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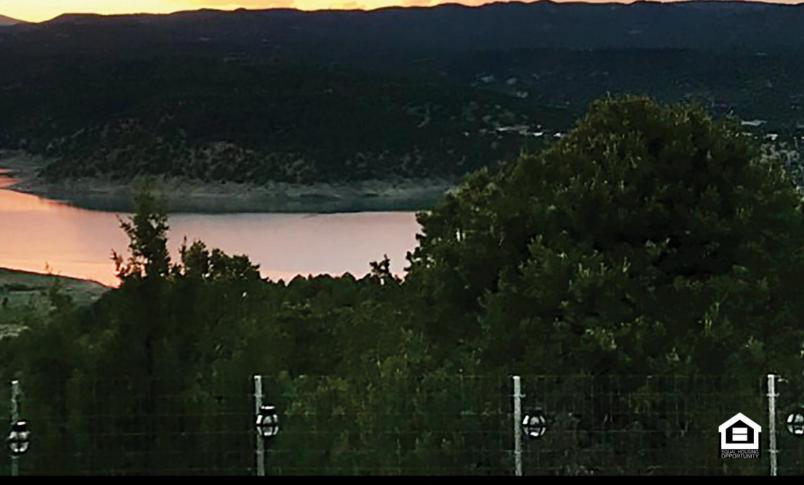
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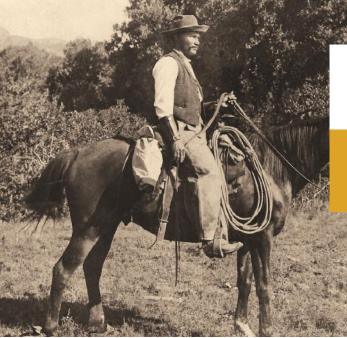
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AS LEGEND GOES ...

by Matt Doherty

George McJunkin (1851 – 1922) Afro-American Cowboy, Buffalo Hunter, Bronc Rider, & Amateur Archaeologist Discovers Folsom Site in 1908 The Folsom Point Embedded in Bison Bones sited at Wild Horse Arroyo, near Folsom, NM By Matt Doherty

Early Years in Texas

As legend goes, George's father purchased his freedom after the Civil War working as a blacksmith and raising mules for the freighters that hauled buffalo hide east from the Indian country. George eagerly learned horseback riding and roping from the "vaqueros" (Spanish for cowboys) who stayed behind. After



Illustration of George McJunkin, by Matt Doherty

the war ended, an abundance of cattle were left roaming Texas. The cattle multiplied to nearly 5 million head in the absence of men, who were away fighting. Cowboys would gather the cattle and drive them north to the railheads to be shipped to big cities in the east where they were slaughtered for meat.

At night George snuck off to the river listening to cowboy stories around the campfire circle. These trail drives followed the Chisom Trail, driving the longhorns north to Abilene, Kansas. George dreamed of the freedom of being a cowboy and noted, "that the black cowboys were treated like people – like equals. Men who had been slaves were riding away from slave country." (Black Cowboy by Franklin Folsom) In early spring of 1867, George gathered up two ropes, an extra pair of wool pants and stuffed a couple of pieces of cornbread into a gunnysack while he headed barefooted down the dirt road. Stopping at the first house after sunup, George requests "tell (my family) I'm going to be a cowboy and look for schooling."

Heading to Far Off Places

Not long after George returned home from his first cattle drive to Abilene, Kansas, Gideon Roberts sees George make an outstanding bronc ride on a big gray mare and offers him a wrangler job. Roberts is driving 700 horses across the Comanche controlled staked plains of west Texas to New Mexico to sell on the Santa Fe Trail. George takes him up on his offer and off they go. The men spend the winter in Palo Duro Canyon in West Texas where they build a cabin and spend the days rounding up more horses for the herd.

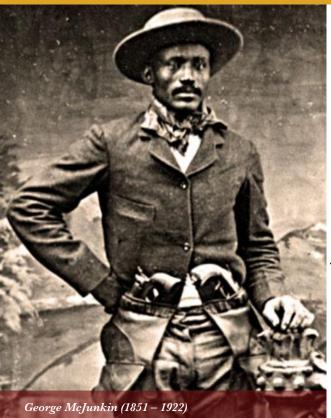
As legend goes, one day George, all alone in the canyon, hears the sound of thundering hooves. A group of Comanche Indians were stealing all of the horses. In the frenzy George's horse saddle broke loose and joined the stampeding mustangs. The Indians rode up to George, realizing he was unarmed, one laughed at him and said, "Black Mexican can walk now." They held their rifles over their heads, spun the ponies around and rode off after the newly acquired herd. Discouraged but thankful to be alive, the men started the long task of reassembling the herd.

The Heart of Hi Lo Country*

Once the herd reached the original numbers before the Indian raid, they headed out for New Mexico. Upon arriving in the Hi Low Country* of northeastern New Mexico, George instantly fell in love with the Dry Cimarron Valley or the Seco Cimarron River, as the Spanish sheepherders called it. George climbed up the slopes of Capulin Mountain, an extinct volcano that jetted out of the landscape like an enormous anthill to take in spectacular view of the valley. The green meadows full of wild Iris that nestled the junipertree blanketed mesa reminded him of the 'Promised Land' in the Bible. At this time, the only inhabitants of this part of New Mexico were Spanish sheepherders, and two of the areas first cattlemen, Carlitos Cornay and Candido Archuleta. Both men had come to the area with the Dutch outfit and soon became two of George's closest friends. George spent his days exploring the river and following the horses has they grazed on the open range.

the Very few pioneers traveled along The Cimarron cut off of the Santa Fe Trail as most stayed on the main route. Following Charles Goodnight and the thousands of longhorns, Roberts had George drive the horses over Trinchera Pass into Colorado all where they set up the first horse ranch a ge's few miles east of Trinidad. The ranch the was located on the Purgatory River near the Mountain branch of the Santa Fe EXPLORE MORE STORIES AT NEWLEGENDS.CO Trail. From this better location Roberts sold his horses as fast as George could break them and it wasn't long before a Roberts' horses trained by George were a highly sought after commodity. with the round up at the "101 Ranch" near no man's land where Oklahoma joined New Mexico territory down on the Dry Cimarron River. After the round up was over, Ben Smith, foreman of the 101 Ranch asked George if he would like

A shoot out commenced that left Sheriff Ed Farr dead...



(*Hi Lo Country – ranchlands celebrated in Max Evans's 1961 classic movie The Hi Lo Country, this area laces through both routes of the Santa Fe Trail where they entered New Mexico. Evans's fictional town of Hi Lo was based on Des Moines with a dash of Springer, New Mexico.)

Cattle Ranches and Brands: The "101"

On one of his supply runs, George bought a fiddle as he often played fiddle and guitar at the old Trinchera Plaza. Serenading his friends when he wasn't taking reading and writing lessons from Gideon Roberts sons Emmett and Coke, was his favorite pastime. As George's reputation grew he was requested to help a job working for Dr. Thomas Owen, formerly the first mayor of Trinidad and partner of the 101 Ranch. The doctor was starting a new place at Hereford Park. George didn't hesitate knowing the doctor raised some of the best horses in that part of the west. This ranch, located at the headwaters of the Dry Cimarron, in George's beloved promised land.

George soon found himself with the Doctor and his brother, John, burying three sacks of gold from the sale of the cattle George had trailed up from Texas to Hereford Park. The three men were worried that the Coe Gang, who operated out of no man's land, had heard of the sale and would surely be looking for the gold. George guarded the gold until the following spring when they returned to purchase more cattle. George's responsibilities

grew as Dr. Owen spent more time away from Hereford Park. He oversaw the crew of men that built the big house and barn and would teach the Doctor's sons, Tom and Ben, the art of bronc-riding. He rewarded them with a new pair of spurs just as he did for the Roberts boys and the many others that he taught to ride over the years. On night, Dr. Owen told George that this would be the last round up before they fenced in the open range and that George was to be his wagon boss.

Reluctantly, George assumed the job of managing 20 cowboys, 2000 head of cattle and 200 head of horses. Dr. Owen reassured him he was the best cowboy in New Mexico and there wasn't another man better suited for the job. It didn't take long to earn the respect of the other Texas cowboys, who initially resented working for a black man. In the fall of 1889, George and 14 cowboys from the Cross L, Pitchfork and the "101" were caught in a 10 day blizzard on the roundup outside of Clayton. The storm was so severe it wiped out most of the 1200 head of steers and the Pitchforks entire 200 head remuda. If it weren't for George taking control on the third day and leading them to the Bramlett Ranch, the cows would've met the same fate.

Foreman of the Crowfoot Ranch -1989

Two years after the blizzard, Dr. Owen asked George to hitch up the buggy and take him into Folsom to meet the train. This would be their last ride together. George helped him on the train and the doctor said "Thank you, thank you! I know you'll take good care of things." With that the train pulled out and his friend and teacher was dead before he arrived in Trinidad. George then assumed the challenge to be the father figure for Tom and Ben who were too young to run the ranch alone. George caught the eye of neighbor, Bill Jack's, owner of the Crowfoot Ranch a mile upriver and soon found himself managing the 8000-acre spread.

End of the Outlaws

One evening, as legend goes, George was riding back to the Crowfoot from Folsom, when he came upon a camp of strange men. After visiting with them, George grew suspicious. The next day he learned his suspicions were right. A train had been robbed between Folsom and Des Moines, the Ketchum Gang members of the Wild Bunch had made off with a large sum of gold and silver. McJunkin took Sheriff George Titsworth to the spot where he had seen the men camping where they found a note shredded into pieces. They took the pieces back to Folsom in reassembled the letter. Titsworth concluded that they were headed for Cimarron, NM. Loading the posse on the train and cut the outlaws off in Turkey Canyon near Cimarron. A shoot out commenced that left Sheriff Ed Farr dead. Two of the outlaws, Sam Ketchum and Elza Lay, were both shot.



Ketchum died in the New Mexico State penitentiary of his wounds and Elza Lay apprehended a short time later. This is marked the beginning of the end for the Wild Bunch and Ketchum gang whose members often rode together.

Amateur Archaeologist

George McJunkin's greatest achievement arises out of the worst natural catastrophe the Dry Cimarron Valley had ever seen. On August 27, 1908 a thunderstorm dropped fourteen inches of rain on Johnson Mesa just above the Crowfoot. The flood decimated the town of Folsom and eroded the valley. After the flood, George surveyed the damage. While riding up Wild Horse Arroyo he noticed some unusually large bones protruding from the bank nearly eleven feet below the surface. He got off his horse and dug out a bone, rolled it up in his slicker and took it with him. He would return to his "bone pit" as often as he could. It was on one of these visits that he found a skull of the mysterious animal. It was a buffalo but much larger than the

ones he had seen on the Texas Prairie. He realizes that it must be a type of buffalo that no longer existed. Knowing he had stumbled across s o m e

it to was Carl Schwahiem, a blacksmith in Raton. George passed away in the Folsom Hotel in January 1922 never knowing the significance of his find. It was Schwacheim that was able to convince the Denver Museum of Natural History to send people down to the bone pit. The museum decided to excavate the prehistoric bones of the Bison Antiques, a species they already knew roamed North America during the last Ice Age. It was what they found during the excavation that turned the archaeological world upside down. During the dig they noticed pieces of stone that appeared to be created by humans. They now begin to handle the site more delicately looking for more evidence that man played a role in the bones having come to rest in such great numbers. They soon discovered what they were looking for. Between the ribs of one of the skeletons they found a projectile point. This directly linked the death of the nearly 8000-Year-old animal to the hand of man. The projectile point would famously be known as the Folsom point and indisputably proved man inhabited North American thousands of years before scholars previously thought. George's discovery turned out to be the greatest archaeological find of the 21stcentury, changing the way archaeologists viewed the history of mankind.

"It's a discovery that made him famous, but his courage, determination and perseverance is what is remembered about the man - a true cowboy!" So nearly 100 years after his death, George McJunkin took his rightful place at the Cowboy Hall of Fame

thing great he took it home and placed it on his mantle above the fireplace along with the other rocks and fossils he had collected over his many years riding the valley. For the next 14 years he unsuccessfully tried to get numerous people to the site.

Fortunately, one of the men he showed

with his fellow legends of the American West. The 2019 Western Heritage Awards induction ceremony at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City took place on April 12-13, 2019 and honored Union County's own - George McJunkin in the Hall of Great Westerners.

2019 WESTERN HERITAGE AWARDS INDUCTEES

Hall of Great Western Performers -Kevin Costner Hall of Great Western Performers -Howard Keel (1919 - 2004) Hall of Great Westerners - Clark McEntire (1927 - 2014) Hall of Great Westerners - George McJunkin (1851 – 1922) Chester A. Reynolds Memorial Award -Dave Stamey Lifetime Achievement Award - Michael Martin Murphey

About the Author: Matt Doherty is the son of the late John Doherty and Shirley Doherty Jeffers. Matt is restoring the Folsom Hotel and runs the family ranch with his brothers. He serves on the Folsom Museum Board of Directors.



For more information contact: folsommuseum.org or The Folsom Museum 101 Main Street Folsom, NM 88419 MUSEUM. Phone: (575) 278-2122

Attending the April event at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony were Abbie Reaves, Matt and Ginger Doherty, their children Hudson, and Regan, Eddie and Shirley Jeffers, Nate and Amanda green and their children Caulder, Cash and Chance, Jeff and Mary Cornay, and Maria and Mike Grange.

A Statue of George McJunkin at the Cowboy Hall of Fame

CHIEF OURAY & CHIPETA

by Karen McCarville

On the night of November 13 1833, Ouray entered the world in the small Pueblo Community of Taos, New Mexico As an omen to a life of fame and leadership, the Leonid meteor flashed across the sky. Raised by a wealthy Spanish couple and educated by Catholic friars, he learned Spanish, English, Apache, Ute and Indian Sign language.

When he was 18, he moved north to Colorado to live with his Tabequache Ute tribe and parents. After his Apache father died, he became leader of his tribe. He married and had a son. When his young wife died, an adopted Kiowa, Chipeta, became the son's caretaker and they later married.

For many years, Ouray, Chipeta and his son lived a normal Plains Indian life. As white people came west and encroached upon their land, the Utes nominated Ouray to be a negotiator for their rights. government officials and tribal leaders. Even by today's standards of female liberation, Chipeta's companionship appearance at such events, was rare! Though Ouray met with open hostility

Ouray believed war with the white people would lead only to the eventual extermination of the Ute people

The white government named him as chief of the Utes.

Ouray believed war with the white people would lead only to the eventual extermination of the Ute people. His negotiation skills helped prevent the kind of massacres and deprivations that other more warlike tribes suffered. At one point, he negotiated all lands east of the Rocky Mountains, approximately 1 million acres, to be Ute lands. With the discovery of gold, miners and the government bought out Ute lands and evicted them.

Chipita traveled with her husband to negotiations, signings of treaties, meetings with from many of the tribe's people, living through many attempts on his life, Chipita remained loved by both the Natives and the whites.

The Tabequache Utes were moved to the White River Area of Northern Colorado. When Nathan Meeker became the despotic leader of the Indian Agency, vengeful Utes murdered him and several white men at the agency and captured several white women as hostages. Subsequently engaged by the government, Ouray and Chipeta negotiated for the safe release of the hostages. The entire tribe of Utes was punished for the massacre and moved to Uintah in Utah. President Rutherford B. Harding stated: "Chief Ouray was the most intellectual man I have ever conversed with."

Chief Ouray died August 24, 1880 of Bright's disease and was secretly buried in Ignacio, Colorado.

Chipeta lived in obscurity for many years until 1923 when President Taft requested she accompany him on his train to the opening of the Gunnison River Gateway near Montrose. After her death, the people of Montrose had her re-buried at the site of the Ute Indian Museum on Chipeta Road.

The Mountain, Southern and Northern Ute tribes have united to create a state-of-the-art museum in Montrose to reflect Ute cultural historical authenticity and to display current Native art and sculptor. A peace pole, in honor of Ouray and Chipita, graces the riverside park near the museum.

The Two McJunkins of New Mexico

by Jan MacKell Collins

It's been some years since my mother and I ran across George McJunkin, and when we did our eyebrows raised. The McJunkin family in America dates clear back to the late 1700's, when my 6th great-grandfather, William McJunkins, came to the United States. Notable is that the McJunkin Coat of Arms carries a Latin saying: "Perge sed caute," or "Go but carefully." The family indeed seems to have calculated every move they made. They lived in Pennsylvania and North and South Carolina before migrating west. At the latter place today a family plantation home, Seven Springs, was built by William and his brother and remains wonderfully preserved at Santuc in Union County.

During the 1890's, when my family made it to Colorado and New Mexico, documentation shows that anyone named McJunkin in the United States at that time was related to us. So what, my mom and I wondered, did our mostly Presbyterian family of Irish and Scottish roots have to do with a Black man who lived in New Mexico at the same time we did? The answer lay in the ancestry of William's brother, Samuel. His branch of descendants eventually made their way to Texas, where George McJunkin was born a slave to

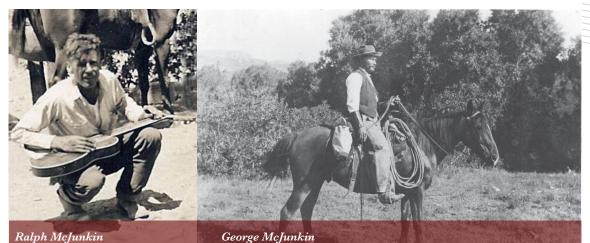
the family of John McJunkin circa 1851. Following the Civil War, George was freed and wound up at Folsom. My family came along some decades later and settled in Farmington.

We McJunkins are a complex bunch, and the men on my side of the tree bear some similarities to George. My great-grandfather, Robert Henry McJunkin, was orphaned at the age of nine and, much like George, was a "bound boy"—a person placed into servitude



off and on as ranch hands. They were both known for their adeptness at riding, roping, busting broncs and breaking horses. Each one also taught himself to play guitar.

There is more: George and Ralph's ranch work often took them to the same places, namely Trinidad, Colorado but also areas of the "Hi-Low" country of New Mexico. It appears that each of them much preferred the desolate, wide open spaces to city living. For them, riding around the high prairies tending cattle and horses beat sitting in a stiff wooden chair any old day. That begs the question of whether the two



for others. In Farmington, Robert and his wife raised an amazing twelve children, one of which was my grandfather, Ralph Bevington McJunkin. Ralph was as enigmatic as they come, but his common traits with George McJunkin are downright eerie. George was taught to read by some friendly cowboys; Ralph only attended school until 6th grade. George was fluent in Spanish; my grandpa was fluent in Navajo. Both worked men ever encountered one another or even knew about each other. It is hard to say, especially since there were some forty years between the times they were born. Still, I like to think of them randomly running into each other, perhaps at some rodeo or cowboy gathering, tipping their hats as they looked each other up and down and wondering how in the world they came by the same surname. It would seem, from what I know about them, that neither would stop and ask questions. I

Photo of the Folsom, New Mexico Contryside

wish they had, for they would have found a kinship and a common bond: both of them were greatly misunderstood in different ways.

For George McJunkin, his discovery of the famed "Folsom Fossils" in 1908 went largely unnoticed. Articles and documents verify that he tried his best to bring the find of the century, bison bones and a man-made spear point dating to 9,000 BCE, to someone's attention. He spent the rest of his life showing his invaluable specimens to anyone who would listen, including fossil collectors Carl Schwachheim and Fred Howarth. He wrote to an archaeologist in Las Vegas, New Mexico, and in 1918 even sent samples to the Denver Museum of Natural History. In the latter instance, paleontologist Harold Cook was sent to the Folsom site, but in the end, nothing came of George's find. George died in 1922, his exciting discovery virtually forgotten until 1926 when the Colorado Museum of Natural History revisited the site and talked with Schwachheim and Howarth. It was they, not George McJunkin, who were initially given credit for finding the Folsom Fossils. Not until 1972 did Paleo-Indian archeologist George Agogino do some additional research and rightfully pointed out McJunkin as the man who discovered the Folsom Fossils. And that's when George McJunkin came into my young life.

As my mother and I began researching grandfather Ralph in earnest during the 1990's, we continued running into George, and wondering about him. We also discovered the truth about Ralph. While in New Mexico, Ralph helped his brothers run various trading posts, became a familiar figure on the rodeo circuit, and was a friend of Richard Wetherill when the famed rancher who loved conducting his own archaeological research was murdered in 1910. Two years after George McJunkin died, Ralph was working as a deputy sheriff in Farmington when he was involved in a bar fight and a man was killed. Afraid he was responsible, Ralph fled New Mexico and stayed on the lam for several years before being apprehended in Oregon. He pleabargained his way into a year in prison, married my grandmother, and was

ultimately murdered himself in 1947 at Blanco Trading Post south of Aztec.

My mother remembered Ralph as kind and soft-hearted. Others pointed out his wild hair and haphazard way of dress to make him appear odd. I find it amusing that I inherited both of those traits. Both my mother and I admired Ralph for the way he defied social norms and lived life on his own terms, among people and animals who understood him. We felt the same way about George McJunkin, the Black cowboy who defied the odds against himself and made one of the greatest discoveries in America. They say, of course, that the never-married George has no descendants. But I prefer to think he does have them in the way of the McJunkin family, which remains strong in America even today. And, I am proud to have him in my family roots.



Meeting Spirits of the Old Ones? A TRUE TALE OF LIVING IN THE WEST

by Susan Adair Harris

"They know you're there," my friend told me solemnly over the phone. She was Brulė Sioux, part of a family of holy men given to visions and inexplicable sensitivities. "What you have on your land is Comanches. Be careful. They can be fierce. They weren't friendly with the Sioux."

I had just related to her a feeling I experienced as I walked around our little ranch—a sensation of being watched by ghostly eyes. Once I even thought I glimpsed a few indigenous men in our lower pasture. I was convinced what I felt was imagined, but my friend insisted the presences were real. The artifacts left from ancient days were definitely authentic.

Everyone who lives what is called "Up the River" in the foothills above Trinidad has found arrowheads of various sizes (for different prey), mano stones for grinding piñon nuts into meal, and metates (the

stone bases on which the nuts were ground. Some locals sell artifacts they find. Some take pride in gathering large collections.

Anyone who has spent much time here knows the Native American families once camped in the foothills not far

from Wahatoya ("the breasts of the Earth" as named by the Utes). The twin mountains, now labeled the Spanish Peaks, are still used as landmarks in southwestern Huerfano County. They play a prominent role in the creation story of the Utes as the source of rain clouds, moisture that ensures sustenance



stretch of highway between Trinidad and Pueblo throughout the seasons is a persuasive experience.

for all living beings.

Present-day locals

don't argue with

the idea that the

mountains seem

to capture storm

clouds. Driving the

Evidence of Native American occupation is everywhere in this region, including on our property. Families used to leave their heavy stone tools in spots they could find again when harvest time returned. As someone whose family spent many weeks camping, I like to imagine the wives chatting as they worked, their children playing happily nearby. The elevation of the ridges allowed lookouts to watch for intruders, while the arroyos provided essential water.

"If you want to see them, you can summon them—the spirits of the Comanches," my friend continued. "I wouldn't, because our peoples were often enemies, but I think you'd be safe."



"You think we'd be safe?" I wasn't reassured.

"They probably like you, because you respect them. You haven't done anything to spoil the land. You love your horses. They'd understand that. Fall is the perfect time of year for you to see their spirits—under the Hunters' moon."

"Why did they call it that?" I asked, thinking I could guess the answer.

"The moon is so big and close, it's bright enough to make night hunting possible."

I nodded, forgetting she couldn't see me. "I guess I'd like to see them—the Comanches, I mean. Would it offend them if we called them?"

"They won't come if they don't want to."

"Okay. What do we do?"

"Wait until the moon is high, then build a small fire. Burn native sage letting it smoke. Then just ask them to appear. Let me know how it goes."

When I told my husband what we were going to do, he rolled his eyes. But I knew he loved sitting on his horse, feeling the power of the place radiating up through the animal's muscular body. He felt a certain kinship with those who had gone before. He didn't refuse to participate.

We did as my friend had instructed, feeling silly. We asked the old ones to join us. And we waited. Nothing happened.

"Maybe they don't like us, after all," suggested my husband.

I made a face. "Why should they?"

He shrugged. "Maybe they want a little space."

We stood up, glad to stretch in the increasing chill of night, and took a

few steps toward the house.

"Look," I instructed. "The smoke from the fire is blowing sideways."

My husband turned to see. "There isn't any wind. How can it be blowing?"

The smoke was, indeed, snaking sideways—down a footpath that ran across the hillside between tall pines and underbrush.

"What do you suppose would make it do that?" I asked and my husband shook his head.

"Nothing I know of."

"Thanks for coming," I told the darkness. "You're welcome here with us. We'll do our best to be good stewards of the land."

My husband nodded. "Yes, thanks for coming." And then to me, he said, "I think it's time we doused the fire." I agreed, wondering if something would follow us into the house. Nothing did.

Neither of us can explain why the smoke from our fire behaved so oddly. I doubt it was proof of anything, or maybe it was. Either way, we honor those who lived here before us. Like them, our hearts would break if we were to lose this land.







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Crappies, wipers, trout, saugeyes, bass and walleyes. That's what many people think about when planning their trip to Trinidad Lake State Park. Or perhaps it's a day out on a kayak, SUP (stand-up paddleboard) or a speedboat for water skiing in the warmer months. During winter, the truly fish-crazed will drill holes in the ice to reach their quarry. In most cases, the big draw is usually the water. But there is more to this State Park.

On the north shore of Trinidad Lake is the Reilly Canyon Trail, a four-anda-half-mile route that parallels the lake and leads through a mix of pinyon pines, junipers and even a few ponderosa pines. This is the quieter, wilder part of the park that very few visitors see. For Jean and Risa, hiking buddies out to do a one-way traverse by means of a car shuttle, the trail is a warm-up for future longer hikes. Their day packs are full of extra clothes, water, a thermos and tiny espresso-sized cups because one of their trail traditions is to look for a vista where they can sit and visit and share their trail coffee. When asked what their motivation is for hiking, they both cited the health benefits to staying active, but the camaraderie out in nature with hot coffee is clearly equally important. Neither of them would likely hike as much if they were to go solo, but having a buddy system in place encourages frequent hikes. Their hikes together inspire deeper conversations, the kind our busy, daily lives allow for all too infrequently. Nature is good for that.

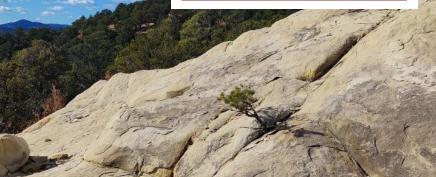
The Reilly Canyon Trail is an excellent choice for a winter hike because the vast majority of it has southern exposure, meaning snow is less likely to remain after a storm. There are also views out to the lake where there are often over-wintering Bald Eagles standing at the edge of the ice or on shore. Be sure to notice the many examples of petrified wood to be found in the outcroppings and loose talus along the way. Most visitors hike this trail, but it is open to mountain bikes, too. The ride ranges from easy in places to quite rocky and steep in other areas, so maybe not as family-friendly as a hike would be.

If getting in better shape found its way into your New Year's resolutions, then why not find a buddy who's done the same and start exploring the network of trails in our region? It's no secret that if you stay active, you lead a much healthier life than those sitting at home.

PRACTICALITIES

The Reilly Canyon Trail is **4.5 miles one-way and 9 miles roundtrip.** There are parking areas at either end, with the eastern trailhead beginning in the Carpios Ridge campground and the western end beginning just past the pay station at the Reilly Canyon park entrance. Stop in at the Trinidad Lake State Park Visitor's Center to get oriented before starting out.





HISTORY SURROUNDS THE TO RANCH PART 3

Article by: Bob Silva

The TO Ranch located east of Raton, New Mexico in Colfax County has large land holdings. The TO Ranch is a prime example of what has transpired from the 1600 Vaqueros to a working ranch that dates back to 1864. The ranch offers both mountain and prairie grass lands with mountain springs. The cowboys that work the ranch remain flexible in their day to day efforts; mornings might find them working cattle in the flat plains, but evening could see them in the lower pinon or even upper mountain aspen range (all depending on the time of year and the cattle at hand).

The TO cowboys themselves are high endurance as they themselves come from quality stock, (parents that knew the meaning of hard work). The cowboys are flexible dudes for they will bend, but not break. A bit of southern manners always assures them another bowl of chili beans or chuckwagon stew when the ranch triangle ringer breaks the silence of the evening. The finest of gourmet cooking never stands a chance against good Dutch-Oven cooking. Take Dutch-Oven cooking one step beyond - prepared on a Charles Goodnight designed chuckwagon (the chuckwagon goes back to 1866 and the blazing of the Goodnight/Loving Trail).

Old Cowboy - The reality of the early cowboy and his life on the plains – his life was far from fashionable as Hollywood has portrayed them. A bedroll that consisted of a couple of blankets and his daily diet that came down to biscuits, beans, salted beef, coffee and dried fruit, and possibly some dried vegetables. The introduction of the Goodnight chuckwagon in 1866 improved the daily meals on cattle trail drives, but evening still found the trailing cowboy sleeping on the ground.

The American cowboys might not equal the Spanish Vaqueros, but he will take no back door to them. The TO American cowboy or cowgirl must earn their titles, and if the cattle they tended were asked, they surely would tell no lies. A good cowboy or cowgirl easily stands out from the crowd when the cattle take to them. The association is eminent and truly amazing for this is the cowboy or cowgirl to learn from. There's no denying that working a cattle ranch is hard work and takes daily commitment from all ranch hands. From the first cup of range coffee at day break to that bucket of feed for that hard working quarter or paint horse at the end of the day. The chuck wagon cook was a key figure on the open range for he catered to the trailing cowboys in sickness or in health.

The cowboys can spend long days in the saddle, but at the TO Ranch all are family and all share a common bond as they soothe their aching muscles after a long day in the saddle.

The cowboys on the TO Ranch as it really is:

December – February: The cowboys day starts before sun-up (around 5 in the morning if not before). A cup of coffee and a quick bite to eat and he's off to the corrals. The cowboy greets his horse by running his hand over its mane and bringing over a bucket of grain for his 4 legged friend as he

TO Ranching Cowboys. Photography by: Bob Silva



grabs his blanket, bridle and saddle. Now the cowboy is ready to ride out to the cattle or he may load his horse in a trailer to be moved to a remote area of the ranch.

If cattle are being moved to a new pasture, or heifers are being moved closer to the ranch for calving or branding, one can expect that the cowboy will spend a long day in the saddle. During calving season, it's a 24 hour day for the cowboys as the young heifers are monitored around the clock. In snow blizzard conditions or in freezing rain the young born calves and mother will be taken into the barn or other protective shelter. Calving season is a busy time and the cowboys always stand ready to deliver a new born calf. A cowboy is part veterinarian for he works in conditions that are sometimes less than ideal when tending to injured cattle.

March – April: April is branding time and again the cowboy is up before sun-up. Out to the cattle he rides as the branding irons are being heated. One cow after another are lassoed and taken to the ground. Branding is a fine art, and those that have demonstrated that art will take the lead in branding. It's a long dusty day, but with all the action, time flies, and before long it's time to grab a bite. The day or days goes on until all the new calves are branded.

May – Sept: Some cattle are moved into the high elevation while others may remain in the lower grass lands. The TO Ranch is blessed with excellent blue grama grass along with other forages. Cattle are closely monitored for health purposes as there are poisonous plants that arrive in spring before the grasses. Bloating along with other symptoms in cattle, if not detected early, will kill them.

Sept – Nov: It's time to bring the cattle out of the high mountain range and locate them in the lower pastures and grasslands.

In recognition to George McJunkin - One of the best bronc riders, ropers and cow hands was an ex-slave by the name of George McJunkin from Folsom, NM (Folsom a few miles east of the TO Ranch). George became known as one of finest cowboys that worked the Pitch and Crowfoot Ranch. George went one step beyond being an amazing cowboy for he discovered a large fossil in a wash after the Folsom Flood of Aug. 27, 1908. George discovered a large bone of a large bison that was protruding from the banks of the Dry Cimarron River while he and a friend were riding their horses on the Wild Horse Arroyo. In 1920, excavation continued in Wild Horse Arroyo. George McJunkin died before the amazing excavation of 1925 found Folsom Points in the excavated fossils. The Folsom points were evidence that the Folsom Man (a nomadic hunter that dates back 10,000 years) used spears to hunt, and established a new time line as to when Native Americans arrived in North America.



The life of the cowboy - The day could be young and bright, but the distant clouds can bring rain and more. It's the more that will earn the cowboy his money. The evening rain is a welcome relief, but the lightning and surely the thunder is a sign of alarm as cattle become restless. A stampede could scatter the herd over miles on the high plains. The cowboy and his pony are in eminent danger as they attempt to turn a stampeding cattle herd. The cowboy always stands ready for whatever the day might bring, for this is his livelihood. Many thanks go out to Brad Long, (manager), and to his dad Roger Long of the TO Ranch for sharing the past, and present history of the ranch with me. Thanks goes out to Jason Magill, Mark Wheeler and Tanner Sorrels (3 cowboys) of the TO Ranch that shared their working history.



Read the full story online by scanning the QR code

A TALE TO LAST A LIFETIME

by Carlos Lopez

Ramona Chacon loved living in Angel Fire, NM. She could always find some outdoor activity to keep her occupied in a world that is now captured with instant gratification of their smartphones or online shopping. She loved having limited cell phone service in the hills and mountains of Northern New Mexico.

Ramona could be found at the local Devisadero Loop Trail or Lady Slipper Trail in the warmer months. These areas are wonderful, but the snows have started to accumulate this winter which give opportunity for Ramona and her snowshoes! Ramona just got a new pair for Christmas and is dying to break them in on some fresh flakes. The trail to take this winters day is Oeste Vista Trail. So, Ramona decided to take a midmorning hike before her dinner shift at Zeb's.

Zeb's is a local favorite that is know for great times while serving great food and drinks. And Ramona worked the night before and could use some exercise to mentally prepare for all the tourists who have made the money better and shifts harder.

"Do you want to go for a hike tomorrow?" Ramona asks her coworker Janet before the end of their shift. "I would", said Janet; "but I have already promised my little brother I would take him snowboarding for a half day". "Maybe another time," Ramona replies. Ramona then asks the bartender, Will, if he would like to snowshoe; but she realizes that Will might be a little hung over tomorrow. They had one heck of a Christmas party tonight and he was slammed behind the bar. He will most likely be recuperating the way most bartenders do after they got their butts handed to them... with a few beers themselves.

So, Ramona decides to head out alone the next morning alone. She is smart enough to tell Janet



where she is going. She saw the movie 127 Hours and doesn't want to take any chances of missing a shift, or worse, getting hurt in the winter of the forest.

The start of her day is a beautiful

one. The fresh dusting of snow in the wee hours of the night have created a sparkling scene with the risen sun. It's approximately 10 am and a perfect time to start a midmorning hike. Ramona is admiring her new snowshoes. A new pair of Red Feathers with a swallow tail. The swallow tail helps avoid snow being thrown at her from behind while she vigorously moves through the woods. And Ramona is very excited to see some other people with same intentions as she puts on her snowshoes. She asks, "Are you folks going up Oeste Vista Trail too?' "We are! Would you like to join us?" "I would love to.", said Ramona. The group is a small family. A young couple from Santa Fe with a tween who is so excited to be playing in the snow. "Are you familiar with this area?", asks the mother. "I am. I usually hike here in the summer months. It has beautiful views of the valley and of Wheeler Peak."

The young family and Ramona start their journey. They encounter tall pines with grey tailed squirrels chirping at them. It almost feels like they are telling them to leave. The squirrels finally relax as the group continues through the woods. "They must have grown tired", said the young hiker. The snows aren't very deep. They can hear the crunch of the oak brush leaves under their shoes. This winter hasn't brought as much as snow as years in the past. "We recently moved to Santa Fe from Phoenix", said the dad. "Is the lack of snow always like this in the middle of winter?" "We have years that are better than some", said Ramona. "But this year has been slow to start and has us all worried a little. We depend on water for our economy in so many ways. Tourism, agriculture and community life changes when we don't have the snows."

The group continues on their expedition, and they encounter a deer. It noticed them before they saw it. It was a young doe who was very keen to watch their movements. As the group walks further, the deer watched them very carefully. At that moment a mountain lion sprang from the background and attacked the unsuspecting deer. The family quickly grabbed their child and backed up, slowly, awkwardly in their snowshoes. Ramona quickly turned to look for more cats. None were seen, but rarely are cougars seen. The predator was happy with its catch and quickly drug the deer into the woods.

"Can you believe that! I didn't even see that mountain lion!", exclaims the mother. "We were so excited about the deer; we didn't pay any attention to what was in its surroundings.". Ramona was quick to advise that they turn back. "We should probably call it a day. We wouldn't want to make the cat think we were competing for its food. That could cause some real problems.", Ramona said.

The parents agreed that they

had enough adventure on their hike. They asked their child if they were ok. "There's no need to be scared, but we need to be respectful of nature and the animals who live here", said the mother. The young girl was wide eyed and noticeably excited. "Are you ok?", asks the father. "That was Awesome!", she said. The rush of adrenaline was definitely kicking in.

Ramona and her random hiking companions had a bonding experience that many don't have. "You guys have an awesome tale to tell for years to come", Ramona said. "I know the group at Zeb's will lose their minds when I tell them of this!" The family agreed that this was a tale to last a lifetime.



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Photo by Jimmy Baker, photo of lift #4 at the Cuchara Mountain Park



by Amanda Ellis

Cuchara Mountain — This Time, Not as a Ski Resort

A gust of wind tore through Colorado's Cucharas River Valley, rocking the double chairs suspended from Lift 4's haul rope. The chairlifts haven't turned since 2001-a testament to many failed attempts at reviving the former Panadero ski area.

This year, change rides on the wind. For the first time in history, the rebirth of Cuchara Mountain isn't contingent on snowfall.

Instead, it hangs on the collaboration of Huerfano County commissioners and two tenacious Florida visionaries with one colossal proposal: Moss Adventures on Cuchara Mountain.



"We're absolutely insane," says cofounder Jeff Moss to his partner, Shayne Young. Though the duo often jest, there's truth to the statement.

The two Florida entrepreneurs first came to Southern Colorado to purchase land designated as the headquarters for Moss Adventures-an experiencebased adventure company they've been building for the last five years.

Now, they're in contract negotiations with Huerfano County to lease a mountain park for the same purposeand there's much more at stake.

The Best Laid Plans

In 1981, the Cuchara Valley Ski Area first opened to lift-served skiing. Known as Panadero during its inaugural season, the resort featured two double chairlifts, a rope tow, and a Special Use Permit from the U.S. Forest Service, which granted skiing on 345 acres of surrounding federal land.

Over the next two decades, Panadero operated on and off again under various owners, with little success. In 2002, the Forest Service terminated the ski area's Special Use Permit. The ski lifts lay dormant ever since, but the rush for Cuchara had only begun.

Investors with grand housing and development plans kept trying to resuscitate the area-and kept failing. In 2014, a group of area locals grew weary of empty promises and rallied together to create the Cuchara Foundation.



In 2017, they raised and donated \$150,000 for Huerfano County to buy 47 acres at the base of the mountain creating what's now the county-owned Cuchara Mountain Park.

Since then, the Cuchara Foundation and the non-profit Panadero Ski Corp. have continued raising money to revive the ski area. They started a fundraising campaign to return Lift #4 to operational service and developed a four-phase master plan for developing the park. With help from a team of volunteers many retired experts from major ski areas—the Cuchara Foundation has made steps in restoring Cuchara to its former glory.

Historically, Huerfano has been one of the poorest counties in the state of Colorado—limited in resources, manpower, and funding. The CMP Advisory Committee's original mission included plans to bring in a concessionaire to maintain the mountain park.

In July 2021, Huerfano County issued a formal request for proposal for potential concessionaires to do exactly that. Moss Adventures submitted the only response to the RFP. Tired of failed, grandiose plans for restoring the old ski resort, the initial public opposition came as no surprise.

But, there's a twist. Moss Adventures' proposal has nothing to do with skiing.

A Legacy of Adventure

"Running a ski resort wasn't even in our original plan," Moss explains. "We're approaching this with a completely different perspective [than previous owners]. The lifts are a bonus. Skiing enhances our original plan — it by no means defines it."

The proposal includes all the recommendations from the 2018 Cuchara Mountain Park Master Plan and then some. Moss Adventures aims to make Cuchara Mountain its flagship adventure destination for offering visitors year-round experience-based adventures, off-site expeditions, and wilderness education opportunities.

The plan features both for-profit and not-for-profit aspects. For-profit offerings include luxury camping on the mountain and activities like lift-served mountain biking, skiing, forest zip lining, mountain

4.45

climbing, and wilderness survival camps. The non-profit aspect highlights a prolific search-and-rescue support and creation of a youth training organization to provide outdoor education to Huerfano County Youth.

Unlike lofty real estate plays, the Moss proposal is rooted in legacy. And that's exactly why it just might work.

The Dynamic Duo

Jeff's father, Bill Moss, invented the original Pop-Up tent in 1955 and spent a lifetime designing high-performance tents that altered the future of outdoor adventure. Jeff Moss inherited the same creative drive and applied it differently, building a successful career in the advertising, branding, and design industry.

Shayne Young is one of the world's foremost Land Rover experts, with decades of experience fixing and outfitting expedition vehicles. He's the driving force behind Moss Expeditions curated trips that offer guests the opportunity to explore scenic, remote destinations in decked-out Land Rovers.

The partners aim to intertwine the revival of the Moss Tents brand with the preservation of the Land Rover. Given



Photo by Jimmy Baker, lift #4 at Cuchara Mountain Park

Cuchara's own history, bringing Moss Adventures onto the mountain makes for a three-fold endeavor of serious magnitude.

"I'm not building this business to make a bunch of money," Moss reiterates. "I'm here to build a legacy to leave to my kids and community."

The restoration of Cuchara Mountain would mean the first ever reopening of one of the state's many abandoned ski resorts—and the beginning of a new era for southern Colorado.







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Price "Buster

COWBOYS Vaqueros & the Ranches of Northern New Mexico

By Linda Wommack

New Mexico and Southern Colorado are steeped in cowboy history and ranching. There is no better example than the legendary vaqueros. Following Mexico's freedom from Spain in 1519, ranches were established and stocked with cattle and horses imported from Spain. Landowners needed men to ride the range, work the cattle and train the horses. These early cowboys were the vaqueros, which is from the Spanish word for cow. A proud and exclusive group of men, the vaqueros developed roping skills, using braided rawhide reatas, the Spanish root word for lariat, trained the horses for working with cattle as well as long-range riding, and were known for their charm, not just with the livestock but with the ladies as well. Vaqueros were also known for trading their hides and tallow for manufactured goods among the American traders along the Santa Fe Trail. It was during this period that the vaquero lifestyle began to meld with what would become the American Cowboy. By the turn of the nineteenth century, the Hispanos, as the early Spanish settlers were called, began settling the area we now know as New Mexico.

In 1824, Don Pablo Montoya obtained a 655,468-acre grant from the Mexican government along the Canadian River in today's northern New Mexico. He called it the Bell Ranch, named for the nearby bellshaped mountain. It was not until 1869 that the Mexican government finally ceded full ownership of the land to Montoya. However, Montoya never developed the land which was used by the Comanche and Kiowa because of its excellent grasslands. In 1874, shortly after new ownership, four vaqueros were murdered by a wandering band of Kiowa, so Montoya decided to sell. Wilson Waddington had acquired 754,000 acres from a Mexican land grant heir which adjoined the Montoya acreage. With the purchase of Montoya's land, Waddington became the largest landowner in northeastern New Mexico. Two years later, a large adobe ranch house was constructed to accommodate a growing family as well as host businessmen and various government dignitaries. A few years later, when the adobe abode was whitewashed, it became known as the "White House." Ranch owner "Waddy," as he was affectionately known, was known far and wide for his entertaining events. So much so that on January 7, 1883, a fabulous seven-course dinner was held and was said to be the "finest meal served in New Mexico Territory."

The vaqueros not only worked hard on the ranches, they played hard as well. The Hispanic cowboys enjoyed showing off their horsemanship. They fashioned special ropes known as reatas and designed decorative spade bits and spurs made of silver. This was also a unique showing in what became known as the rodeo or rodear, the Spanish word. Tricks of the horsemen included roping and riding, bull wrestling and various showman contests. For the American cowboy who eventually took great interest in these rodeo events, they were dubbed "buckaroos" which derived from the Spanish word vaquero.

By 1880, Waddy began improving the Bell Ranch cattle herd by purchasing an average of 30 to 50 Shorthorn bulls to breed with his range cows. By 1886, the Bell Ranch cattle were sold throughout the area. Ranch hands and vaqueros used the Spanish technique of branding which involved a long iron rod with an iron seallike mark at the end to brand their cattle on the left hip. The iconic brand of a bell was developed and registered by Waddy in 1875 and is still used today. To ride the range and look after the herd in a more effective manner, the vaqueros fashioned their saddles using a center-fire rigged saddle, where the rigging was situated below the centerpoint of the saddle, allowing for more balance and freedom of movement when need be. John H. Culley, an Englishman, became assistant ranch foreman under Waddy. Years later he wrote a book about his experience at the Bell ranch. Titled "Cattle, Horses and Men," he had this to say:

"It is -for I know it- a world where the summers are long and hot and if in winter a flurry of snow comes, it is gone by noon; where things grow readily in the loose red soil and the rim rocks are vermilion. A world where few pines are to seen, but the hill and mesa sides are covered with juniper and the flats with mesquite, and the sunflowers grow higher than a man on horseback in the bottoms."

John Culley was one of several Bell Ranch employees who left their mark. Some became legends. Along with Culley and Wilson "Waddy" Waddington, men became leaders and carried on their traditions. Mark Wood signed on as a ranch hand in 1919. He quickly rose to become wagon boss, a position he held for 23 years. Ralph Bonds was in charge of the remuda, which were broken and trained by the vaqueros. Bonds worked at the Bell Ranch for 48 years. In 1898, Benito Encinias became the boss of the maintenance crew and stayed there for the next for twenty-eight years. For over 30 years, Seferina Estrada was the cook at the "White House" and N. "Judge" Naylor was the ranch's blacksmith. The longest tenure at Bell Ranch belongs to Moises Romero. He was just a boy when he began work on the hay crew in 1888. Four years later he became a respected cowboy and held his own with the vaqueros. Romero never fully recovered from a fall and died in 1946, after 60 years as a Bell Ranch hand.

Today, the historic Bell Ranch (it became a national landmark in 1974) retains nearly half of its original acreage. With 13 miles of frontage along the Canadian River, the ranch is home to six cow camps, four of which are operable year-round. Bell Ranch is so large, the 453 square-mile area has its own zip code and includes breathtaking landscapes such as six-mile long Mule Canyon and Conchas Lake.

The cattle on Bell Ranch are still raised in the vaquero tradition, a legacy rich in New Mexico heritage.



INDIANS Ute War Chief Kaniache Tangles With Kit Carson and Ouray

By Linda Wommack

In 1853, when Christopher "Kit" Carson took on the role of Indian agent to again serve his country, little did he know he would soon be swept into a wave of controversy. Serving as Federal Indian Agent for southern Colorado and northern New Mexico, Carson received a quarterly salary of nearly \$400, which provided a good income for his growing family. Carson's wife, Josefa, a member of both the influential Mexican families, Jaramillio and Vigil, and their children lived in a fine house in Taos, which was a wedding present from Josefa's father. However, Carson, ever the loyal government servant, preferred working for wages to provide for his family. One of Carson's officers, Captain Rafael Chacon, later wrote of a visit in his memoirs:

"He was very loving toward his family. I remember that he used to lie down on an Indian blanket in front of his guarters, with pockets full of candy and lumps of sugar. His children then would jump on top of him, and take the sugar and candy from his pockets and eat it. This made Colonel Carson very happy, and he derived great pleasure from these little episodes." In Carson's new role, he worked with Utes and Jicarilla Apache tribes. He would become a good friend and benefactor of Ute Chief Ouray. With the heavy impact of the government's westward policy of Manifest Destiny, Carson understood the Indians fight to hold onto their lands, yet he also knew the reality; the government would prevail.

Carson was walking a fine line. While he did believe the Indians could be civilized, he knew the government was eager to move them onto reservations by force if necessary. The Indians In late September, Carson knew it, too. and his old friend Albert Pfeiffer attended Governor Alexander Cummings' peace council with the Utes in Colorado Territory. Very few Indians were in attendance and the mood was tense. The Utes were chastised for wide-spread depredations against the settlers including the taking of livestock, which occurred from the Purgatoire River to Tierra Amarilla, some two hundred miles. Carson wrote in his report that:

"An outbreak might occur at any moment and the loss of life and property in the Settlements [sic] would be enormous."

Walking that fine line of peaceful negotiations for both sides, Carson also wrote:

"The Indians complain of frauds in their treatys [sic] by which they were despoiled of their lands and cheated out of their annuities, yet another and more potent Cause [sic] of danger is destitution."

This was somewhat of a change in attitude for Carson from his earlier years as scout. Nevertheless, no one could have spoken more from experience than Colonel Christopher "Kit" Carson, and not a moment too soon. The day after he submitted his report, Carson received a few visitors at Fort Garland. He was told of a roaming band of Utes raiding settlers near the northern end of Raton Pass. Carson dispatched Captain A.J. Alexander and a company of the Third U.S. Cavalry to the area. Scouting the region, Alexander came upon Mouache Ute war Chief Kaniache and his band of renegade Utes, camped near Trinidad. Captain Alexander demanded a meeting with Kaniache who admitted he had stolen horses and corn from nearby farms. Kaniache explained:

"The land belongs to us and when our children are hungry we will take food for them."

Alexander told the Ute war chief that their talks would resume the following day. However, when Kaniache did not appear for the meeting, an infuriated Alexander threatened war on the Ute band. Before the day was out, an army scout informed Alexander that Kaniache and a separate band of Utes were raiding settlers along the Purgatoire River. The captain summoned his men and dashed off in quick pursuit. The army troops arrived upon a confusing scene. Unbeknownst to Alexander, one of the rancher's sons had just shot one of the Indians. The Utes, under Kaniache's command, were preparing to attack when the soldiers arrived.

Captain Alexander ordered his troops to charge the Ute Indian line. The soldier onslaught was quick and precise. When it was over, thirteen Utes lay dead and two cavalrymen were wounded. Kaniache and the remaining Ute warriors fled the scene.

Two days later, on October 4, Alexander who was in pursuit of the Indians, sent word to Carson that Kaniache had killed several men along the Huerfano River and captured "An American Lady" and her four children. Alexander further reported that he was trailing them into the San Luis Valley. Carson immediately sent word to Ute chief Ouray requesting him to come to Fort Garland for urgent peace talks. Carson then sent a report to his commander, Captain Carlton, explaining the situation as an opportunity to avoid "A general war with the Utes." Carson concluded by stating:

"Events may occur during which I may if desirable to you be able to make peace with them All [sic] please advise me how to act should such opportunity occur."

The following day, October 6, Ouray and a group of his Ute advisors arrived at Fort Garland. Ouray assured his friend Kit Carson, that, "I will do my best to restrain the young men." Carson sent a protective group of soldiers with Ouray to talk with the renegade warriors.

Kaniache released his captives, Mrs. McGuire and her four children, but refused to go back to the fort with Ouray, who was his sworn enemy. When Ouray returned to the fort with over one hundred peaceful Utes as well as the captives, Carson was pleased that war had been averted. His government report detailed the event:

"Yesterday all the hostile Indians came in under the guidance of Uray [sic] and I made peace with them. No more of the outrages that makes humanity shudder have been perpetuated here."

As for Kaniache, he forever refused to participate in peace negotiations. In 1880, Kaniache was struck by lightning and died. Taking this as a sign, the Southern Utes signed yet another peace treaty.

Sweetest Folks in the Sangres

By Jean Di Lisio



Team Photo from left to right: Mashell Santistevan, Anna Bower, Nicole Paradisa, Sydney Galasso, Katie Santistevan, Michelle Gonzales

COLIES CAKES & PASTERIES

As one enters Colie's Cakes and Pastries at 132 N. Commercial Street #A in Trinidad, CO, a proliferation of multi-shaped holiday decorated sugar cookies make eye contact, winking from behind the sparkling glass and under the colorful array of carrot cake, cinnamon rolls and sticky buns. Then a shelf of empty take-out boxes, soon to be filled with bakery delights, set the boundary to the bakery baking area where Sydney Galasso, Mashell and Katie Santistevan, Michelle Gonzales and Anna Bower gracefully watch over the ovens, decorate the products and announce "We make it all here!"

The symphony of sweets surround the shelving and warm scents of freshness fill the scene:

Pastries

Cinnamon rolls, Sticky Buns, Cream Puffs, Eclairs, Brownie, Scones, Banana Nut Bread, Lemon or Pecan Bars, and more.

Cookies

Oatmeal cream pie, Coconut Macaroons, Drop Cookies, Black, White and Butter cream Cookies and Naked Cookies

Cakes

Carrot Cake, Cheesecake, Misfit Cake, Celebration Cakes

Pies

Cherry, Apple and Pumpkin

Holiday Treats

Kifflings, Wine Cookies, Potica, Scaledies, Sweet Butter Cookies, Biscoti, Divinity

Breads

Ciabatta, Challah and Colie's own Sourdough

Gifts

Sweet Shirts, Papyrus Cards and Candles, Local art

Nicole Paradisa, founder and entrepreneur, specializes in creating celebratory cakes for weddings, birthdays and special events. Upon graduating in 2013 from Johnson and Whales with an AA in Baking and Pastries, "Colie" earned her BA in Business Management. Baking from her family home and then opening her first bakery shop at 1138 Nickerson Avenue was launched in 2017. This was soon outgrown, when she re-located in 2019 to the Toltec Building. Capturing recipes from Grandma Gretchen and Great Grandma Sophie, Nicole credits her success to Tony and Tammy, her parents, owners of Topar Welding since April 1986.

Visit: **www.coliespastries.com** or call (719) 846-2255 Hours Tuesday- Friday: 8am to 3pm and Saturday: 8am to 1pm



Photo: front: Carolina & Mateo back: Bernadette, Dominic & Victoria Apodaca

DULCES ENCANTADOS

Bernadette has been making candy for 20+ years. She fell into this sweet career quite by accident! The family moved to Raton in 2004 with their 3 youngest children. During those ensuing years, when the family would drive by the two-story, sky-blue trimmed building on 1st Street, Bernadette would remark, "That would be the cutest spot for a candy shop!" and dream about creating a candy store. In the planning stages

from 2018, her dreams manifested when they opened "Dulces Encantatos" or "Enchanting Sweets" in July of 2019. Counting on support from her devoted husband, Dominic and children Victoria, Mateo and Carolina, a genuine candy store exists! She's

known for her red and white polka dot mini-bows, which adorn almost every item in the shop. During their first two years on First Street, they've generated regulars and many visiting patrons.

Dulces boasts a candy-flavored conversational feel to a stretch of downtown that was eerily quiet not so long ago. "I think candy is beautiful – so colorful," says Bernadette, "and although I adore the children who frequent our shop my favorite customers are the adults who come in to purchase candies from their past - Like Cherry Mash, Espeez Rock Candy, Pop Rocks, PaintBall Pops and Wacky Wafers, to name a few."

Bernadette hand makes her caramel. There are several delicious chocolate covered caramel concoctions in the chocolate case that will brighten anyone's day. Her weekly rotating mix of delicious caramel apples . . . Plain, Peanut, Piñon, and Biscochito and handmade delicious fudge (with or without nuts) entices each candy connoisseur. Wouldn't gourmet lollipops in your favorite boozy concoctions . . . Pink Champagne, Mojito, Rose, and Peach Bellini be adorable as a center piece on your Valentine table?

Dominic comments, "We have a little bit of Raton's heritage here, as many of our displays were donated from Doggy Stylez, Rueben's, Di Lisio's Department Store and a couple of private citizens." You'll enjoy how they've repurposed these fixtures. So, come on by and pick up some candy to enjoy. You deserve it! We are so grateful for each and every one of you - Thank You for your support! (Facebook post on 11/25/21)



I LOVE SUGAR SWEETS AND EATS

Liz Torres, a self-trained candy maker and legitimate chef, who leaves no stone unturned, saw "I Love Sugar" as her chance to diversify in 2013. For the past 30+ years, she's operated the popular Commercial Street Hair Salon and Spa in downtown Trinidad, Colorado. Even if you're not in the market for a hair do, you should stop by to appreciate her "big city chic" that covers the interior walls and graces the exterior sidewalk decor. Her entrepreneurial skills bring business to Trinidad on a larger scale. As they seek out merchandise at "The Las Vegas Candy and Toy Show," Liz, Zoey and Reuben find rare specialty gifts and candies not often available in rural locations.

Sugar's faithful following demonstrates a devoted clientele in much the same manner as her hair salon. Enamored by the idea of partnering with her daughter, Zoee, they've captured a specialty market, with two separate businesses operating in a single space.

- From fancy, hand-dipped Carmel apples to colorful bags of taffy . . .
- From homemade cashew clusters and cinnamon caramels to alligator slime & dinosaur finger puppets . . .
- From Cool & Odd Socks to Pucker Powder Candy Art in clear tubes.
- From fresh roasted and glazed Bavarian Nuts to Custom Gift Baskets

"I Love Sugar Sweets and Eats" is the place to develop your special party!

Recently, Liz opted to open "Blaze's Mexi Grill" with her son, Blaze and mentions that "We're excited to serve our family's favorite comfort foods: fresh, made from scratch burritos, chimichangas, enchiladas and stuffed sopapillas!" "It feels really good," she said. "to have members of your own family boost Trinidad's economy!"

With the help of the Torrez family operations, you'll find everything you need to create a breathtaking wedding or a dazzling children's party! "When you patronize the Torres family businesses you get more than delicious food or treats, you get to be part of the family. Come on by, you're always welcome!"

For more information contact: **I Love Sugar Sweets and Eats**

259 N. COMMERCIAL (719) 846-2000

Email: reubenliztorres@#yahoo.com Hours: 9am to 5pm Monday - Saturday



THE WING PIT AND THE TRINIDAD ROASTING COMPANY

We watch from the indoor booth, like someone's front porch, sipping Chai and Expresso, while slowly enjoying the fluffy, circular yeast dough apple fritters, glazed doughnuts and beautifully browned bagels. They have introduced new foot traffic to that stretch of downtown, along with Almack's Kitchen and Trinidad Creamery, also located at the Market Place Court. Adjacent to them, Paradox's customers love the late evening menu from Wing Pit which opened just before the pandemic. It now draws a quiet stream of business, but soon may host a large line of eager and hungry customers.

The Wing Pit and The Trinidad Roasting Company is the result of what happens when two dreams collide. Owners Andrew and Bethany Stevens, along with son Malachi and daughter Genesis, envisioned a day when they would own their own business. "We always wanted to open a coffee shop because they always seem busy," they explained, admitting they had no idea how busy they'd be as a wing pit and coffee shop owner. The first step for Stevens, however, was turning those dreams into reality. Two years ago, they took a very practical approach to making this happen. After contacting Otero Partner's Inc., a non-profit geared toward nurturing Las Animas and Otero County entrepreneurs; they qualified for the loan and opened in 2019 as "The Wing Pit!"

Building a reputation: They readily approach the realities of Year One for small businesses. This is when entrepreneurs try to fine-tune their product and operations, while building customer awareness and loyalty. "We're very thankful to New Legends Magazine for introducing us to the community and expect that our expanded menu and venue will include roasting and grinding our own coffee blends, then developing a variety of gourmet popcorn, nuts and homemade fudge." Bethany and Andrew are happy to share the biggest lesson learned from Year One and Two: The key to being a successful dreamer and an entrepreneur is that "you adjust your plans as you go and go with the will of God!"



Coming soon is "The Trinidad Roasting Company", Andrew (Drew) and Bethany Stevens deliver 4 dozen doughnuts from their Market Place Court on lower Commercial Street.

To order your wings or breakfast treats, please contact: Drew or Beth at: The Wing Pit and The Trinidad Roasting Company 326 N. Commercial Street (719) 859-0326 Hours: Monday – Saturday 11am to 8pm



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ART GALLERIES

see Art & Antiques in Shopping pg. 29

109 E. 6th Street • 719-738-2858

MUSEUMS

Walsenburg, Colorado Walsenburg Mining Museum 112 W. 5th Street • 719-738-1992 huerfanohistory.org/mining-museum.html



THINGS TO DO



Art Cartopia Museum 2702 Freedom Road • 719-846-3473 www.artcartopia.com/

La Veta, Colorado Francisco Fort Museum 306 Main Street • 719-742-5501 www.franciscofort.org



Trinidad, Colorado
 A.R. Mitchell Memorial Museum & Gallery
 150 E. Main Street • 719-846-7217
 www.armitchellmuseum.com

Louden-Henritze Archaeology Museum TSJC, Trinidad, CO • 719-846-5508 facebook.com/pages/Louden-Henritze-Archaeology-Museum

Museum of Friends



Southern Colorado Coal Miners Memorial Museum 219 W. Main Street • 719-846-8234





Trinidad History Museum 312 E. Main Street • 719-846-7217 historycolorado.org/museums/trinidad-history-museum-0



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The Gallery in the Park - La Veta

Raton, New Mexico NRA Whittington Center Frank Brownell Museum of the Southwest 34025 Highway 64 • 575-445-3615 nrawc.org/wc-experience/visitor-center-museum-library/



Scouting Museum of New Mexico 400 S. 1st Street • 575-445-1413 www.santafetrailnm.org/site558.html

Raton Museum 108 S. 2nd Street 575-445-8979 www.theratonmuseum.org



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THE RATON MUSEUM



NEW LEGENDS MAGAZINE

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MUSEUMS continued

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Cimarron, New Mexico Seton Memorial Library and National Scouting Museum 17 Deer Run Road • 575-376-1136 philmontscoutranch.org/Museums.aspx







Villa

7 Deer Run Road • 575-376-1136 philmontscoutranch.org/Museums/Villa





Kit Carson Museum at Ravado NM-21 • 575-376-1136 philmontscoutranch.org/Museums.aspx





www.folsomvillage.com/folsommuseum/



Clayton, New Mexico Herzstein Memorial Museum 22 South 2nd Street 575-374-2977 www.herzsteinmuseum.com/



Aztec Mill Museum W 17th St • 575-376-2417 www.cimarronnm.com/museums

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Luna Theater

4 Main Street

Clayton, NM

575-374-2712

Fox Theater 715 Main Street Walsenburg, CO 719-738-1071

Tri Peak Theaters 3600 E Main Street Trinidad, CO 719-422-8270

LIVE THEATRE

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131 N. 2nd Street Raton, NM 575-445-4746

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Arthur Johnson 244 Cook Avenue Raton, NM 575-445-9711

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Aquilar 146 W Main Street Aquilar, CO 719-941-4426

Fred Macaron 600 Colbert Avenue Springer, NM 575-483-2848

Trinidad Lanes 823 Van Buren Street Trinidad, CO 719-846-7201



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The Fox Trot Emporium 114 E 5th St • 720-323-4329

The Green Elephant 106 W 6th St • 719-890-1670

Main Street Antiques 527 Main St • 719-696-5024

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Clayton, New Mexico

Design D'Lites in the Hotel Eklund 15 Main St • 575-207-6007

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TC Galleries 4087 Lake Hwy • 575-278-3471

Folsom, New Mexico

Cornay Art Studio 40 Busey St, Folsom • 575-278-3867

Raton, New Mexico

Old Pass Gallery 145 S 1st St • 575-445-2052

Trinidad, Colorado

A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art **150 E Main St • 719-846-4224**

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Purgatoire River Trading Co. 113 E Main St • 719-845-0202

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Rockies Market 31023 US-64 • 575-376-2577

Rocks Ore Minerals 444 9th St • 575-224-9121

Russell's One Stop Shop 31091 US-64 • 575-376-2225

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Family Dollar 108 Maxwell Ave • 575-383-6003

Jespersen's Cache 403 Maxwell Ave • 575-483-2349

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Herzstein Memorial Museum Gift Shop 22 S 2nd St • 575-374-2977

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Desert Expressions 202 S Main St • 719-742-3067

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At Aguilar Mercantile, we are always looking for ways to do more for our environment and atmosphere. Every day we work to advance zero-waste systems and encourage our customers to be better stewards of their environment. At Aguilar Mercantile, we use all compostable single-use products while offering the highest quality convenience services and goods. Most recently, Aguilar Mercantile got Town-Wide recycling passed with the town board.



Further down the road, Aquilar Mercantile will have an Ice Cream Parlor in house! Get ready for bar seating, more cafe seating, and all of your coke float, ice cream and popcorn needs!



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Flowerland 248 Canyon Dr • 575-445-3532

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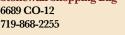


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Clavton Motel 422 Monroe St 575-374-2544

Clayton RV Park 903 S 5th St • 575-374-9508

Coyote Keeth's RV Park 1 Mary Bird Lane • 575-447-5566

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Super 8 by Wyndham 1924 Freedom Rd • 719-846-8280

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Three Rivers Education Foundation

The Three Rivers Teacher Quality Partnership is recruiting individuals with a bachelor's degree who have never served as a teacher of record. Participants work alongside a mentor teacher in a one-year residency while they earn a master's degree in education and complete the licensure requirements.

The program aims to fill math, science or special education teacher positions.

Those selected for the program will receive a one-year living-wage stipend of \$55,000 to pay for expenses while enrolled in the online master's degree program at a participating university.

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About 40 percent of the residency will be dedicated to the online coursework, and 60 percent will be spent in a classroom with a teacher-mentor.

After completing their master's degree program, participants must commit to teaching at least three years at a qualifying school that meets eligibility criteria (high poverty, free/reduced lunch, etc.)

Participants will receive support from coaches throughout the residency and throughout the three-year teaching commitment.

Additional information on the

Three Rivers Teacher Quality Partnership can be found at *padlet.com/swtqp/information*.

Contact:

Rick Jones, Regional Coordinator at 575.447.0169 or ejones@3riversed.org

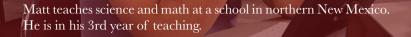
Bobbie Zemanek-White, Program Director at 505.486.4874 or bzemanekwhite@3riversed.org

Annette is finishing her master's degree and is teaching at an elementary in northern New Mexico. She is in her 2nd year of teaching early childhood special education.



Joseph teaches special education at an elementary school in northern New Mexico.

Joy completed her residency at a New Mexico high school and is now in her 2nd year of teaching special education.



Lyndsey graduated in December and is teaching special education at a middle school in southern Colorado.

Three Rivers Teacher Quality Partnerships

Three Rivers Teacher Quality Partnership & Southwest Teacher Quality Partnership

Master's of Education with Alternative Licensure for Special Education, Secondary Science or Math 3RIVTQP Award # U336S180013 and SWTQP Award # U336S200025



Teacher Residency Program

One Year Residency

Residents complete a one-year residency working alongside a mentor teacher in a high-need school. During the residency 60% of the day is spent in the classroom and 40% of the day is allocated to completing online coursework requirements.



Small-group practicums allow for application of new knowledge and instructional practices.

Master's Degree Program

Online Coursework

Residents complete a master's degree program and licensure coursework at a participating university.



Upon completion of the residency, participants are prepared to teach secondary math or science classes or serve special education students PreK-12 and complete the initial licensure process.

Program Benefits

Living Wage Stipend

Residents receive a one-year living wage stipend of \$55,000 during the residency.

Professional Support

Participants receive intensive, focused professional development, coaching, mentoring, and job-embedded training.

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Potential Candidates Must:

- Have never served as a teacher of record.
- Possess a bachelor's degree with a minimum 3.0 GPA from an accredited institution and a clear background check.
- Secondary math or science candidates must have a minimum of 12 hours of graduate credit or 30 hours of undergraduate credit (12 hours upper division) in a subject matter area that qualifies for an endorsement on a teaching license.
- Special education candidates must have 30 hours general education composite.

- Pass the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators
- Be eligible for admission to the graduate program at a participating university (ENMU, FLC, or ASU).
- Agree to work full-time as a math, science, or special education teacher in a TQP affiliated high-need school for a period of three years immediately after completing the residency.
- Serve in a qualifying district in northern New Mexico or southern Colorado for three years following completion.

Information/Contact

For more information go to padlet.com/SWTQP/information or scan the QR Code below.

For questions or to apply, please contact:

Rick Jones ejones@3riversed.org Cell: 575-447-0169

or



Bobbie Zemanek-White bzemanekwhite@3riversed.org Cell: 505-486-4874



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