for seamen who had contracted TB. It remained such a hospital until fairly recent years when it became a part of the New Mexico Department of Hospitals and Institutions. It now houses retarded persons and complimentary to Los Lunas and a facility out of Hagerman, Villa Solano.

Mrs. Shaw was on the Capitan High state championship basketball team in the 1920s.

Jack Shaw worked with Pat Stewart--employee of the hospital since it was founded in 1889--until Stewart's retirement.

Shaw served seven years on the town council of Capitan.

Soon the town was incorporated, Shaw recalls that a battle over water supplies was "equal to the Lincoln County war."

The George A. Titsworth were married in 1907. Mr. Titsworth's widow now resides in the Hondo Valley in the Tinnie area. She was a Ferguson.

Families were close in the ranch area where Mrs. Shaw grew up. Many people had homesteaded in that area north of Capitan.

Shaw remembers when many carloads of apples were shipped out of Capitan by railroad. That industry has faded.

Capitan was incorporated in the 1940's when Fletcher Hall's father had the drug store. The Halls were instrumental in the town becoming incorporated.

Titsworth was the Ford dealer and sold many, many Model Ts in the old days. He became a large land owner--owning much of the Tinnie area and ranch acreage all around Capitan.

Frank English, long-time resident of Carrizozo, helped build the Titsworth house--which stood almost alone in Capitan in 1908. Nearby was the Gray house--Capitan originally was named Gray.

Like many communities in the area, Capitan has a railroad history--until the line from

Carrizozo to Capitan was abandoned after coal mines played out and when it was discovered the grade of coal in the Capitan area was not proper for many uses.

Jack and Frances A. Shaw continue to be active in Capitan affairs.

If the Shaw house could talk, it'd have much to say about the history of Capitan area.

Oscura P. O.

OSCURA
Roy Harman

Oscura was another postoffice that came into being because of a railroad pump station. The El Paso and North Eastern Railroad, now the Southern Pacific, had built a siding and drilled a well from which water was pumped for its locomotives. March 28, 1901 the office was established to serve the community that sprang up at the pumping station and was named for the mountains to the west. George A. Galucia was the first postmaster. Six years later the office was abolished in February only to be re-established in the fall by a group of people from Chicago who became interested in the area.

Closed in 1932 it was again reopened in 1946 but only for a short while. Exact dates are hazy and

not all the names of Postmasters are available, but Mrs. Vena Stoneman was Postmaster in 1946 and when she resigned and moved to Colorado, the office was again abolished.

WHITE OAKS EAGLE--Jan. 4, 1900.

"There seems to be great prospects in store for White Oaks in 1900. Besides general mining activity a railroad and incidental improvements are expected."

"It is confidently expected that this date 12 months will show this little city to be on a through line of railways from Liberal, Kansas to El Paso and one of the busiest towns in New Mexico."

Colorful Lincoln County

•• Early-day hunting ••

Five bears and 33 deer were killed in the 1911 hunting season in the Lincoln National Forest, a 1911 "Lincoln News Letter" reveals.

The news letter was published monthly by the officers of the Lincoln National Forest which had been established in 1902. Other pertinent facts from the December 1911 News Letter:

--The lumber for the construction of the stock shipping pens by the E.P. & S.W.R.R. at Capitan is on the ground and the work will be commenced shortly after the first of the year.

--Notice to stockmen giving the grazing fees for the coming grazing seasons will be delayed on account of this subject being taken up by Congress.

--Welch and Titsworth have received a shipment of 2-year-old heifers from Mexico as an experiment.

--Porfirio Chaves, whose cattle were grazed on the Ruidoso District, has disposed of his entire herd to Melvin Franks, and they have been shipped out of the country.

--Stock are showing the effects of the continued severe weather during the past month.

--Some of the cattlemen who took advantage of the high prices and disposed of their herds are talking of stocking up again with Chichuachuas.

--The local cattle market continues fine, cows bringing from \$23 to \$25 and buyers offering to contract for yearlings for May delivery at \$20.

LANDS

On several Forests in the district where resurveys of pastures have been made it was generally found that the old surveys were inaccurate and in a good many instances the new surveys developed the fact that the enclosures contained a larger acreage than the permit call for thus causing considerable loss to the Service. As it is quite possible that the same conditions prevail there it is felt that a careful check

of all pasture permits in force on this Forest is necessary and the work will be taken up at the earliest possible date that the weather will permit.

IMPROVEMENTS

Supervisor Kinney spent from December 4 to 9 at the Tucson Ranger Station supervising the construction of a new barn.

--Ranger Scott spent from December 4 to 9 at the Mesa Ranger Station, assisting with the construction of a new barn and bridge, both of which were completed during the month and which fill a much needed want.

--It is planned to construct a telephone line from the Patos Ranger Station to connect with the Capitan-Tucson line. This would give telephone connection between all stations and the supervisor's office except the Gallinas and this has telegraph connection.

TIMBER SALES

Ranger Rogers' baby having been sick it was necessary to detail Ranger Swain to scale the timber in the sale to the Wildcat Leasing Company, of White Oaks, N.M.

--A number of small sales have been made in the past two mon-

ths; of course this brings in a little revenue but unless the ranger is very economical with his time, they do not pay. These small sales have shown up bad, economically, on the Lincoln. It is a problem to know just how to transact this business to make it pay.

PERSONNEL

--We are glad to announce that Assistant Forest Ranger Swain has been promoted from Assistant Forest Ranger to Forest ranger effective Jan. 1, 1912.

The reorganization leaves Ranger Nabours in charge of the Gallinas Division, Ranger Swain in charge of the Patos and North Capitan Districts, Ranger Rogers, in charge of the Tucson and South Capitan Districts, and Ranger Byron in charge of the White Mountain and Ruidoso Districts.

This means much more work for the permanent men and nothing short of a well planned and systematically arranged procedure will accomplish the desired results.

--Ranger Scott was on the Ruidoso a week during November supervising the construction of a barn at that station.



Dr. Paden, early-day White Oaks doctor (later Carrizozo) and two sons appear in this photo. Sons are Mel Paden, left, a cadet at New Mexico Military Institute at the time, and Brent Paden, right. The picture was taken while the family was living in White Oaks. (1900)

"Dr. M.G. Paden went to Nogal Monday, where as Game Warden, he went to prosecute A.C. Storm for a violation of the fish law. The charge against Storm was destruction of fish in Eagle Creek by allowing sawdust from his mill on that stream to deposit in the river... The defendant was fined \$25.00 and costs of the suit..."



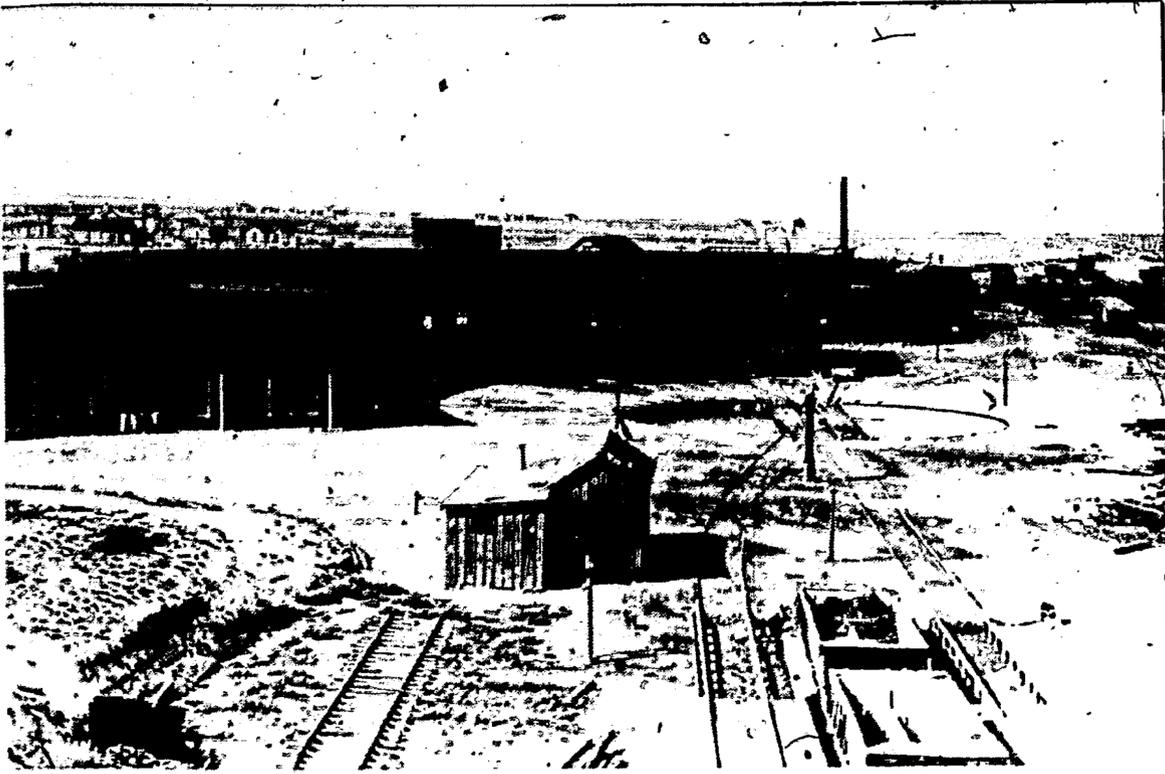
This is the Gardenhire family, Mrs. Frances Gardenhire Shaw now a resident of Capitan, in their place eight miles north of Capitan many years ago. Also in the picture are Dorris (Sellers) Hunter and Spencer Jackson.

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When steam locomotives were puffing down the tracks out of Carrizozo and into Carrizozo, the roundhouse here was a busy place before it burned many years ago. Remains of the structure are still standing.

Hondo or 'La Junta'

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HONDO

Mary L. Joiner

Lists of names and dates do not make for very interesting reading usually and that is about all one has to rely on in compiling a history of the Hondo Post Office. No one seems to know exactly why the name "Hondo" was chosen. Some of the old timers say that it was originally known as "La Junta", meaning meeting or joining and that perhaps in the process of mispronunciation the word "hondo" evolved. On the other hand perhaps the site was named for the crossing on the Rio Bonito which was deep and difficult to ford with vehicles, for Hondo means deep. However it came by its name, Hondo is definitely on the map, though the true story of its beginning and name may be forever buried in the past.

Recorded history of the Hondo Office began February 6, 1900 when John S. Williams was postmaster for over a year. By 1906 Caroline F. Vorwerk was postmaster and the Post Office was located about a mile west of its present site. Mrs. Vorwerk probably moved it during her tenure several miles west for a long valley in that area still bears the name Vorwerk Canyon.

Allie F. Stover who became postmaster in June 1913 had the distinction of being the first postmaster to write a money order on the Hondo office and the purchaser was a Mrs. Sloan. Mail hacks first carried the mail on their way from Roswell to Carrizozo. Horses were changed several times each way. While Allie Stover was postmaster the age of the automobile was ushered in and the horses and hacks were discarded for Buick and Cadillac cars. The coming of the automobile didn't speed things up

much because the roads were difficult to negotiate and the cars temperamental.

Mrs. Stover told of the time when the mail was taken care of in their "parlor", when a stranger entered while she was working the mail. This stranger stuck a little block book under her nose and she straightway told him she didn't have time to look, she was busy with the mail. The man explained to her then that he was a Post Office Inspector and offered his help. She told him to get busy with the registered mail—and he did!

Jim Gonzales operated a grocery and general merchandise store for many years and also ran the toll bridge across the Bonito river. He was the father of two postmasters and rented to most of the postmasters during the twenties. Some of the postmasters also offered room and board to teachers and others who came through the valley. By the time Leo A. Joiner became postmaster the office was moved into a room adjoining the store. Mr. Joiner moved the office to its present site about a quarter of a mile east of the old store building. Joiner resigned to accept a position with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and Mary L. Joiner, the present postmaster, was commissioned.

Hondo was shown steady growth through the years. It is located at

July 26—FROM PICACHO
(1900 White Oaks Eagle)

"Crops on the Hondo are better this year than for some years past. Small grain; wheat, oats and barley have never been better and there is not a particle of smit, or rust or other defects...

There is a tremendous yield of apples on these ranches, and the fruit crop is generally good; peaches, plums, pears and cherries galore. Our old friend, August Cline, has an orchard that is a thing of beauty.

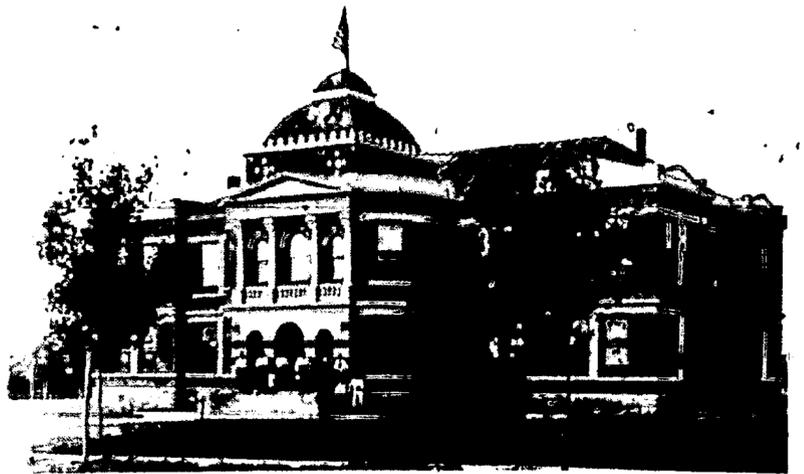
...R.P. Hopkins, Martin Chaves, Geo. Kimbrell, Mrs. B. Guyse and W.H. Lumbley, all have fine young orchards...

(signed) Julian

the junction of two main highways—U.S. 70 and U.S. 380, and at the junction of two rivers as well, the Rio Ruidoso and the Rio Bonito. No doubt this has contributed to its growth. Now with rivers of traffic in front on the busy highway and the whisper of water in the rivers to the back Hondo continues a history of service to the community and passersby.



This was the Carrizozo train depot about 1920 when railroading was in its prime—Carrizozo being a main passenger stop with magnificent hotels and accommodations.



This is the original old Lincoln County court house in Carrizozo, replaced by a new one in the 1960s. The building was constructed about 1912—when New Mexico became a state.

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History re-created

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LINCOLN

MARY (HATTIE) PHILLIPS

Colorful, historic Lincoln was known until 1869 as "Las Placitas del Rio Bonito". An old census shows that there were about a thousand people in and around Lincoln in those days but the beginning of mail service is obscure. The Murphy Store which was built in 1874 and later used as a Court House probably housed the first official Post Office in Lincoln. However, 24 years earlier part of the Tunstall-McSween store was built and a slot in the door was evidently used for mail. Old post office boxes used in the Tunstall-McSween Store were used later in the Murphy Store. History can be recreated by reading the labels still on the boxes today. They read:

- (1) Probate Clerk
- (2) Sheriff
- (3) Barber & Richardson (Attorneys). (George Barber married Alexander McSween's widow, Susan)



Current County Commissioner Bill Hart is shown on the initial trip he and other area residents made into the Sierra Blanca Ski area before it was a ski area. The horseback trip was sponsored by the Forest Service--to check out the area as a potential ski area site. Hart doesn't ski much anymore--but he was pretty good in the "olden days."

Many Mines Active

Names of mines often mentioned in the White Oaks Eagle -- 1900 Orphan Boy -- owned by Capt. W.B. Brock of El Paso (lead, silver and gold-- on the Bonita Big Four owned by Emerson May (copper and silver--Tanard Canyon) Cricket and Fire King (owned by P.G. Peters (gold, silver and lead--on the Bonita) Mogul--owned by Alfred Corn and Mrs. Anderson from Gaylord (lead, silver and gold on the

- (4) Independent (The newspaper published in Lincoln in the 1880's by James Kibbee, father of actor, Guy Kibbee.)
- (5) Wyley and Dells
- (6) Cockrell--(John J. Cockrell was an attorney in partnership with Thomas B. Catron and W.T. Thornton of Santa Fe.)
- (7) Whelan and Company (Managers of the Lincoln Hotel)
- (8) Judge Ryan
- (9) Thornton and Curry (Bank Exchange Saloon) George Curry was a Lincoln County Sheriff and Territorial Governor.
- (10) Old Man Cronin (Col. Mickey Cronin ran a general store in the old court house when John Poe was sheriff in the 1880's.)
- (11) Montano and Sons. (The Montano store was famed as a strong hold of the McSween faction during the Lincoln County War.)
- (12) B.J. Baca (Son of Capt. Saturnino Baca who created old Lincoln County)
- (13) Lea Cattle Company. (C.S. Thyber, partner of Capt. J.S. Lea, one of Roswell's earliest settlers.)
- (14) Tomlinson, Druggist.
- (15) Michealas Company, merchandising and ranching. (Including the Sunset Ranch in the valley established by Michealas, a wealthy Australian.)

The first mail was brought from Las Vegas, New Mexico--perhaps by pony express--and later from San Antonio, New Mexico. The Post Office was officially established in 1873 with John R. Bolten as the first Postmaster. The office was moved from building to building as postmasters changed but most often it was found in some part of the Tunstall-McSween building where it is now. Loyd Hulbert, who came to Lincoln in 1898, remembers that his family stayed at the Serrano Hotel where the Gipson House is now and that Sophia Serrano was Postmaster. In 1904 it was in the west end of the Tunstall-McSween store and though J.W. Walters was postmaster his daughter, Mary, took care of the mail. This part of the building was later torn down and Mary kept office in the Norman Store building. 1908 saw the office in the Frank Hulbert house, in 1912 in the place which is now known as LaPaloma Bar and later that same year in the Aragon building. Sometime in the 20's Emelio Miranda became postmaster and moved the office to its present location in the east end of the Tunstall-McSween Building. A story taken from the Roswell Record reflects some of the stormy past of the Lincoln Post Office. Under the caption "Even 'Uncle Sugar' went in for curb service back in the '70's, the Roswell Record published the following:

"Once in Lincoln, Alexander McSween instructed Marshall A. Upton, postmaster at the hamlet of Roswell, to put his mail in a private pouch at Roswell and have the mail coach drop it at McSween's office in Lincoln. He liked that better than having it processed at the Lincoln post office. For that extra service Uncle Sam wanted more cash. Upton made postal history on Jan. 15, 1879, when he filed claim against the estate of Alexander McSween, Shields, Law Office, Lincoln County Building, Lincoln, N.Mex. Upton asked for \$68.89 to be paid the post office "for attending private mail sack between Roswell and Lincoln, August 20, 1877 to August 27, 1878 at \$1.50 per week, and for 400 postage stamps and like items." No mention is made of the outcome of the suit. The first eight postmasters of Roswell served their terms while Roswell was still a part of Lincoln County.

In the late 1800's until about 1912, the mail was carried by buckboard from Roswell east from White Oaks via Fort Stanton west. To and from Roswell the driver stopped at Picacho and also at a place near where the Diamond A ranch is now to change horses. At one time Porfirio Chavez, at one time the sheriff, had the mail contract. Mattie Porter was the first driver by automobile.

In recent years Lincoln has been restoring the old buildings as they were in the early days. It has an excellent museum and is a lovely little community snuggling in the foothills dreaming of the roaring days of the old west of the past. In the old Tunstall-McSween building the present postmaster, Mary H. Phillips, will sell you a four cent stamp near the place the first Postmaster set up his office in 1873.



A group including Nettie Lee Lemon of Carrizozo appears atop old Baldy in 1908.

THE TELEPHONE LINE IS GO (1900 White Oaks Eagle)

All the stock in the telephone line to Carrizozo has been taken, and as soon as the stock holders--some of which are absent--can be gotten together the contract for its construction will be let."



This is a picture of Charley and Mary Coe on the day of their wedding in the Ruidoso Valley--at the Coe place.

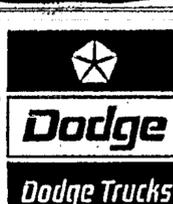
Village

ARABELA

The little village of Arabela is nestled at the very eastern tip of the Capitan Mountain. For many years the community was known as "Los Palos" or "the sticks". Many of the older residents still refer to Arabela as Los Palos. Legend has it that the settlement became Arabela when a lady took care of the mail whose given name was Arabela.

Andrew M. Richardson was the first postmaster. He was appointed on February 15, 1901. He has many descendants still living in the area, though none seem to remember anything of note about the post office. The next postmaster was Thomas B. Meek, appointed November 9, 1905. The last postmaster was Leopoldo Pacheco, who was appointed on March 14, 1907 and continued as postmaster until the office was discontinued on April 30, 1928. The Hondo, N. Mex. post office acquired the office equipment in January 1938 and used it for several years. Mr. Pacheco still resides at Arabela, and the mail is now delivered by carrier from Tinnie, N. Mex.

Colorful Lincoln County





Sportsman Wagon



POWER WAGON

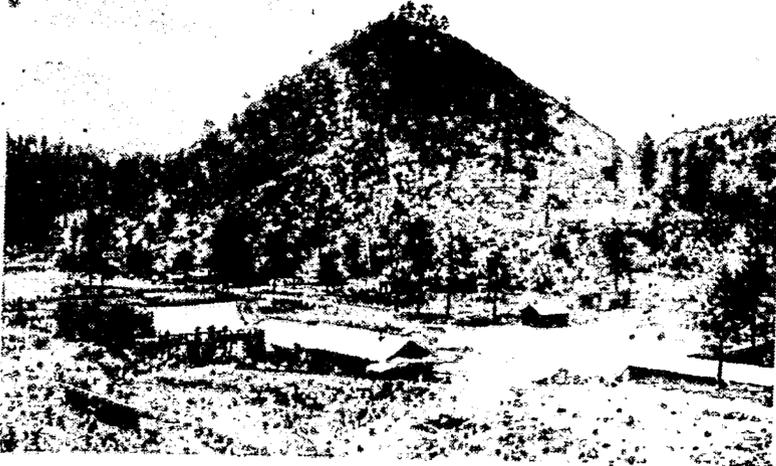
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Uncrowded Ruidoso was the story in this photo of the Lesnet's Mill in about 1920. The original mill was built about 1890 at this site.

Horses for rent

(Continued from Page 14)

Ruidoso most every year since. Alfred Hale rented horses and sold fire wood to the summer visitors. Later Mr. Klefanda and Montie Gardenhire had horses for rent.

Ed Gilliland

The Ruidoso Junction store was built and operated by Ed Gilliland in 1925. In 1927 Ike Wingfield and John Mims purchased the Junction store from Gilliland. Clayton Bennett, who came to New Mexico

about 1925, operated the Junction store for many years.

The first rodeo was held in 1928. The rodeo grounds were later subdivided into the Skyland addition.

During the decade of the 1930's and to date thousands of people have enjoyed the tall cool pines of Ruidoso. It would be difficult to give credit to all who have contributed to the great development of Ruidoso during these times.

Downs history

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RUIDOSO DOWNS
Dorothy R. Parnell

To add to the prestige of the already nationally known Ruidoso Downs Race Track the officials of the track wanted a postmark. With this in mind Eugene V. Hensley, originator of the famous All-American Quarter Horse Futurity and secretary-treasurer of the track, suggested that the near-by village of Green Tree change its name to Ruidoso Downs.

The village council of Green Tree called an election to determine the wishes of the citizens regarding the proposed name change in Feb. 1958. A large majority of the voters cast their ballot affirmatively and the Village of Green Tree became Ruidoso Downs. The Post Office Department opposed the move for some time and withheld changing the name of the Post Office until October of the same year.

1960 was a memorable year for

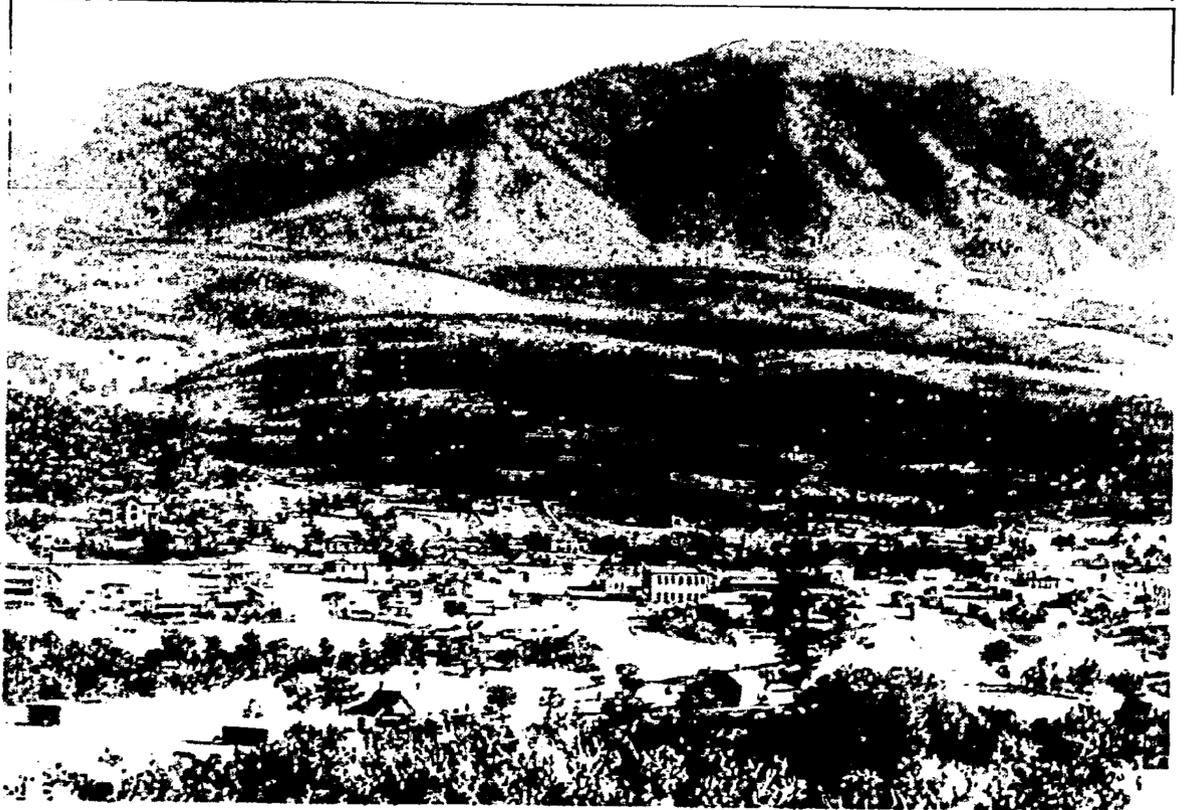
the Ruidoso Downs Post Office. After the name changed and the race track started routing its large mailing through the office it soon outgrew its quarters. In February the Post Office Department called for bids to furnish larger facilities. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sanders of Ruidoso were awarded the contract to erect a modern, brick building.

The office advanced to Second Class on July 1st and moved into the new, modern building including new furnishings and bank type counters. The new Post Office was dedicated May 6, 1961. Field Service Officer Leland A. Mitchell, Jr., represented the Post Office Department and delivered the dedicatory address.

The Office, like others in the area, receives and dispatches mail by Star Route from Roswell, Alamogordo, Tularosa and El Paso. Dorothy R. Parnell the only postmaster to serve Green Tree as Postmaster continued in that office when it became Ruidoso Downs.

Steers Delivered
White Oaks Eagle
June 11, 1900

"J.F. Hinkle delivered 1,970 head of 3-year-old CA - steers last Friday and Saturday to the Custer Cattle Co., of Billings, Mo. They began loading Friday and completed Sunday."



This is White Oaks as it appeared when it was a boom town when mines in the hills were producing fortunes in gold. The Hoyle House shows, upper left.

Polo club active

Lincoln County's colorful and dramatic history would be complete without mention of the San Patricio Polo Club. Horses, cow ponies, quarterhorses, breeding stock and so forth have played a strong role in the county since pioneer days when the horse was the only means of transportation whether ridden individually or pulling a wagon or surrey.

Polo ponies figure in the picture. The San Patricio Polo Club really dates back to 1938.

Present officers of the club include Peter Hurd, chairman, and Phelps Anderson, president.

Anderson has written "Historical Notes on San Patricio Polo." He says:

ANGUS

Aileen Lindamood

Though Angus is still a community the Post Office of Angus existed only fifteen years. Established March 10, 1898, it was discontinued May 15, 1913 and the mail sent to Alto. Only three Postmasters served this office. The first one, Porter G. Peters was followed by James Burrell on March 17, 1909 and Mary A. Hagee on June 24, 1910.

Angus served the star route carriers as a place to change teams in their trek from Capitan to Ruidoso. The carriers were Charles Wingfield and Rube Copel and members of their families still in Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs.

The old school house of Angus still plays an important part in the community life. The building itself is a source of great pride and is maintained by the Angus Community Association. Benefit pie suppers, teas and parties add to annual donations to swell the funds used in the upkeep of this favorite meeting place. Funerals are held there as the cemetery adjoins and makes a peaceful last resting place in its beautiful surroundings.

The Bonito Volunteer Fire Department holds monthly meetings in the building but perhaps its lingering spirit is best pleased when the joyful noise of the community sings are echoing down the valley.

"In the year 1938 polo began in San Patricio. Peter Hurd, Eric Knight and the four Herrera brothers played polo on one of the more level Hondo Valley hillsides. These six players were not lacking for enthusiasm as they raced across the gullie and cactus of Peter Hurd's Centinel Ranch. For the next two decades this dry cow pasture was the settling for many fast polo games. The winners and losers of these early games have long been forgotten; however the excitement and humor is still alive and well in San Patricio.

"The present outdoor polo field on the north side of the Rio Ruidoso was leveled and planted in 1960. A few yards from the southeast corner of this field lie the stone foundations of a cantina and casino. This site provided much revelry for the Fort Stanton soldiers and many of the more colorful Lincoln County War participants. Peter Hurd has

collected gold buttons from the cavalry officer's coats on and around this site.

"In 1963 the polo area was completed at the Sunset Stud Farm. A year later the San Patricio Polo Club received official recognition from the United States Polo Association. The San Patricio arena polo teams have won the VSPA Sherman Memorial Arena Five Goal for an unprecedented three consecutive years.

"San Patricio has a large number of the polo playing New Mexico Military Institute Alumni. Former cadets of these NMMI national championship teams include Ross and Buz Easterling, Rube and Bob Evans, Louie Nalda, and Mickey Sammuels. The Peter Hurd family is the only third generation polo family at San Patricio as father Peter, son Michael, and grandson Pedrito have all played this game of organized chaos called polo."

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CHEW, OWNERS



Ruidoso's Post Office and the Ike Wingfield Grocery Store are shown in 1923. This was the first Post Office in Ruidoso. It must have been mail day when this photo was taken judging from the crowd.

Sawmill launches Ruidoso

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Charlie Wingfield and family came to Ruidoso in 1884. Della Wingfield Hale, now of Chama, provided the following early-day history of the Ruidoso area for the Lincoln County News.)

RUIDOSO

(A Spanish word for noisy or clamorous)

There is little recorded history of the settlement known as Ruidoso. Paul Dowlin started the construction of the sawmill at the junction of the Ruidoso and Carrizo creeks in the latter part of the year 1886.

In January of 1869 Captain Saturnine Baca from Socorro was instrumental in establishing Lincoln County with Paul Dowlin, Dr. Blazer and Florencio Gonzales first county commissioners.

The Dowlin mill was the hub of all activity in Ruidoso for many years. It served as a sawmill, grist mill, post office, store and blacksmith shop.

Frank Lesnet owned and operated the mill during the 1880's and served as Postmaster in 1885.

Charlie Wingfield and family, who had come to Ruidoso in 1884 lived at the mill from 1886, working for Mr. Lesnet. During the time the Wingfield's lived at the mill four children were born, including my father, Ike.

Charles Wingfield served as the third postmaster of Ruidoso, serving from January 1891-1893. He also served as County assessor in 1890 and was serving as county commissioner when he died in 1910.

Sometime in the early 1900's the original mill was torn down and the present mill was built in 1914. Water to operate the mill wheel came from a dam across the Ruidoso river in the vicinity of the present Ruidoso post office, and was flumed across the Carrizo

river, to reach the mill wheel by ditch.

Post Office moved

In 1904 Mr. Prude moved the Post Office from the mill to what is now Hiway 70, just west of the present Elks Club. On November 8, 1904 Mrs. Fount (Alice) Miller as appointed postmaster and served for seven years. In 1915 George Friedenbloom became postmaster. He later developed what has long been known as Hollywood and served as postmaster there for several years. Mrs. A.O. (Molly) Creley became postmaster in 1917 and served until 1921 when Ike Wingfield became postmaster and moved the post office to the Wingfield property on the Ruidoso. He served as postmaster until 1937 when Mrs. Jack Hull became postmaster.

During the early days mail came from Ft. Stanton by way of Ruidoso then to Tularosa. Later

the route was changed to come from Roswell by way of Hondo.

Andy Randolph was about the first, if not the first, mail carrier to serve Ruidoso after the post office was moved to Wingfields. Later Ed Williams was awarded the contract during the late 1920's.

The only dwelling constructed west of the old mill was the Charlie Wingfield residence, where he had homesteaded in the 1890's, until summer homes were built between 1915 and 1920.

About 1918, W.R. White, better known as Sally and his wife, Chloe, built a sawmill just east of the "first" bridge on the Ruidoso. After Mr. White passed away Mrs. White married Ben Greison, who served in county offices for many years.

The sawmill was in operation for several years and during the 1920's a swimming pool was constructed on the hill just south and east of the mill, at the west

end of the street now known as Wingfield Avenue (at the time this area was an alfalfa field)

Steam from the mill was piped across the road and used to heat the swimming pool.

During the early 1900's, Ike Wingfield and family operated the only grocery store, selling everything from horse shoes, nails, bulk sugar, fresh meat, gasoline, oil, dairy products, and operated a roller skating rink, except Wednesday and Saturday nights, at which times dances were held.

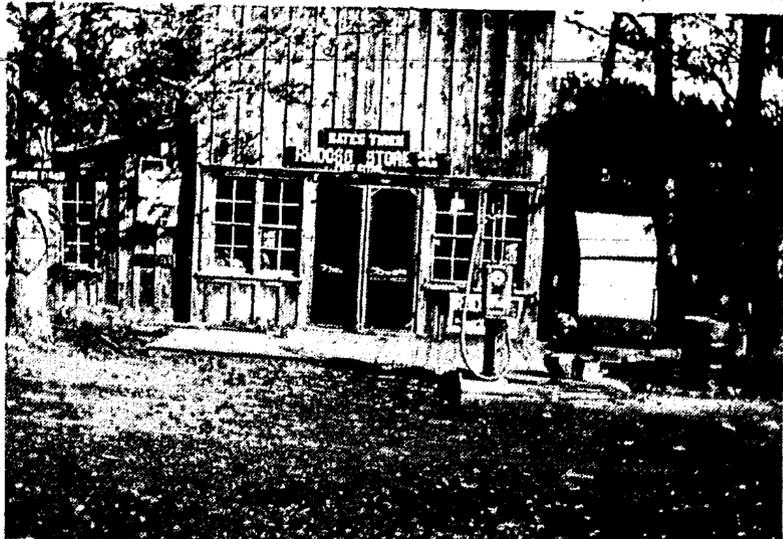
Addition Built

In 1922 an addition to the grocery store and post office was built and a barber shop was opened and operated by Jack Howenstine followed in later years by Jim Travis.

The first electric lights were a Delco plant installed in 1922 at the Wingfield residence to serve all the business operations there. In 1926 Joe Mogel, from El Paso built the first electric light plant to service Ruidoso. The plant was operated by Bob and Win Woollard for many years.

The first visitors to Ruidoso brought their camping outfits and camped. Later summer homes were built and some of those early day summer residents were: Judge E.L. Medler, Dr. W.W. Phillips, Dr. Parker Kallock, Benson Howell and his wife's parents the Campfields, Dr. B.F. Jenness, C.C. Martin, Johnson, Miss Ola and the Melvin Grays, Guy Nickson, Judge Sweeney, O.H. Palm, there are more but this is just to name a few.

Miss Amelia Chruich and her sister built rent cabins, J.C. Dufe operated a bakery, Warren Barrett operated a grocery store, and H.E. Gatewood operated a store in a partial dugout and frame construction at the "first"



The Ruidoso Post Office and Grocery store after it was moved to the Ruidoso, and Ike Wingfield became postmaster in 1921. This picture was made in 1922. The old yellow gas pump is shown with oil barrels and a storage shed under the trees. The little tent in the background was the summer camp for Opal and Tootsie Wingfield.



Charles W. Wingfield is pictured. He settled in the Ruidoso area in the early 1880s. Mr. Wingfield was assessor of Lincoln County from 1891 until 1895 and at the time of his death in 1910 was a member of the board of county commissioners.

bridge.

Navajo Lodge - 1923

The Navajo Lodge was built about 1923 by Bob and Edith Boyce. A couple of years later they added a dance hall.

In 1925 the Creissants built the Ruidoso Lodge and sold it to the Alberts from Roswell, who operated it for many years.

There was a Chamber of Commerce, a Board of Health, and garbage removal in Ruidoso in 1925. I believe Edith Boyce is to be credited with these developments.

In 1923 H.E. Carter purchased eighty acres of land from Mary Purrington. He subdivided the land and lots from the first subdivision were being sold in what is known as Ruidoso Springs. Dean's Drug Store, Harry Gottlieb Curios and pictures, C.W. Van Sickle Lumber, J.T. Sayers Service Station, were some of the first businesses in the area in the mid and late 1920's.

H.A. Bercherding from El Paso established an Old Fellows camp on Cedar Creek and brought children from the Southwestern Childrens Home, which was a project begun by the I.O.O.F. Lodge, to spend vacation time at the camp. In 1926 Ike Wingfield gave ten acres of land to the Southwestern Childrens Home and buildings were constructed. Children from the home have enjoyed a summer outing in

(Continued on Page 15)



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Fort Stanton 120 years old

The site for Fort Stanton named after Captain Henry Stanton, who was killed in a fight with Mescaleros, was selected in March, 1855, by General John Garland. It was to be 25 miles upstream on the Rio Bonito from its juncture with the Rio Ruidoso. A force of three hundred men began construction at the site and it was officially commissioned Fort Stanton on May 4, 1855. By 1857, the Fort was well-established and during this year the post's commander, Major Jefferson Van Horne, directed the survey which established the boundaries for military reserve approximately 140 square miles.

On August 2, 1861, during the early days of the Confederate invasion, of the New Mexico territory, Lt. Colonel B.S. Roberts, Commander at Fort Stanton, received a report that Union Troops under Major Isaac Lynde had been routed, that Fort Fillmore, near Mesilla, had been captured and that a Confederate force was advancing toward his position. Roberts immediately ordered the post abandoned, had the buildings and stores fired and began moving his two companies toward Albuquerque.

Upon learning of the abandonment of Fort Stanton, the Confederate commander, Lt. Colonel John Baylor, ordered a company of men under Captain Walker to occupy the position.

The troops, primarily concerned with the military campaign, were ill-equipped to check the Indians. Baylor wrote his commanding officer that he was totally unable to wage war against both groups simultaneously. The post was finally abandoned when it was determined that the isolated location could hold no strategic importance for the Confederates.

By August, 1862, the Confederate troops had been driven from New Mexico territory after a decisive battle at Glorieta Pass on March 27-28.

Swift reoccupation of the territory by Union forces was accomplished mainly through the arrival of Colonel James Carleton and the California Column.

After taking command of the Department of New Mexico from Colonel E.R.S. Canby on September 18, Colonel Carleton turned his attention to the Indian problem in southern New Mexico. As part of his campaign, he ordered five companies of New Mexico volunteers under Colonel Christopher Carson to reoccupy Fort Stanton in an effort to subdue the Mescalero Apache who were continuing to raid in the southeastern part of the territory.

When Colonel Carson arrived at Fort Stanton on October 12, he found the Fort standing virtually in ruins. What hadn't been

destroyed by the conflicting military forces had been reduced to rubble by looters. Only the stone walls and adobe mounds remained of the fort which had once been described as "the best quarter in the Army at the time." During the next year, Colonel Carson enforced his orders to retain and pursue the Mescalero and Gila Apache, although he personally was opposed to using military force to secure peace. By the end of the first year of the Indian campaign, U.S. troops had captured and incarcerated over 7000 Indians at Bosque Redondo Reservation. With the simultaneous campaign of General John West, the major resistance from Indian groups was broken, although further sporadic incidents were often serious.

Carleton's efforts to relocate the Indians at Bosque Redondo never proved successful, primarily because the groups encamped there were completely displaced from their native environment and had to rely entirely on the U.S.



Col. N.A.M. Dudley

Agency for supplies and foodstuffs which were often inadequate. By November, 1865, all the Apache Indians had abandoned the Bosque Redondo and continued sporadic raids until 1870, when they returned to a reservation at Fort Stanton. The Navajos had also abandoned the area by 1868.

These events were critical to the later history of Lincoln County and especially the village of Lincoln. As the depredations of the Indians began to wane with the presence of the military and the establishment of a reservation somewhat removed from Fort Stanton, pressure was developing in Washington to close the Fort. Although Fort Stanton had originally been established to protect civilian settlements along the Rio Grande and the Jornada Del Muerto, 15 years of occupation had not proven its value. In his annual report of 1869-1870, the Secretary of War stated that the



This was the Post Traders' Store at Fort Stanton a long, long time ago.

Fort Important

post was being maintained only at enormous expense and "speaking from a military point of view, Fort Stanton is wholly unnecessary." However, the failure at Bosque Redondo and the return of the Mescalero brought renewed pressure for the continued existence of a military post in the area.

Of even greater significance was the fact that the small population of the area, being wholly isolated from a nearby trade center, had become almost entirely dependent on the Fort as a source of supplies and as a market for the products,

especially grain and cattle, which they were able to offer for sale.

In 1869, with the military establishment secured for the present at least, the new sanction of Lincoln as a political entity, and economic pressures bringing outsiders to seek new opportunities in New Mexico, Lincoln County began to prosper. Figuring significantly in this growth was the availability of excellent farm and grass land, and the lucrative contracts for cattle and grain to be had from both Fort Stanton and the Mescalero Reservation.



Known as Ruidoso junction, this picture was taken where Hollywood is now located. The sign says "Ruidoso Jct., Groceries, Gas and Oil."

Jicarilla P. O.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The story of communities in Lincoln County is pretty well told in a history of Post Offices. This article appeared in the 1962 "A History of Lincoln County Post Offices," written primarily by postmasters at the time or former postmasters or persons closely associated with Post Offices.)

JICARILLA
Roy Harmon

A small community of placer miners and ranchers in northern

Lincoln County petitioned the Post Office Department in 1892 for an office to be named for the surrounding mountains. On December of that year Jicarilla was established with Jacob Weisher as the first Postmaster. The office continued until November 12, 1927 when it was discontinued only to be re-established a little later and again abolished. Though the community is still indicated on state maps it no longer has a post office and the people of the area are served by a star route.



Commissioners

Jan. 11, 1900

White Oaks Eagle)

Proceedings of the Hon. Board of County Commissioners held at Lincoln, Lincoln County, New Mexico, January 2nd A.D. 1900.

Present:

Hon. Estolano Sanchez, member

D. Perea, Sheriff
I.L. Analla, clerk

There being no quorum Board adjourned till 1 p.m.

No quorum being present at 1 p.m. it adjourned til January 3rd, 1900 at 9 a.m.

At 9 a.m. January 3rd, 1900, no quorum being present, it adjourned till 1 p.m.

At 1 p.m. no quorum being present it adjourned till 7 p.m.

At 7 p.m. no quorum being present it adjourned till the fifth Monday, January 29, A.D. 1900

Attest:

I.L. Analla, clerk

Geo. Sena, Deputy

Estolano Sanchez, Member of the Board

Advertisements

Picked at Random:

WHITE OAKS EAGLE

Jan. 4, 1900

White Oaks Passenger Line-Good rigs. Careful drivers. Regular trips daily to the road.

Three Rivers Store.

The Little Casino-White Oaks Avenue, Billiards, Pool and Clubrooms.

Levi Strauss & Co's Spring Bottom Pants

A Monster Devil Fish

(White Oaks Eagle)

"Destroying its victim, is a type of constipation. The power of this marvelous malady if felt on organs and nerves and muscles and brain. There's no health till it's overcome. But Dr. King's New Life Pills are a safe and certain cure. Best in the world for Stomach, Liver, Kidneys and Bowels. Only 25 cents at M.G. Paden's Drug Store"

■ ■ ■

Names from Past

Jan. 1900 F.I. Marsh-supt. of Old Abe mine. Arthur P. Green-working foreman of Old Abe. Hon. W.F. Blanchard, Probate Judge
Jan. 4, 1900

■ ■ ■

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... Carrizozo blooms after 1900 ...

CARRIZOZO Roy Harmon

The Carrizozo post office was named for the Spanish word "Carrizozo" meaning tall dry grass which once grew in the surrounding country and for which a nearby mountain was named. Shortly after the turn of the century Frederick M.P. Hunt became Carrizozo's first Postmaster. His commission was dated May 31, 1902. Prior to this time the area had been served by the White Oaks and Nogal post offices.

Carrizozo probably would have been no more than a siding and junction with the old Capitan branch of the El Paso and Northeastern Railroad if the people of White Oaks had cooperated with Mr. Eddy who was having the railroad built north to tie in with the Rock Island Railroad. Because of the high cost of securing right-of-way through White Oaks, Mr. Eddy decided to by-pass the town of White Oaks and start the town of Carrizozo. Records in the office show that Hunt served until March 1907.

Ira O. Wetmore, a man who had taken a great interest in the building of Carrizozo succeeded Lacey and served until 1909 when William Riley, a long-time resident of Lincoln County, was appointed. Riley was an excellent penman and the records kept by him are unusually beautiful and have been admired by many who

have seen them. The Riley family still is a prominent and well-known family in Lincoln County. They are Mrs. T.A. Spencer, Sr., and Mrs. Will Ed Harris. Mrs. Nellie Riley, his widow, lived until the latter part of 1958 and the character and esteem in which this loveable lady was held is summed up by the name by which she was widely known, "Mamma Nell".

In August 1912 Arthur J. Rolland, a prominent Carrizozo business man, was named Postmaster. He served only until Dec. 1913, but he was a pharmacist and operated a drug store in Carrizozo until his death in 1947. His willingness to help everyone, especially those less fortunate, made him one of the most loved men who ever lived in Lincoln County.

The year 1914 saw a well known newspaper man appointed Postmaster. He was John A. Haley and at the time he assumed charge of the office he was busily engaged in publishing a year book about Lincoln County. The book contained pictures of scenes of Lincoln County and of its leading citizens, a brief history of the county and articles about each community, all of which become more interesting as time goes by. During Haley's term as postmaster, the post office was a central accounting office for Lincoln County. Aileen Lindamood, who is the present postmaster at Alto, is the

daughter of John A. Haley and Georgia Orme Johnson, Edith Crawford and Mrs. Era B. Smith, who served as clerks in the office under him still reside in Carrizozo.

The Lincoln County News carried an interesting item in 1913 concerning the parcel post service which had been established on January 1 of that year. The article told of John Baird of Carrizozo

mailing a dog to his friend, Les Harman, at White Oaks. Dogs are not accepted for mailing now and it would be interesting to know just when that part of the parcel service was discontinued. In 1922 Haley was succeeded by Mrs. Elizabeth O. Gumm, a well-known teacher whose husband was a member of a pioneer White Oaks family.

Herman E. Kelt was named to

head the office on the death of Mrs. Gumm in May 1933. After serving ten years he resigned and Mrs. Era B. Smith who had served as clerk under John Haley became acting postmaster. Mrs. Smith edited the Lincoln County News but found that it was too much to carry on both jobs so she resigned and Herman Kelt was re-appointed. Carrizozo became a second class office



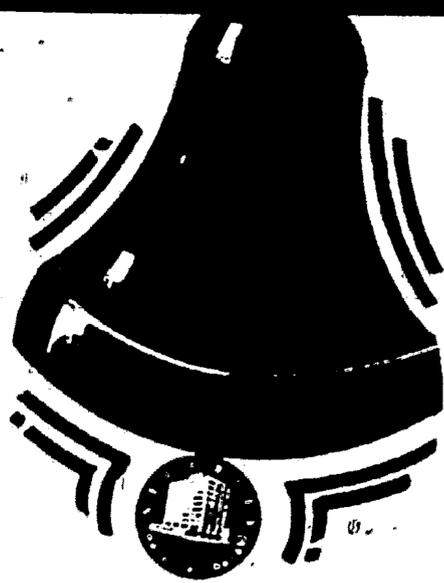
Early-day Carrizozo is shown here from in front of King's Bar. The building at extreme right was the Post Office.

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Fires always present

A number of disastrous forest fires have occurred in the Lincoln National Forest the past 25 years. It was 25 years ago that Smokey the Bear, then a cub, was found with his feet scorched in the Capitan Gap area in a fire which burned over 12,890 acres.

Smokey is now at Ghost Ranch where he will spend his remaining days—with burial after his demise to be at a new Smokey Bear Park in Capitan.

The Capitan Gap fire occurred on May 7, 1950.

The Gavilan Canyon fire in 1967, also in May, in the Ruidoso area burned over 1,740 acres in the Smokey Bear Ranger District.

Three major fires hit the Mayhill Ranger District in the 1950s. The first was in Allen Canyon, May 31, 1951, where 15,820 acres were burned over.

Also in the Mayhill District, in Circle Cross Canyon area, 25,874 acres were destroyed or nearly so

in April of 1953.

A lesser fire occurred in Pendleton Canyon of the Mayhill District, April 26, 1956, when 5,825 acres were burned over.

The Danley Canyon fire in the Clouderoft District occurred April 24, 1967, destroying, 2400 acres of timber.

In April 1974, the Spring Canyon fire in the Mayhill District whacked out 14,500 acres. Weed lost several buildings in that fire.

The Cottonwood area fire in the Guadalupe District, July 2, 1974, affected 16,000 acres.

A major fire occurred in the Bear Creek area on White Mountain, June 24, 1928. This was before the days of aerial-born slurry and specialized fire-fighting groups whisked around the country by air.

Forest fires were fought the hard way in 1928. They still are—there's no easy way.

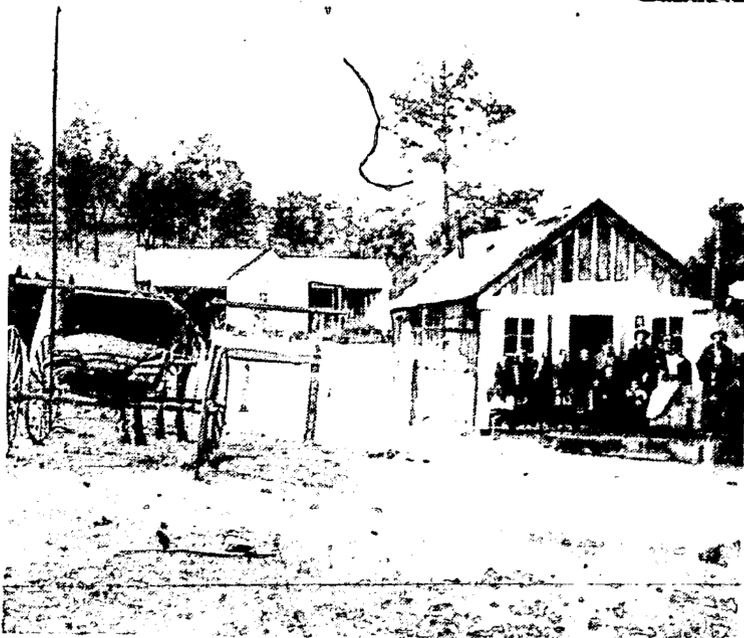


Firefighting methods have changed in the Lincoln National Forest. Airplanes help today. This shows firefighters keeping the fire out of a dangerous windfall in the Bear Creek Fire on White Mountain in June of 1928. Photo by U.S. Forest Service.

Sept. 12, 1900

(White Oaks Eagle)

ALL CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF FIVE AND SIXTEEN MUST GO TO SCHOOL.



This is the old Alto Post Office before automobiles were in use. The old structure was torn down only this year and had been abandoned for a number of years.

Forest history

The Lincoln National Forest came into being on July 6, 1902, according to a forest fact sheet provided by the district headquarters in Alamogordo.

The Sacramento National Forest sprang into being on April 24, 1907, and it was on July 2, 1908 that the Guadalupe National Forest and the Sacramento National Forest were consolidated as the Lincoln National Forest.

The Guadalupe National Forest was formed April 19, 1907.

Some 10 years later, June 6, 1917, the Alamo National Forest was transferred to the Lincoln

National Forest and the entire forest is now known as Lincoln National Forest and is divided into four ranger districts.

Apr. 26, 1900

(White Oaks Eagle)

"Bonita is enjoying a healthy industrial growth, both in agriculture and mining activity," says A. C. Austin.

Sept. 6, 1900, Hondo Local News

(White Oaks Eagle)

"The fine flouring Mill of Timoteo Annalla is nearing completion and shortly we will be able to get as good flour as the Colorado Climax right here.

SHAMEFUL

(1900 White Oaks Eagle)

Nogal, the beautiful little mountain town 17 miles south of White Oaks, is by the new mail schedule, almost entirely without mails from any direction. Everything akin to a system is out of joint and Nogal does not get mail, often, for two or three days together. A letter mailed at Capitan must go to Alamogordo, the present distributing office for all that section of the country and then come back again on the afternoon train before going to Nogal, which is only 9 miles from Capitan.

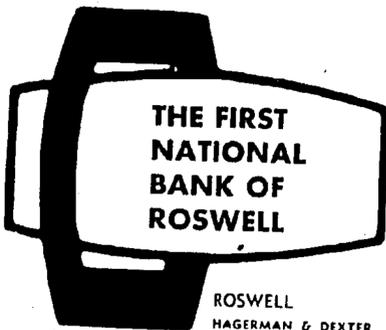
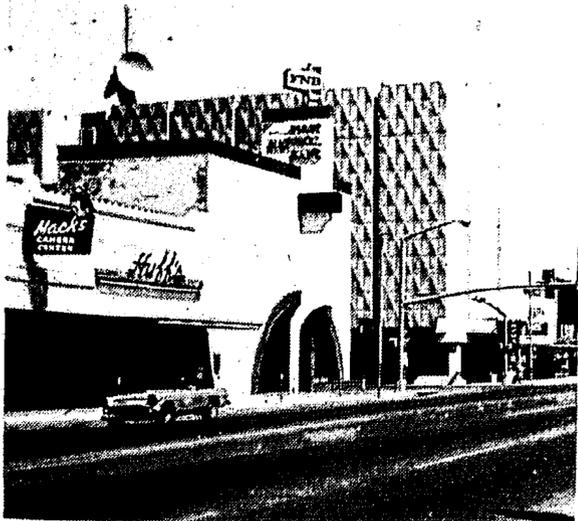
The people of Lincoln County and the newly created counties of Chaves and Eddy were 200 miles from the nearest bank or railroad when we entered the scene. They needed a bank . . . and we came to satisfy that need. Today, we still need each other.

We've Been Making History With You Since July, 1890 !!



Bank of Roswell - Erected 1894

In 1899, we transferred from a Territorial Charter to a Federal Charter, changing our name to The First National Bank of Roswell. For 85 years we've been working with you . . . doing a lot of growing, together.



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.... First pageant was big event

Thirty-five years ago a group of Lincoln County citizens decided to celebrate the Coronado Cuarto Centennial with a pageant and program emphasizing the life and times of Billy the Kid.

It was in 1940 that the first "Billy the Kid Lives Again" pageant was presented in a platform on the main street of old Lincoln town.

Star of the 1940 production was Peter Hurd, world renowned artist and long-time San Patricio resident who also operates the Sentineal Ranch.

Other events marked the first big "Kid" celebration—a tradition which has been followed each year except some of the war years and just after.

Today, the first weekend in August, the "Kid" pageant is presented from a permanent stage and setting in old Lincoln town. It draws people by the hundreds.

The first one also featured a traditional Mexican wedding at San Juan Church with Leo Pena and Mary Gonzales serving as bride and groom. The High Mass and ceremony were conducted by Father Salvatore. San Patricio choral singers participated and the Carrizozo Sisters of Mercy. Arrangements were by the Carrizozo Women's Club.

A vocal solo and addresses were conducted one day, with "Oh Fair New Mexico" sung by the composer Elizabeth Garrett, daughter of the famed sheriff, Pat Garrett.

Elizabeth Garrett was blind, but that didn't slow her down. With

her seeing eye dog, she made her way around Roswell real well until she fell on the Methodist church steps one day, her injuries proved fatal. This was long after 1940.

Branding and bronc riding were part of the first event celebrating the Centennial.

Street shows were presented including: "The Mayordomo," Gilbert and Sullivan Opera in English and Spanish.

Lucy Lepper Shaw and 100 NYA Camp Capitan Girls presented the opera.

Bert Pfingsten of the Bonito Valley was general chairman of the event. Today he remembers it



Lifetime Bonito area resident, Bert Pfingsten, apple grower and farmer, was born about where the Bonito Dam is now located when that area had a town—Bonito City.

well. The Lincoln Fiesta Committee planned the program.

The "Kid" pageant was advertised on the program—"In Ten Exciting History-making Lincoln County War Scenes... A Rapid-fire Dramatic Broadside."

It remains so today.

Pageant actors in 1940 were Peter Hurd playing Billy the Kid; Fred Pfingsten, Patrick F. Garrett; Pinkney Miller, Major William Brady; Buck Nosker, Alexander McSween; Louise Fritz Ferguson, Susan E. McSween; Felix Ramey, John Chisum; Edna Pfingsten Purcell, Sally Chisum; Ray Bishop; Bob Ollinger; Juanita Gomez, Deluvina Maxwell; D. Kusianovich, Col. N.A. M. Dudley; Joanna Penfield, Anita (symbol of 1940 youth); Buck Nosker, "Buckshot" Bill Roberts; Felix Ramey, Gov. Lew Wallace, and the Horrrell Brothers, T.J. Youngblood, Ray Garcia, P. I. Zamora and Fletcher Hall.

Many other Lincoln area people participated.

On the last day, and Old Timer parade was staged. Horse Races were staged in the morning.

Sen. Louise Coe of Lincoln County was chairman of the Lincoln County Fiesta of Cuarto Centennial. Clinton P. Anderson was listed as manager-director.

On the Lincoln Fiesta Committee were A.T. Pfingsten, chairman; Mrs. T. Laramie, secretary; Mrs. Ruth Penfield, treasurer; Ofelia Salas, stage manager; Edward Penfield, program; Edna Purcell, advertising; Lucy Lepper Shaw,

"Mayordomo" and Spanish Dances; Roman Maes, folk dancing; E.H. Miranda, and T.C. Romero, concessions; E.H. Ramey, bronc riding, buggies and teams; Bert Bonnell, ox teams; Blanding Sloan, producer author, "Billy the Kid"; Fred W. Pfingsten, cowboys; Mildred Taylor, publicity and Frank and Lucille Bellew.

Advertisers in the program included Titsworth Co., Inc. Capitan, City Garage (Chevrolet,

Oldsmobile and Buick) of Capitan. Capitan Motor Service (Dodge and Plymouth sales and service, Capitan; El Cibola Hotel, Carrizozo; La Paloma Bar, William Bonney Bar, both of Lincoln, Penfield Store (Est. in 1877 by Tunstall-McSween and others.)

In fact, 1940 was a pretty big year in Old Lincoln town where a traditional program has followed even until today—right soon, as a matter of fact.



Carrizozo, a very, very long time ago.

May 24, 1900 (1900 White Oaks Eagle) joined with J.E. Wharton to form J.F. Bonham of Las Cruces a new law co-partnership.

A RIP ROARIN' SALUTE TO LINCOLN COUNTY FROM OUR REGION'S MOST UP-TO-DATE BANK

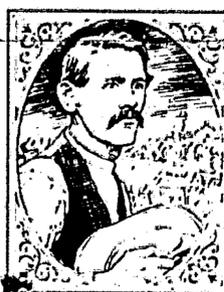


Pat Garrett

Over here in Roswell we have a big spread with 6 friendly locations to serve the people of the area. Let us ride herd on your financial doin's. Our newly modernized facility is pertier than a new born calf and as efficient as a mail order milkin' machine. You'll zip through our Tel-Air system when you bank from your car — we have the fastest windows in the west our Teller-24 system gives you a service no other bank in the area has. . . bank any day of the year . . . any hour of the day. Saddle up with the Best in the West. The Ultra-modern bank with the old western friendliness.



Billy the Kid

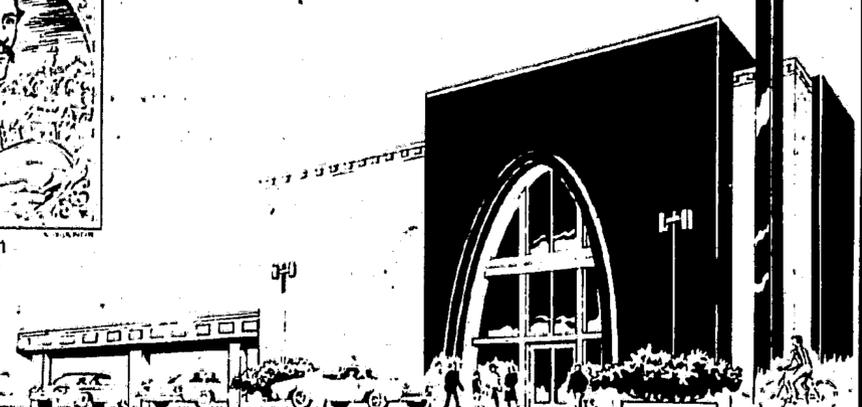


John Chisum



Y'ALL COME SEE US!

ROSWELL STATE BANK
The ultramodern bank with the old western friendliness.



Corona means 'crown'

Corona, from the Spanish word meaning crown, is truly a crown, as it is located at the highest point between New York and the Pacific Coast, via Chicago and the southern route by rail on the Southern Pacific lines, at an elevation of 6,666 feet. It is situated in the geographical center of New Mexico and is a crossroads for U.S. Highway 54 and State Road No. 42. These highways connect Santa Fe and Albuquerque, by the most direct route, with Roswell, Artesia, Carlsbad and other southeastern New Mexico towns.

The original "Corona" was located at the reservoir, and there was a butcher shop, saloon, and general store. When the railroad came through and put the switch here, they moved everything to the present site from the reservoir. Corona nestles in the woodland covered hills adjacent to the Cibola National Forest overlooking Gallo Lake, where upon their arrival the settlers found peace and plenty in one of the last frontier towns. Being in historic Lincoln County, the founding and early days of the village are a series of exciting events, and Billy the Kid was a frequent visitor to this section during his short but blazing career.

In 1899, this village began its development as a cowtown; this section of the country is one of the best ranges in New Mexico for livestock. The village developed from an earlier settlement known as Red Cloud Post Office, located on the Cook and Greathouse Ranch a few miles southwest of the present townsite. The Post Office was on the old San Antonio-Las Vegas stage route, and a trek of one hundred forty miles over the mountains by oxen and mule teams was required to obtain supplies and provisions.

The exact date of the first settlers in this vicinity is rather hazy, but Mr. C.M. Bryan told of the killing of Jim Carlisle by Billy the Kid at the old Red Cloud Post Office in the spring of 1881. The officers of Lincoln County learned that Billy the Kid was stopping at the ranch and decided to surround and capture him. A posse of twenty-two men was formed, and arriving at the ranch at night, they asked the Kid to surrender in the morning since he could not escape. He refused and asked who was in charge of the posse. When told that it was Deputy Sheriff Jim Carlisle of White Oaks, he invited the officer to come in and talk things over because Carlisle was a personal friend of his.

The Kid and Carlisle became slightly intoxicated, and that afternoon the posse caught Greathouse outside and ordered

him to send Carlisle out or they would start shooting. The Kid overheard the conversation and answered, "If a shot is fired, I will kill Carlisle". Some one fired, afterwards supposed accidentally; Carlisle jumped through a window, and was shot and killed by the Kid. During the ensuing excitement the Kid broke for his horse and miraculously escaped the posse. Mr. Bryan said that later Billy said that Carlisle was the only man he ever killed over which he felt any regret or shame.

The grave of Carlisle remains unmarked near the site of the old Red Cloud Post Office, and it has been suggested that an appropriate marker be set at the grave in honor of him and those fearless men like him who first brought law and order to New Mexico.

From about 1879 to 1922, mining for copper and lead was carried on in Red Cloud Canyon and on the east slope of the Gallinas Mountains, a few miles southwest of Corona. In the early days of this activity, the ore was hauled by wagon to El Paso and Socorro to the smelter.

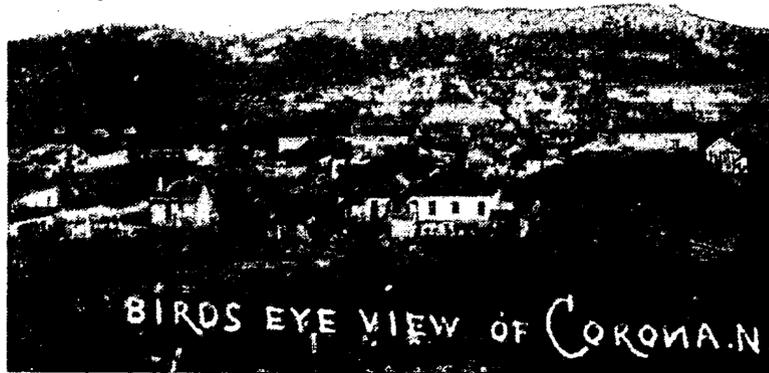
In 1902, the railroad was completed through Corona, and shipments of ore were then made by rail until 1922 when the mines were closed. The height of this development about three hundred men were employed in the mines. Many prospect holes and old mine shafts, and dumps are visible from the Red Cloud road just below the Red Cloud Canyon picnic grounds built for our use by the Forest Service. Today some mining is still carried on but not so large a scale as formerly. Bill Heim built a mill, and in 1951 he shipped his first load of rare earth material called bestnasite. The first commercially produced bestnasite in the United States comes from New Mexico, the property owned by Bill Heim.

An important part of the early history of Corona was the construction of the railroad by Phelps Dodge Corporation in order to reach the coal fields at White Oaks. Then it was discovered a Mr. Eddy had been pulling their leg, and the veins of coal were not extensive. White Oaks was by-passed and the line completed to Santa Rosa. A branch line was built to the Dawson coal mines which are now exhausted.

In 1899, the old El Paso and Northeastern Railroad was constructed from El Paso to Carrizozo and ended there until three years later when the line was extended to Santa Rosa to connect with the Rock Island. This section later became the El Paso and Southwestern and now is a part of the Southern Pacific system.

The real development of Corona dates from 1902 when the railroad was completed, and a station was established.

Prior to the settling and fencing of the country, Gallo Lake always had water in it as stock kept it well tramped. Now it is quite dry most of the time, but formerly it was winter headquarters for all of the cattle thieves in the country. The informant would not divulge the names of the persons who furnished chuck and horsefeed to this gathering of renegades as he



This is Corona as it appeared in about 1909. Corona always has been a livestock center—centering around the Corona Trading Co.—originally the Charles Ilfield Co.

Mailman killed

states that some of them are still living. A cattle buyer once happened upon a corral full of calves, one cow, and one bull. He asked the man where all the cows were. The man thought a minute and then replied, "Esta papa' no necessita ana".

In 1890, the mail carrier who carried the mail from White Oaks to Red Cloud on horseback, was killed in Red Cloud Canyon by a man who resented the attentions of the mailman to his wife. About sixty days after the murder the body was found by a posse among whom was his father-in-law. His boots were removed, and the remains of the body covered with earth.

The first mail contract, by car, let in the United States was from Torrance to Roswell. The men ran the mail route in two-cylinder Buick cars. A cafe was built on the

the victim's husband shot the young man in the store, Tom DuBois was sitting on the onion barrel. He was so surprised that he just folded up in it. They had to tear the barrel to pieces to get him out of it.

Lawlessness prevailed for several years in the community, and in 1902, an unfortunate Senor Diego was shot down in cold blood. This was followed by another murder which required action, and the murderer was brought to trial in the historic old court house at Lincoln. The citizens became aroused and elected Joe Simpson Justice of the Peace, and Jim Welch Constable, to maintain law and order. Those gentlemen brought the first law to the community, and their efforts were not in vain. The growing village soon established an enviable reputation for law enforcement, although there have been several murders since that time. The most recent of these was in 1949, when Pete Nalda was killed by a Mexican National and his companion after being forced to sign several checks.

One of the most famous killings involved two doctors in an argument over a patient. At the present time the patient is still living, and both doctors are dead. After the argument Dr. Stone took a shot at Dr. Davis and hit him in the neck. Stone was brought to trial at Carrizozo and found "Not Guilty". Dr. Stone returned to Corona by train about 6 p.m., went to the meat market for steak for dinner. Dr. Davis, tipped off by Mrs. Davis, followed him in and was more accurate in his aim. Dr. Stone died that night. This was in 1921.

They say the law has its funny side, too. An example of this: one night two hombres had a fight. They were fined two dozen bottles of beer by the court, dismissed, and they went home. Nothing appeared on the docket.

Lincoln County

The settlers were of hardy stock and deserve much credit for remaining with their homes and developing a prosperous and peaceful community.

Corona has a well developed school system. It is now a consolidated rural school. At times there have been schools at Varney, Gallinas Mountain, "Punkin Center", and later at Lon. Pupils from these districts

(Continued on Page 22)



Willis R. Lovelace came to the Corona area and ranched in the early 1900s. He was the brother of Mrs. Gardenhire of near Capitan and the uncle of Mrs. Jack Shaw of Capitan. Holt Lovelace was Willis Lovelace's grandson before his untimely death in a plane crash.

Colorful Lincoln County



This is a photo of Corona about 1900. Buildings pictured are, left to right, 1.) "Bob" Step and "Zeb" Brooks (Clint Sultemeier's uncle) Saloon; 2.) Corona Trading Co. General Merchandise (Car owned by Bob Willingham); 3.) Corona Stockman's Bank owned by Brinkley (Brickley?) Alfred Ervin worked there, and has an insurance company in Santa Rosa today. 4.) Post office; 5.) Dr.'s office, hospital and living quarters; 6.) Whiskey-The Road to Ruin owned by Jim Davidson; 7.) Barber Shop and undertaker owned by Emmett Davidson; 8.) Eating House owned by Jolly; 9.) McPorter Store; 10.) Assay office owned by Benjamin Adams and coroner; 11.) Bonds Dance Hall.

Nogal thriving in 1921

Nogal was a thriving community in 1921, if a school picture taken that year is any indication.

Mrs. Bernice Snell (Edgar J.) Jones of Quarter Circle X Ranch of Truscott, Texas, writes about the photo.

She says, in part: Mrs. Bernice Nickels was teacher. She had 48 pupils and had to have 50 pupils before they could hire two teachers, had all eight grades and the primary class.

The 7th and 8th grades used to help with the lower grades in the back room.

We had 7th and 8th grade geography together and also history and 6th grade geography together and also history.

And would have each twice a week.

We had a wood stove in the center of the building and on real cold days we would gather around the stove to study. We carried drinking water from the old

Gatewood house and every student was always ready to go for water. Then we would line up to get a drink out of the same dipper. I can name most of the pupils in the picture but there are some who are not pictured.

Elmer Hust is one and Agenes Mae Snell is another that I remember.

Back row, Mary Roads holding Dorothy Nichels, Edith Littleton, Ruth Gatewood, Kirk Snell, Minor Roads, Edgar Martin, Paul Roads, Ray Hust (I think.)

Second row, left, No. 1, not sure; Ada Gatewood, Dallas Cochran, Oliver Snell, Bernice Snell, Dorothy Peacock, Amie Helms,

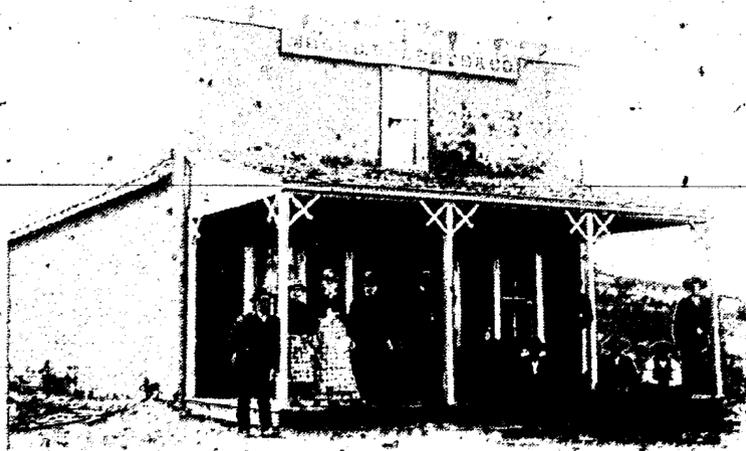
Albert Helms.

Third row, left, Katie Whitaker, Marjie Nickels, Raymond Littleton, Ernest Snell, Homer Roads, Luncinda May, Charlotte Emerson, (not sure), Dorothy Littleton, Ernest Petty.

Bottom row, Johnnie May (visitor), Charles Roads, Walter May, Billy Nickels, Carl Petty, Gatewood boy (I don't remember his name).

I am sure Mrs. Nickels would tell you a good story about the two years she taught there. But she was a wonderful teacher and really had the children's interest in mind...

Bernice Snell Jones



The first store at Nogal—in 1877—is pictured with many residents of the area on the porch. Vests and watch chains were in vogue.

Lower Penasco P. O.

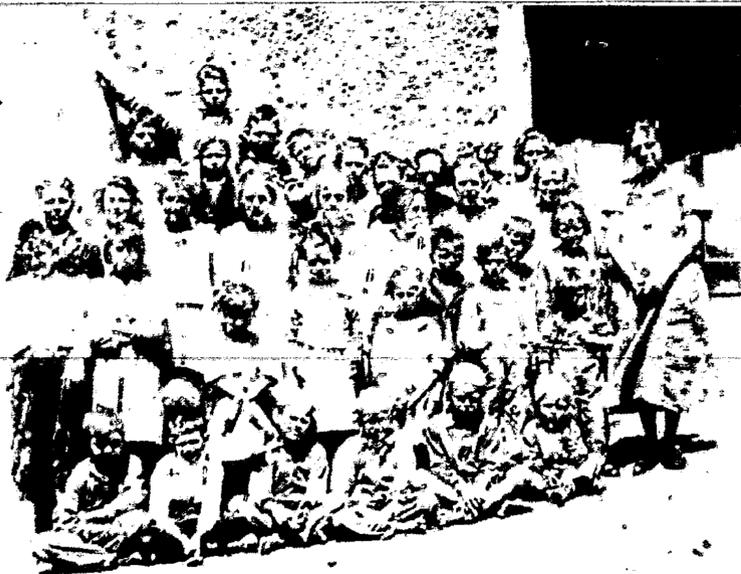
(EDITOR'S NOTE: The story of communities in Lincoln County is pretty well told in a history of Post Offices. This article appeared in the 1962 "A History of Lincoln County Post Offices," written primarily by postmasters at the time or former postmasters or persons closely associated with Post Offices.)

LOWER PENASCO
Arthur J. Mielring

A Post Office called "Lower Penasco" was established in Lincoln County on November 11, 1884. J.B. Mathews, the first Postmaster, was a Deputy Sheriff at one time for Pat Garrett. He probably was too busy to stay around to attend to Post Office matters for the records indicate

that he turned the job over to his wife, Mrs. Dora M. Mathews on Jan. 21, 1885. She held the office until April 26 of the next year when James F. Hinkle received the appointment. This was the beginning of holding public office and keeping public trust for Hinkle. He later gained prominence in New Mexico as governor of the state. He was also mayor of Roswell and president of the First National Bank of Roswell for many years.

Lincoln County records show Melta Bryan as Postmaster from March 19, 1887 to October 6, 1891 followed by Ella M. Mugg and after her Mary B. March, July 7, 1894. The exact date of the discontinuation of the Lower Penasco office is not known but it did take place after it went into Chavez County which was carved out of Lincoln County, May, 1889.



This 1921 photograph shows Bernice Nickels taught eight grades. Pupils are identified in the accompanying story.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

by Prof. E.S. Coombs
(1900 White Oaks Eagle)

"The attendance during the month ending Dec. 22nd., 1889, was 135. The much crowded conditions of the primary grades under Miss Ula Gilmore has been relieved by the employment of a third teacher, Miss Daisie Nabours, who will assist Miss Gilmore in the primary department."

"Miss Nabours is one of Lincoln County's most successful young teachers, and the Eagle is pleased to learn that her services have been procured in this school."



SILVER DOLLAR

DAILY 5 to 11

JIM BROWN, Manager

STEAKS — SEAFOOD
LAMBCHOPS
MOUNTAIN TROUT

Reservations
653-4315

30 Minutes East On U.S. 70

OWNED AND OPERATED BY TINNIE MERCANTILE CO.



COE RANCH SPANISH RESTAURANT

DAILY 5 to 11

PILAR HERNANDEZ,
Manager

GLENCOE, NEW MEXICO

Reservations
653-4425



•• Ancho flourishes ••

ANCHO

L. (Jackie) Silvers

About the turn of the century a few farsighted men came to the fertile Ancho valley of Lincoln County and seeing possibilities in the gypsum hills near by filed on mining claims. They organized a company and called it "Gypsum Products Company". The first Postmaster, Frank J. Bush, opened the Post Office in a frame house near the plaster mill on June 12, 1902. Finished products of the mill were gypsum and cinder block and these materials were used to build a company store and houses for company employees. When the store was completed the Post Office was moved into one corner.

Ancho flourished during these years. Frank Morris came from Texas with a small herd of cattle and liked the looks of the valley. He found a place for his cattle and prepared to contest the claims on which the town was located. To forestall him Bush made the coveted claim into a town site and avoided the contest. In 1905 Ancho was secured and still occupies this site. During this period the Bosques of Iowa moved in and established a brick plant. The kilns were fired with wood brought in by horses, mules and

burros by the wood haulers. The Brick Company, Plaster Mill and associated employment gave Ancho a good payroll and created business and revenue for the post office.

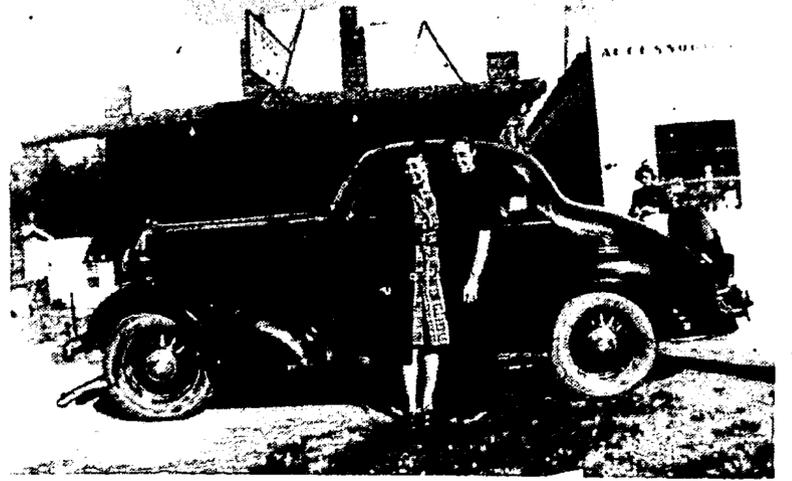
In 1905 the railroad came to Ancho. The post office was made a money order office and Eichel a nearby postoffice was closed and all the supplies sent to the Ancho office. Eichel was a section on the Southern Pacific Railroad and boasted a rock crushing plant so a good number of its workers became patrons. Most of the Postmasters serving during these years were employees of the Company, some of them Company Store Managers, some with other duties.

By the time Thomas J. Straley became Postmaster in 1917 a separate part of the Company Store was allotted to the Post Office and in that year the brick company sold to the Phelps Dodge Corporation of Arizona. Under their expansion program a sixteen kiln plant was built at the cost of \$150,000.00 and the community prospered until 1921 when the plant went into the hands of a receiver. Straley was still postmaster and moved the office to a store he bought known as the "Deal Place" at the west end of

town. Though hard times had come upon the Brick Co., homesteaders began to drift in and settle and there was a lively business of cord wood shipping. Mail was carried on a rural route to Jicarilla until the Jicarilla office was discontinued in 1920.

Upon the death of Thomas Straley, his youngest son, John C., became Postmaster. This was in 1937 and in 1938 the Straleys bought the Ancho town site and moved the Post Office to its present location. During depression years business was done by bartering gold for groceries. When World War II came John Straley joined the Marine Corps and served with the First Marine Division in the Pellilu and Okinawa campaigns. Tending his office in his absence was his sister, Mrs. L. Silvers as acting Postmaster. He returned after two years and served as Postmaster until his death in 1953.

Continuing with the family tradition, Mrs. Silvers became Postmaster in the office that had been headed continuously by Straleys since 1917. The original Post Office equipment purchased by Frank Bush in 1902 and subsequently purchased by each succeeding postmaster is still in use. The past few years has seen a decline in receipts but the office still serves ranchers and railroad workers and does a brisk business in money orders. The first flag flying at Fourth Class offices under a new ruling of the Post Office Department was flown in August 1954 at Ancho, and was flown at half mast for Cordell Hull, former Secretary of State.



School teachers at Arabella, Johnnie (Bell) Bond (1938) and Louise Coe Payton, right, teacher at Steson School Ruidoso, 1939, are pictured.

• Named by priest •

SAN PATRICIO
Louise Babers

A local legend tells how the village of San Patricio was named by a young Irish priest. The priest was traveling through the country with some hunters in the mid-1800's. The group left the plains and started through the mountains to the west. It was in the early spring when they arrived at a little settlement in a valley and were struck with the beauty of the green hills and countryside. While they stayed to rest awhile the priest said one day "Let's call this little settlement San Patricio in honor of St. Patrick for this place reminds me so much of my beloved Ireland." The name was to last and it is today the only post office in the

United States by the name of San Patricio.

Soon after this there was a feeling of the need for a place to worship and the settlers built a church which was dedicated to St. Patrick. More families came, land was homesteaded, orchards were planted and fields were plowed and sown. The years passed, a little store was opened and a school started. In 1904 the residents were awarded their own post office and Ignacio Olguin, son of one of the first settlers, became postmaster and kept the office in his home.

John C. West became the second Postmaster in 1911. He was married to a charming French girl who had come to New Mexico from France with her family.

• Roswell included •

ARTHUR J. MEIERING

In the spring of 1872 Van C. Smith let his friends and correspondents know that he had named his place on the Rio Hondo, in Lincoln County, "Roswell". He further directed all those writing to him henceforth to use "Roswell" on his mailing address. He pointed out that if mail was directed to Rio-Hondo it may be carried to various points along the stream and thus cause delay and inconvenience.

Apparently Van C. Smith had pretty good luck getting his mail to Roswell. On August 20, 1873 he was able to persuade the postmaster general serving under President U.S. Grant to establish a post office in Roswell with Smith as the first postmaster. His father was called Roswell Smith, so in honor of his father he named the post office and the village "Roswell". Although Roswell Smith had a post office and town named after him there is no record that he ever set foot in the place.

George R. Smith followed Van C. Smith as postmaster of Roswell on February 11, 1874 (it is assumed that George Smith was related to Van Smith.) F. G. Christy was appointed postmaster on February 16, 1877; he was in office just a little over a month as Daniel Carroll received the appointment on April 25, 1877. The year 1877 must have been a hard one for postmasters of Roswell as the records indicate that Postmaster Daniel Carroll was only in office until June 8, 1877, when Van C. Smith took over again; Smith's second term was for a short duration as Marshall A. Upson, called Ash Upson, took over on August 6, 1877. So Roswell had four postmasters in 1877 the year that saw much violence take place in Lincoln County, some of it attributable to Billy the Kid. Marshall A. Upson was un-

doubtedly a postmaster who knew how to cut red tape and one who was not likely to look to the Post Office Department in Washington, D.C. for advice or a helping hand in making decisions affecting his office.

He was probably the first postmaster who established 'curb' service delivery in the United States. In 1878 he had a request from a lawyer in Lincoln, New Mexico, by the name of A.A. McSween, to have McSween's mail placed in a special sack at the Roswell post office so it would not have to pass through the Lincoln post office. He stated that the request was made to expedite his mail, however, it was generally known in Lincoln that McSween did not want the postmaster at Lincoln to know too much about his business. Postmaster Ash Upson honored the request and made up the special mail sack for him and charged him \$1.50 a week for the service.

Before coming to New Mexico Ash Upson was a reporter on the New York Tribune. He dabbled around in the newspaper business in New Mexico and did the ghost writing for Sheriff Pat Garrett's book, "The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid". Ash Upson turned the Roswell postmaster job over to Joseph C. Lea on February 24, 1879, and sometime after that went into the real estate business with Pat Garrett under the firm name of Upson and Garrett.

Joseph C. Lea was postmaster of Roswell until April 23, 1884, serving five years, the longest term of any postmaster since the establishment of the office. William H. Cosgrove followed Lea and served until June 1893. While Cosgrove was postmaster the present Chaves County was carved out of Lincoln County on May 28, 1889. Thus Roswell, the second largest city in New Mexico today, was conceived and born in Lincoln County



WHEN Spencer C. Smith
came to Roswell in

1900, he quickly established himself as the
windmill and water well expert of the area. The
Smith family has been the leading pump and
machinery distributors in this area ever since.



+ Spencer C. Smith 1869-1927
+ Clifford G. Smith 1902-1965
+ Jerry N. Smith 1930 -
+ Clifford G. Smith 2nd 1952 -



**MACHINERY
CO. INC.**

JERRY N. SMITH,

P. O. BOX 1914
• PH. 622-1812
512 EAST SECOND ST.

PRESIDENT

ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO



Pictured is a spectacular train wreck in the early railroad history of Carrizozo—occurring right in town. Spectators quickly gathered.

• Good schools •

(Continued from Page 21)

are brought by bus to Corona, some travelling as far as one hundred four miles a day.

Corona has a large and well-organized school plant compared to the little one room school located just in front of the present grade school. The first school held in Corona was when Joe Simpson hired Miss Lee Elkins to come and live at the Simpson home as teacher and governess. Private instruction was the first and most practical form of education along the frontier, and was taken up by other families.

In 1903, citizens realized the need for a real school, so Col. DuBois donated the west half of the block, and funds were contributed by citizens for a little one room school with Miss Lena Grumbles, now living in Carrizozo, as teacher. She resigned, and Miss Lottie Bacher finished the year. She was followed by Miss Donnie Franks who had come from Texas to join her cousin, Lee Elkins. Miss Franks is retired and makes her home in Corona where she is the friend of three generations of her students. In 1906, a larger school was built, and in 1910 an eight room stone school building was constructed. This was followed about 1921 by the erection of our auditorium (gymnasium). This building blew down when they were putting the beams in it, and the rubble was then cleared away and the walls rebuilt. It burned in the spring of 1924 and would have burned again in 1955 if it had not been for the efforts of the volunteer fire department. In 1931, the present high school was built. In 1950, the new gymnasium was built and has been ranked as the third best in the state.

The Gallinas District, of the Cibola National Forest is adjacent to the town and extends to the west and north. The surrounding country is made up of farms and excellent grazing lands. The recent drought has hit everyone though, as can be attested to the once prosperous farms which are now abandoned homes and fields that dot the countryside.

The Gallinas Lookout on top of Gallinas Mountain to the southwest of Corona is visible on a clear day and stands as a guardian of the washed slopes

extending down to the village. Many cattle and sheep are raised in this highland, and the records of the railroad show that ninety to one hundred fifty car loads of cattle, ninety to one hundred thirty car loads of lambs and wool, were shipped annually from Corona. More recently, however, trucks have taken over much of this and it is impossible to get an accurate estimate.

Water has always been a problem in Corona; the early settlers brought water from Pinos Wells or White Oaks. In 1909, the railroad built a pipeline; with a contract for domestic purposes only, the water users managed to have a few lawns and gardens until there was a shortage of rain, and then the railroad would send reminders that the water was to be used only according to the original contract. The railroad formerly shipped water in large tank cars from the Tularosa Basin. The water became nicely warmed on the slow climb to Corona, and some of the Corona men discovered that they made wonderful bath tubs; until one portly gentleman got stuck in the entrance to the tank; the train started moving, and he nearly drowned.

Colorful Lincoln County

Corona was incorporated as a Village, August 31, 1947. The first mayor was G.C. Brown; I.H. Burgess, Walter Pfeiffer, Tobias Baros, Arthur Melton, and Mrs. Callie C. Franks as Clerk made up the first Village Council. Santaigo Torrez replaced Tobias Baros at the next election, and Mrs. Eula Mays replaced Mrs. Franks as Clerk.

One of the first Sunday Schools was held in the auditorium which was used for all community activities; later the people donated cash and labor, and the Community Church was built with four cornerstones representing the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Christian churches. The "Preacher Jones" of Gallinas added his Bible for the fifth cornerstone representing the Assembly of God organization. This church was served by itinerant ministers and later became the Baptist Church. Later the Catholic and Assembly of God

Fort Stanton boasts Lincoln County's oldest Post Office.

And the story of the Post Office at Fort Stanton tells the story of the old fort pretty well. The following is from a "History of Lincoln Post Offices", published in 1962, Golden Anniversary year in New Mexico.

This article is by M.J. and Zoe Price with the conclusion by Frances Shaw of Capitan who was acting postmaster in 1962 and who continues to call Capitan home.

She and her husband Jack live in the beautiful old Titsworth home at Capitan which they purchased some years ago.

FORT STANTON

A colorful past-not always serene-reflects the history of the reservation and the Post Office. It begins in that period when marauding bands of Apaches terrorized the southern half of the territory lying immediately north of the Mexican border and extending from their strongholds in the Sacramento Mountains on the east and the Galiura range on the west. The Jornada del Muerto extending north on the eastern mesa of the Rio Grande from El Paso del Norte as the main route for trade and travel between Mexico and Santa Fe from the ~~border~~ churches were built, and most recently the Presbyterian Church was built.

The saloons were among the first buildings in Corona. One of the first was owned by J.T. Davidson in 1912 with a high board facade on which appeared the letters spelling "Whiskey the Road to Ruin". This sign became famous and appeared in Popular Mechanics Magazine and in various prohibition publications.

The Stockman's State Bank was a thriving institution in the building now occupied by DuBois Drug Store. However, it moved in 1924 to Estancia when all the Torrance County banks had failed. Later it was moved to Mountainair to take care of the big business of pinto beans, and finally it became a part of the Citizens' State Bank of Vaughn.

Corona has progressed from ox teams and letters in saddle bags to motor cars and private planes and a rash of TV antennae, so we are quite as modern as most, but it is still fun to talk to our oldtimers and listen to their stories. Our one time town marshal used to tell of his mother cutting Billy the Kid's hair as he sat with a rifle across his knees.

Another favorite anecdote concerns a Mrs. Trapp who lived over the hill east of town. One day she sent her nine year old son a mile down to a neighbor's home to borrow a cup of sugar. When he did not return in what she thought a reasonable length of time, she took down the shotgun and started out to look for him. About a half mile down the trail she came upon her son cowering behind a bush while a panther was watching him and getting ready to spring. She raised the gun to her shoulder, took careful aim, and killed the panther. Later when asked what she would have done had she missed, she replied in all earnestness, "Heavens, I couldn't afford to miss!! Shells cost nine cents a piece."

••• Oldest post office •••

days of Coronado and Onate. It was still the "Journey of Death" when Fort Stanton was established. The road crossed this Apache hunting ground about the place where Las Cruces was subsequently built on the spot marked by the crosses of the massacred.

Ralph Emerson Twichell in the second volume of his "Leading Facts of New Mexico History" tells of trouble with the Mescaleros in 1854.

Fort Stanton was built in the high valley on the bank of the Bonito, a few miles north of the junction in the scenic triangle bounded on north by the Capitan Mountains, on the west by the more lofty Sierra Blancas and closed in by rolling foothills and mesas between the two. Mountain streams furnished an abundance of water and fish. Deer, antelope and bear were plentiful. For the century of its history, Fort Stanton has been singularly blessed in this arid land.

Less than two years after the Fort was established the first Postmaster, Davis S. Garland was appointed May 5, 1857. The office was discontinued the following Aug. and re-established within a month, September 15, 1857, with George S. Beall as postmaster. In 1861, the United States forces burned and abandoned the Post on the approach of Texas troops under General Sibley. After the defeat and withdrawal of the Confederate forces in 1863 the Post was re-occupied by a garrison of volunteers under Kit Carson.

The post office was again established in April of 1868 with Lawrence G. Murphy as postmaster. During these eleven first years of the post office it is listed as being in Dona Ana County. The following year, 1869, saw the original Lincoln County established. In the remaining

thirty years during the life of Fort Stanton as an army post eleven postmasters are listed in the Post Office Department records.

When the Post was re-established after the Civil War it was the center of much gaiety. A stage arrived daily from the thriving mining town of White Oaks, bringing the mail from the north and carrying passengers. Another stage brought mail twice weekly from Mesilla, then Capitol of Arizona and New Mexico territories, over the route opened by Colonel Miles. From Fort Stanton another driver and horses took the mail and passengers east fifteen miles toward Roswell and west toward Mesilla.

In the thirty year period in which the army was stationed at Fort Stanton, after the Civil War it served as host to settlers traveling from the end of the railroad at LaJunta, Colo., by stage and wagon train to southern New Mexico and Arizona. The post office served most of the present Lincoln County. Mr. Fred W. Smith, a native of Waterbury, Connecticut who had worked on the V.V. Ranch of James Cree in 1901, tells of their riding horseback from the present townsite of Ruidoso and the ranch headquarters of Little Creek to Fort Stanton to pick up the mail that had come from Mesilla via Tularosa. With the exception of the short intervals during the Civil War the Fort Stanton Post Office has given continuous service to the present day.

The coming of better means of transportation and roads, ended Fort Stanton's usefulness as a military establishment. In the year 1898 it began serving the humanitarian function as a U.S. Marine Hospital for tubercular patients later becoming a U.S. Public Health Hospital.



This was the old nurses home at Fort Stanton which long since has been torn down.

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