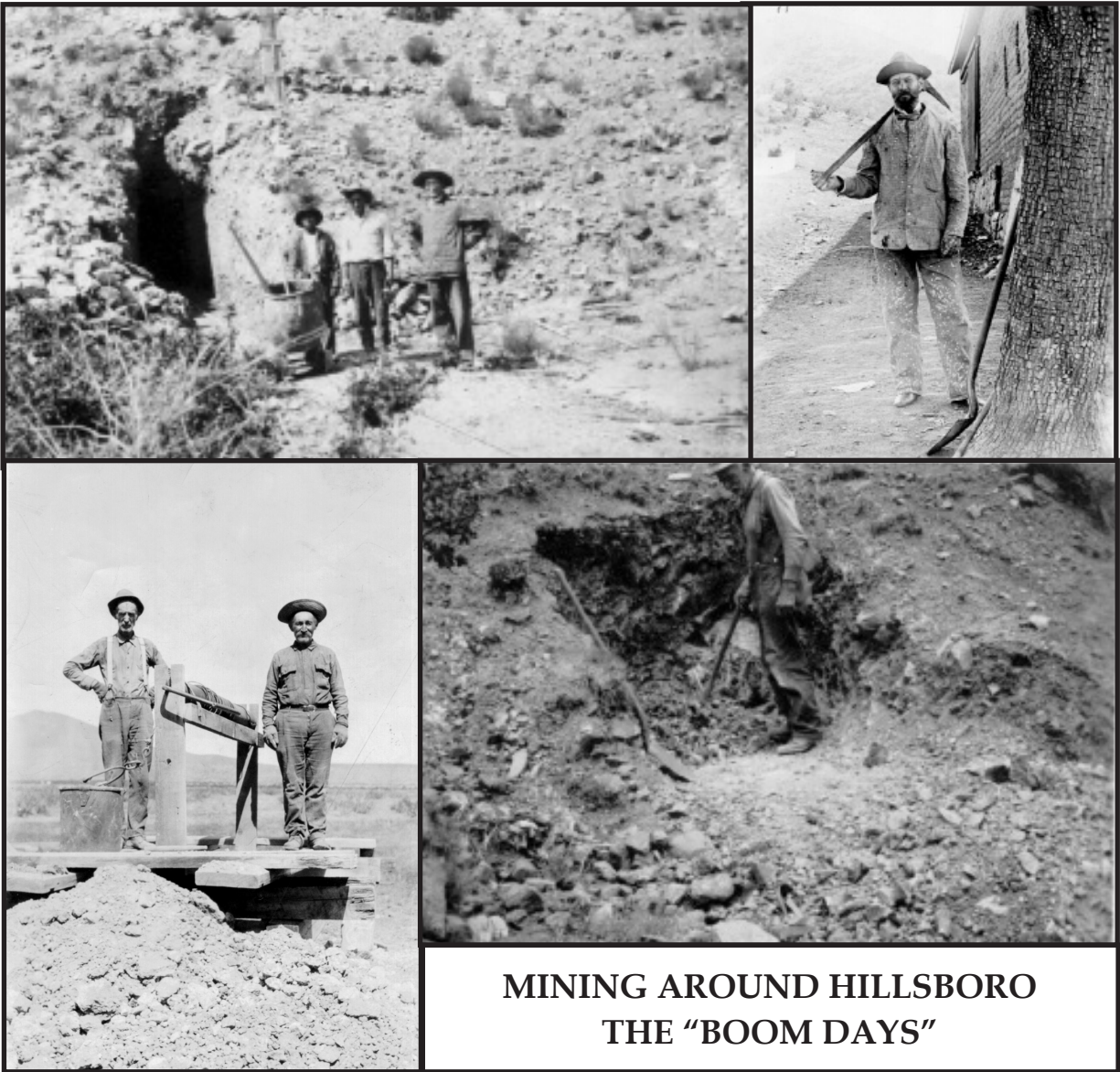




# Guajolotes, Zopilotes y Paisanos

Vol. 11 No. 4 Hillsboro Historical Society November 2018



## President's Message



I have the happy opportunity to report that our recent success continues. As you will read elsewhere, the renovation of the Black Range Museum is well under way, the HHS has published a new book, and the HHS outings program is finally getting some legs.

All that success is indicative of the need for enhanced due diligence on our part. We are no longer an organization thinking about owning some historical property, now "we are one". The Board is considering structural changes to itself to enhance accountability/responsibility and enhancements to the budget reporting system to ensure transparency. These changes should help us proceed in a vigorous and thoughtful manner - no time to rest on laurels.

At the end of the newsletter you will find a new type of donation form, one which allows you to be as specific or general as you desire in your generosity. The specificity of the donation form will carry through in our budgetary process.

At the end of this year, three board seats become vacant. One of the incumbents Harley Shaw, has indicated a willingness to continue on the board and will be standing for election. Barb Lovell will not stand for reelection and a search is under way for candidates. Four have been identified thus far. We are looking for people with specific skills in fund raising, exhibit development, and historical knowledge(s). Individuals with long-term family ties in the area are good candidates as are non-Anglos. The board currently has only Anglo members, and we lack board members who have other inherent perspectives – and the non-Anglo heritage of this area is rich.

At the first meeting of the year we elect officers for the coming year. Quite often the board elects the current office holder to the position for the coming year. That is of pertinence to me because I agreed to finish Larry Cospers' term as President when he retired at mid-year. My desire is not to continue in that role.

Things are proceeding nicely at the moment, but with our success there have come some challenges - especially when it comes to property renovation. Please consider the HHS in your end-of-year giving program.

Bob



*Guajolotes, Zopilotes y Paisanos* is the quarterly newsletter of the:

### **Hillsboro Historical Society**

P. O. Box 461

Hillsboro, New Mexico, 88042

The mission of Hillsboro Historical Society's is to preserve, collect, and protect the history of Hillsboro, Kingston and the surrounding area. We are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

### **Board of Directors**

President: Robert Barnes

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**Newsletter Editor:** Harley Shaw

Publications committee: Harley Shaw, Robert Barnes, Garland Bills

The title for this newsletter is inspired by the association of Hillsboro and Kingston with Percha Creek. The name Percha may derive from the fact that turkeys (*guajolotes*) "perch" or roost along it. Perhaps there were more historically than there are now. Of course, Hillsboro and Kingston both have their own seasonal vulture (*zopilote*) roosts, so the term remains appropriate. Paisanos are countrymen or friends, a term that applies to us humans who also "roost" here. In our small towns, we are extremely diverse in roots, religion, and politics, yet we remain countrymen. In keeping with the avian title motif, in the Southwest, roadrunners, which also live within the Percha Creek watershed, are called *paisanos*.

# Hillsboro Historical Society News

## New Board Member

We are happy to welcome Leah Tookey to the Hillsboro Historical Society Board of Directors. Leah was appointed by the board to serve out the board term vacated by Larry Cosper. Leah is currently the Curator of History at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum in Las Cruces. She has a masters degree in agricultural history and rural studies from Iowa State University and has worked in several museums before moving to Las Cruces. She also served for a while as a high school English teacher. Leah has become well known in Hillsboro. She has taken a special interest in our town and spends many of her weekends here. We are pleased to have someone with her experience on board.

## Report on Cooke's Spring Trip and Plans for Future Outings

On October 6 the HHS sponsored a visit to the Ft. Cummings/Cooke's Spring area. Seemingly enjoyed by all, this event was the first in what we hope will be a series of such efforts.

We are currently exploring options and for the time being we have settled on the following protocol: HHS outings will be free to members of the HHS (and only available to HHS members), participants will be responsible for their transport to the areas and food/water. Where needed, coordination of carpooling and onsite transportation over roads requiring four wheel drive will be provided by HHS. The events will have topic leaders who are informed on a particular aspect of the outing.

At this time we are planning a trip to the Pony Hills/Frying Pan Canyon petroglyph sites northeast of Deming. Although a date has not been set, the outing will occur near the end of the year/first part of the new year and will have, at least, Bob Barnes as a topic leader. It is possible to drive a sedan to the Pony Hills "trail head", a walk up a hill and across a flat rocky area will bring you to the Pony Hills site. Reaching this site, with its excellent petroglyphs, is possible for almost everyone. We will visit this site first and, if the access road is "reasonable", the more strenuous Frying Pan Canyon site second. This will allow participants to visit a classic site and then add on to it only if they wish.

In late January a trip to the real ghost town of Andrews is on the schedule with Bob Barnes as the topic leader.

Following the Andrews trip, a series of three outings will round out the season. Tentatively it will start with a visit to the Bloodgood Spring site/homestead (near Kingston) and the Kingston Cemetery in February; Lake Valley in March; and Kingston Museums and shops in April.

The particulars of the schedule may change but the concept is firming up nicely. Watch your emails for notices and particulars and if you know of someone who is interested in going but is not a member of the HHS, suggest that they join.

AND if you have an idea for an outing please let Bob Barnes know at [subirding@gmail.com](mailto:subirding@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Election

As Bob noted in the President's Message, our annual election of Directors is coming up. We have up to five vacancies if we expand our board to the full eleven members. At present, Harley Shaw, Penny McCauley, and Steve Elam have agreed to run for the board. So far, we have one other potential candidate, undecided. We will settle on a slate by mid-December and mail out ballots to HHS members. If any of our current members would like to run for office, please contact Harley Shaw ([hgshaw@windstream.net](mailto:hgshaw@windstream.net)) or Bob Barnes ([subirding@gmail.com](mailto:subirding@gmail.com)).

## Update on Black Range Museum

In spite of a couple of rain and hail mishaps while the old roof was off, the new roof project will be completed by November 16. An Exhibits Committee (Barbara Lovell-Reid, Leah Tookey, Robin Tuttle, and Garland Bills) was appointed in October to prepare plans for reopening the Museum. The committee decided that, in order to protect artifacts and provide comfort for staff and visitors, additional work needs to be carried out prior to reopening the Museum. In particular, security involving windows and doors is a first priority. In addition, we need a complete renovation of electricity and lighting, an adequate heating and cooling system, attic insulation, and new ceilings in the eastern six rooms. The Museum Building Committee (Steve Dobrott, Steve Morgan, and Garland Bills) then took up these matters with contractors Bruce Cosper and Rand Berger, reaching the same conclusions and similar priorities. Berger and Cosper will develop proposals for each component of these needs. We are confident that the current building fund has enough money to carry out one or two of these needs, but clearly more fund-raising will be required. We regret that the Museum will remain closed for a few months more.

## Acknowledgements

Our current Vice President, Barbara Lovell has decided that she will drop off of our Board of Directors at the end of the year. She has recently opened her own antique and gift store in Kingston and wants to focus her volunteer efforts more on the Kingston Schoolhouse Museum and history of that town. Barb helped guide us through a period of serious growth and activity. Her hard work in archiving some 3000 items of the items that came with the Black Range Museum was herculean, and her ongoing initiative in researching old county files and tracking down and acquiring some key artifacts and manuscripts for our collections has been nothing short of amazing. She also served as the Director of the Museum's gift shop. The good news is that she will still spend much of the year in the area and will continue to serve on our exhibits committee. She'll also see to it, we're sure, that activities of the Kingston Schoolhouse Museum and HHS will be coordinated. We don't see her departure from the board as a loss but rather an expansion. If you are passing through Kingston, be sure to visit her store. It is just east of the turnoff into Kingston.



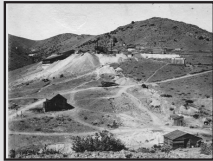


We also are sad to report that our Treasurer, Joe Ficklin, will be retiring from the board in January. Joe also was fundamental in our efforts to acquire the museum and the courthouse site. His surveying skills and knowledge of local land policies, as well as his willingness to dig into county files, kept the board on track during the complex land purchasing process. And his detailed bookkeeping during his stint as Treasurer has added a level of professional functioning. He will be sorely missed.

## Need for Temporary Storage

HHS is needing some temporary storage in Hillsboro. The ongoing renovation of the museum building has caused our storage container out back to be over-loaded. Contractor Rand Berger has been kind enough to loan us his covered trailer for the duration of the reroofing job. However, we don't want to impose further on his good graces. If anyone has a spare 10 X 20 feet of empty space that is relatively secure, that we might use for a few months, please contact Garland Bills (gbills@unm.edu).

## Publications

HHS members have already received notice of our first book, *Guajolotes, Zopilotes, y Paisanos--the first 10 years* (see announcement below). We have already sold out of the first batch of books and are waiting for more. We're happy to say that our second book is about ready to lay out and send to the printer. It will be a completely updated and rewritten biography of Sadie Orchard under the direction of Garland Bills. We're hoping to see it in print by early spring.

 <b>Guajolotes</b>	
	 <b>Zopilotes</b>
 <b>Paisanos</b>	<b>THE FIRST TEN YEARS--A READER</b>
<b>Hillsboro Historical Society</b>	

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\* With the museum under construction, our phone and credit card system is disabled. If you want to pick up a book in person, call Harley Shaw, 895-5385 or email [hshaw@windstream.net](mailto:hshaw@windstream.net).



## MINING AROUND HILLSBORO 1904

### REMEMBERING THE “BOOM DAYS”

*Editor's note: Our feature article for this month is taken directly from **New Mexico Mines and Minerals**\*, written by **Fayette Alexander Jones** in 1904. F. A. Jones served twice as the President of the New Mexico School of Mines in Socorro. He spent most of his career as a mining engineer in the southwestern United States and traveled extensively in Mexico.\*\* In the preface to his book, Jones writes:*

Every effort was exerted to secure and include only that which is authentic, and whenever possible, verified by living representatives of the “early days,” who were on the ground in person. It should be observed then, that the source of much information thus obtained, was not through mere hear say or by second hand evidence. Such evidence as was gotten can be gathered at this time with more accuracy than would be possible so to do a decade hence.

*Included here are only those sections of Jones' book that deal with the mines near Lake Valley, Hillsboro, and Kingston.*

**LAS ANIMAS (HILLSBORO) DISTRICT.** It was on the 20th day of April in 1877 that gold was practically discovered at Hillsboro by Dan Dugan and Dave Stitzel, who were prospecting at that time on the east side of the Mimbres range. When crossing over what is now the Opportunity mine on that day in the Las Animas district, some float was picked up which Dugan pronounced “no good,” saying “anyone ought to know that such a formation as this carries no mineral.” Stitzel, notwithstanding, put a few small pieces in his pocket and carried them to an old quartz mill on the Mimbres river where he had them assayed. To the great surprise of the two prospectors, the ore ran \$160.00 in gold per ton.

About one month later on May 13th, they came back and located the Opportunity and Ready Pay mines. Under adverse circumstances they managed to mine and hauled over five tons of ore to the Mimbres mill, which netted them \$400. In August of the same year, the first house was built and the town of Hillsboro, now in Sierra county, started. The famous Rattlesnake (more commonly called the Snake) mine was discovered by Frank Pitcher and Dan Dugan in June, 1877. This discovery was accidental, and was made by those two prospectors when returning to their camp in Ready Pay gulch, having sat down under a clump of oak bushes to rest, striking and breaking loose rock which lay about them as they talked, free gold was found in some of the broken fragments. Owing to the fact that they had just killed a large rattlesnake while resting at that spot, it was decided to name the claim the “Rattlesnake” lode.

The news of the new gold district soon spread, and by fall quite a population had gathered about Hillsboro. In November, 1877, placer gold was first found in the district by Hank Dorsey in the Snake and Wicks gulches. Adjoining gulches were afterward prospected and the discoveries soon spread and embraced the rich diggings on and about Slap-jack hill. During the winter of 1877-78, a mine operator by the name George Wells turned into the stores and saloons of Hillsboro \$90,000 in gold dust and nuggets which he had taken from Wicks gulch.

The first ore taken out of the camp, excepting the five tons that were hauled to the Mimbres mill, was worked in arrastras, built in what is now Mattie Avenue, Hillsboro, in front of the Stage stable, at the end of the Stage line now operating between Lake Valley and Hillsboro. A Mr. Fresh built two steam arrastras in the fall of 1877; in the fall of the following year, and in partnership with a Mr. Wicks, the two erected a 10-stamp mill on the old arrastra site, which may be seen at the present time.

The country around Hillsboro was, in the early days, a part of Socorro county; later, all land situated within a radius of two and one-half miles of Hillsboro was attached to Dona Ana county. In April 1884, Sierra county was organized by an Act of the Legislature in 1883, the preceding year, and Hillsboro was made, and has since been, the county seat. Of the old timers Dan Dugan died in 1884; Dave Stitzel is living in Hillsboro, and whom the writer had the pleasure of meeting; Hank Dorsey resides in Silver City and is now seventy years old, and who still expects to make another fortune in mining; George Wells has drifted away from the scenes of his early mining operations and is lost to the now few, old time prospectors, who yet remain in New Mexico. Such is the brief history of the discovery of gold in the Las Animas mining district at Hillsboro.

Andesites trachytes and intrusive diorites, seem to be the principal eruptive rocks of the district; although a high, narrow, isolated ridge, separating the town on the north from the mines, is covered with basalt as well as some other patches, as observed in the vicinity of the Opportunity mine. Much birds-eye porphyry is found throughout the entire district and the mineralization seems due to some sort of connection with the same. Most of the veins

\* Jones, Fayette Alexander. 1904. *New Mexico Mines and Minerals--World's Fair Edition*. The New Mexico Printing Company, Santa Fe. This book can be downloaded at [Googlebooks.com](https://www.googlebooks.com).

\*\* Holts, Candace L. 1972. Fayette A. Jones, mining engineer--a profile in diversity. *New Mexico Geology*: 53-54, 63.



Fig. 15-BLOWING GOLD FROM SAND. Photographed by F. A. Jones, December, 1903.

the Golden Rule group of mines is located, and which has had considerable production. Nearby are the Chance group, Emperor group, Little Nell group, '97 and '98 mines.

The estimated production of the camp to January 1, 1904, including both placer and lode claims is placed at \$6,750,000, principally gold.

**PITTSBURG DISTRICT.** This district lies immediately on the east side of the Rio Grande and embraces the Sierra de los Caballos, in Sierra county, northwest of Rincon. For many years the attention of prospectors and capitalists has been periodically attracted to the district, chiefly due to the existence of lead and copper found in many localities of the range.

Not until recently did the district come prominently before the public, when a great rush to the newly discovered placer fields was made. Some two years prior to the knowledge of the public of these gold fields, a Mexican by the name of Encarnacion Silva, made periodical visits to Hillsboro, some twenty-five miles away, and disposed of his gold dust and nuggets, and who persistently refused to disclose the locality from whence his source of wealth came.

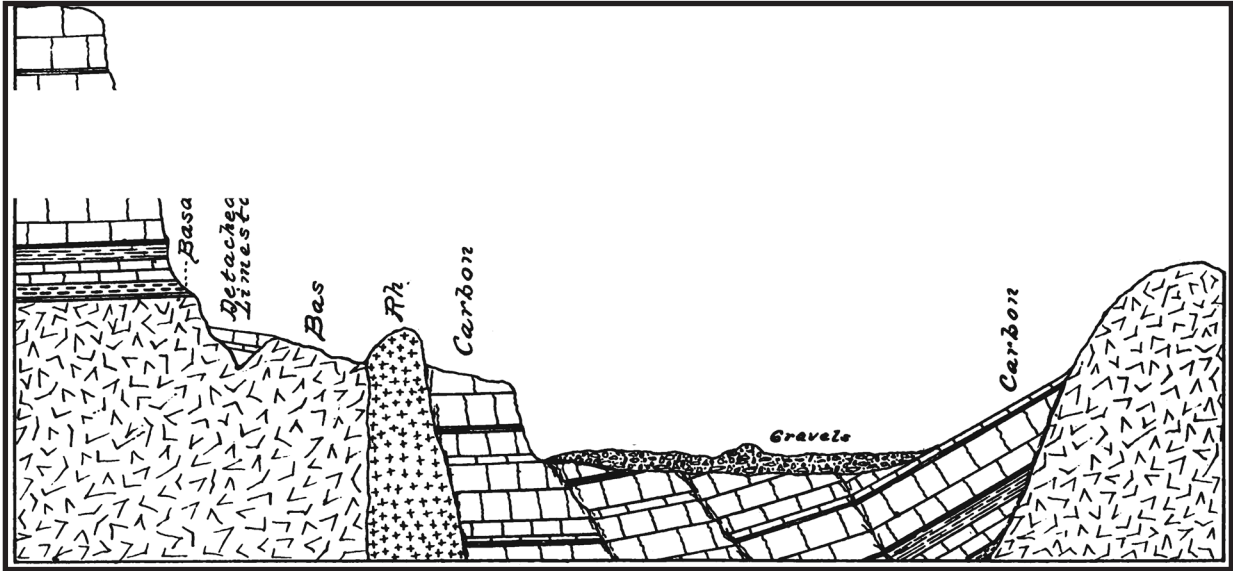
On one visit, however, to Hillsboro, this cunning native, due to an over indulgence in intoxicants, became talkative and the secret of his find became known; on this latter occasion he was accompanied by his cousin, Bernardo Silva, whom he had taken into his confidence. This was on Sunday night, November 22, 1903, when several persons started at once and rode through to the diggings in the night and were on the ground making locations early the following morning. It was not until this same morning of the 23rd that the news became generally known in Hillsboro, when a general stampede and exodus of the population of the village resulted.

Everything partook of the nature of an old fashion mining boom, similar to that in the early days. Excitement

are well defined and at times attain considerable width. The general strike of the lodes seems to converge in the direction of Las Animas peak. All of the principal properties, with but few exceptions, relocated on a ridge covering the parallel or radial veins as heretofore alluded.

Beginning at the west end of the ridge the principal claims occur in the following order, viz: Golden Era, Empire, Garfield and Butler, Richmond, El dorado, Bonanza, Morning Star, Snake, Moccasin, Opportunity, Ready Pay and the Wicks. The rich placers of Wicks gulch, and around Slap-jack hill evidently resulted from erosion of the lodes of the above mentioned claims. The erosion must have been very great, as the present topography of the country would indicate, and the enormous beds of gravel and debris in the direction of the Rio Grande would suggest. Beside gold, there are found some copper and lead ores carrying good values; also, the beautiful mineral endlichite is found on the eastern slope of the district. This latter deposit of rare mineral is in a contact-fissure, with a lime foot wall and a shale hanging wall. The contact is irregular, though very strong, extending a distance of nearly 4,000 feet. It is said that this is the largest body of Vanadium ore known in the world. The property is known as the S. J. Macy lode.

. . . A number of placer properties are being worked in a small way, generally by Mexicans, which produce on an average of \$450 per month. Some seven or eight miles further to the north and west is the Andrews postoffice, where



**Fig. 16-SECTION AT RIGHT ANGLES ACROSS APACHE CANYON, IN APACHE BASIN, ABOUT TWO MILES BACK AND NEARLY PARALLEL WITH THE RIO GRANDE.**

ran very high and it was claimed that the District Court, then in session at Hillsboro, adjourned and left for the golden Eldorado. The writer was on the ground, the middle part of the following week representing Albuquerque men, and on Saturday night December 8th, by the flame of the camp fire, was unanimously elected chairman to preside over the deliberations of that unique body of fortune hunters. From a spectacular standpoint, in which Winchesters and six shooters were in evidence, some of the crowd standing and others seated on boxes and empty beer kegs, the proceedings were rendered most impressive. Never was a more orderly or harmonious meeting held; every motion put and seconded was unanimously carried with a Stentorian shout coming from a thousand throats "I," making the very mountains reverberate with the sound, and which was echoed back in turn to the great valley of the Rio Grande from whence it came.

The placers seem to be confined to or near the Apache canyon and to the northern branches of the same. Only two gulches to the present time, May 1, 1904, have been found where gold exists in paying quantities; these are known as the Silva and Trujillo gulches, respectively. The former gulch is where Silva originally discovered the gold; the latter gulch was found to contain gold at the beginning of the excitement. The area of the pay gravel seems rather circumscribed, although development may materially enlarge the field. All the gold won from the sand and gravel at the time the writer visited the district, was done by means of blowing through a pipe-stem or small tube in the loose sand which covered bed rock, exposing the nuggets and particles of gold, that were afterward picked up with the fingers, or a small stick, moistened with the mouth at the end.

During the following spring a man by the name of H. O. Clark, from San Francisco, introduced a new gold washer which seems to be successful, handling about thirty tons of gravel per day. The new machine consists of a cylinder, three feet long and eighteen inches in diameter, surrounded by a revolving screen. There is a half circle bottom containing riffles about one-half inch deep and one inch in width in which the dirt drops after passing through the screen. The gravel that falls into the riffles is constantly agitated by steel fingers or wormers that separate the gold from the dirt. The values, it is said, are saved so closely that expert panners are unable to produce any colors from the tailings. A transverse fault nearly at right angles to the profound fault which formed the Rio Grande basin, seems to have been due to a fissure from which a great flow or dike of rhyolite had its egress and which gave Apache canyon its present trend.

Intimately connected with this rhyolite member at and along its contact, appears to be the source of the gold. This disturbance must have taken place at the beginning of the pleistocene, since the Tertiary gravel beds are tilted and have the same slope as the older series of rocks in the canyon; the throw must have been 2,000. It is evident that the gold did not come far as it is quite flaky; in one instance the writer saw a flake that had been rolled into a cornet, by some natural process.

The Marion mine is perhaps the most noted lode claim; it lies in the north end of the district. This property is



a copper proposition and has been a producer for several years. It is opened by a tunnel 700 feet long; the ore is chalcopyrite and chalcocite. To the north end of the district are situated the Rosa Lee and the Napoleon claims, two parallel lodes, which are quite promising.

Their veins have a strike approximately east and west and stand almost perpendicular. They are true fissures and break through the overlying carboniferous limestones; the gangue is a white quartz in which the ore occurs. Some beautiful cubical crystals of wulfenite are associated with the ore and adhered to the walls. The Washington group, Othelia and Iola are favorable copper prospects having a lime contact and are only partially developed.

At the south end of the district a short distance north of Rincon are some deposits of manganese. The ore occurs as psilomelane, and is of very high grade; the extent of the deposit has never been fully exploited. Some coal measures exist at and beyond the northeast end of the district, which have never been developed; much faulting seems to have occurred, which would render the beds expensive to work, provided the vein is sufficiently thick.

The mineralization of the Sierra de los Caballos, extends into the Sierra Fra Cristobal range immediately to the north, where but little prospecting in this latter range has ever been done.

**Iron Reef District.** This district lies on the west side of the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Palomas hot springs, in Sierra county. The two principal properties here are the Iron Reef and Meridian. Very little is doing in the district at the present writing. The ore is principally lead-silver; some gold is also found in the associated ores of the district.

**LAKE VALLEY DISTRICT.** One of the most remarkable bodies of silver ore ever encountered in New Mexico, was the Lake Valley deposit. In fact, the Bridal Chamber ore body has never been equaled in richness by any silver mine in the world. The Lake Valley mines were discovered by George W. Lufkin, a cowboy prospector, in August, 1878, who at that time had headquarters at Hillsboro. The discovery was purely accidental; the cowboy in round of duty, got off his horse to tighten the girth of his saddle and noticed a peculiar piece of stone, which he picked up and was

Os. of Silver	
Bridal Chamber	2,500,000
Thirty Slope	1,000,000
Emporia Incline	200,000
Bunk-house	300,000
Bella Chute	500,000
Twenty-five Cut	200,000
Apache and all others	300,000
Total	5,000,000

surprised at its heft. He had it assayed on suspicion that it might be ore. To his great astonishment, the piece of float ran several thousand ounces of silver to the ton. This piece of float was found near where the Bridal Chamber was afterwards opened up.

George W. Lufkin took in a partner by the name of Chris Watson; these two gentleman (both now dead) realized but little out of their find. It is claimed that Lufkin received only \$10.50 for his share; the property soon passing into other hands. The fame of this rich discovery soon spread and a rush for the new strike was made by every class of people. After some development was done on different locations, three companies absorbed all the best and promising claims. Those companies were the Sierra Grande, capitalized at \$2,000,000; the Sierra Bella, capitalized at \$1,000,000; and the Sierra Apache, capitalized at \$1,000,000; and all composed principally of Philadelphia capitalists.

Operations of the three companies were conducted for several years under the management of the Sierra Grande Company and it was under this management that the famous Bridal Chamber was found. A blacksmith by the name of John Leavitt (now dead) who had a lease on that particular property, discovered the Bridal Chamber and sold out his lease to the company for a few thousand dollars. It was on the very day of the discovery of this remarkable silver deposit—the Bridal Chamber—that the General Manager George Daly was killed by the Apache Indians about six miles out from camp in the early eighties.



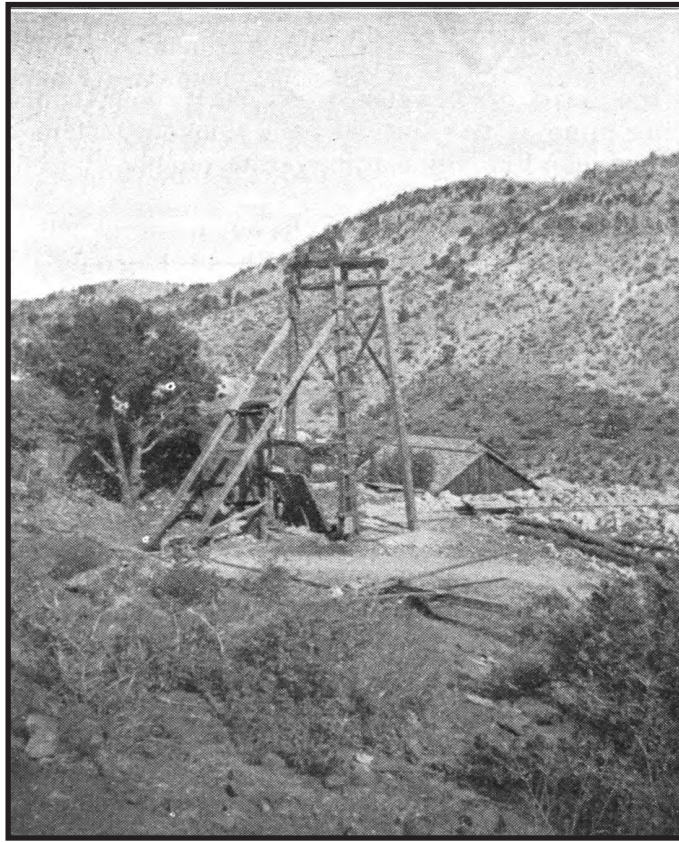


Fig. 17— LOG CABIN MINE, photographed by F. A. Jones, Dec, 1903.

The ore bodies are something similar to those of Leadville on account of their peculiarity of deposit in the nearly horizontal formations of limestone. Yet, the deposits can not be termed of blanket form, since they occur in beds or troughs which are due to the erosion of the blue limestone. The overhead or hanging wall formation is either a porphyrite or the crinoidal limestone.

The quartzite of the district extends north into the Hillsboro mining camp, about eighteen miles distant. There have been several theories propounded concerning the origin of this ore; but it is more than probable that the leaching out of the metallic sulphides and chlorides of silver from the porphyritic sheet is the true source. The ore is usually accompanied with quite a percentage of manganese and iron; and only occasionally is galena present. A variety of silver and other ores have been found in these mines; such as cerargyrite, stephanite, descloizite, vanadinite, endlichite, proustite, etc. Magnificent specimens of pyrolusite showing the crystallization have also been taken out.

These mines were operated for a period of about fifteen years by the Sierra Grande Company, closing down in August, 1893. In April, 1900, the the entire property was sold at a private sale to L. G. Fisher of New York City, who had been associated with the original companies and who organized in 1901 the Lake Valley Mines Company. New development began a little later on under the direction of John Hays Hammond, consulting engineer, with E. H. Bickford, general manager.

Considerable ore has been taken out and shipped under this new organization. The ore lies well down in the blue limestone, as was observed recently by the writer, and is of a mangano-ferruginous character, running low in silver values. This region is limited in extent, in so far as its mineralization is concerned. Every part of the district adjacent to the principal Lake Valley mines is covered by locations and the annual assessments regularly done.

A few of the more favorable locations are the Stone Cabin, Miles Standish, Teddy group and the Centennial State group.

Dr. F. M. Endlich, after whom the rare mineral Endlichite took its name, first exploited this property. The managers of the property under the old organization, after the death of George Daly, were: Walter A. Hadley, Ellis Clark, Robert Eastburn and Henry Schmidt. Professor Ellis Clark who had charge of the mines a number of years, wrote a valuable paper on this famous property which was read at the Virginia Beach meeting, February, 1894, before the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

The Lake Valley district contains three characteristic eruptive formations, viz: Rhyolite, porphyrite and a hornblende-andesite. These three eruptives are within a few hundred feet of where the principal ore bodies were found. In fact, the porphyrite lay immediately on much of the rich deposits, including the Bridal Chamber. The rhyolitic flow is perhaps the latest type of eruptives in the district, and composes what is locally known as porphyry hill which lies to the southwest of the main works. Monument Peak which is due east of the mines is composed of andesite. The total approximated thickness of the sedimentary formations at the Lake Valley mines is about 1,000 feet.

The lowest of the series is composed of quartzite and lime stone and regarded as Silurian. Then comes black and green shales, nodular limestone, blue limestone and crinoidal lime stone: this latter limestone is about 200 feet in thickness and represents nearly half the thickness of the lower Carboniferous at this point. The blue limestone is the receptacle in which the ore bodies have occurred.

**Macho District.** To the south of Lake Valley district in Sierra county, on and near Macho creek, several prospects exist in what is known as the Macho district. Lead and silver are the principal minerals; although, it is probable that deposits of manganese of considerable importance may be developed. The geological characteristics here are much the same as at Lake Valley. The underlying lime stones are entirely covered by vast sheets of andesites and trachytes, through which the principal veins outcrop. Abundance of water exists near the surface which can be developed for mining purposes. The Dude mine is more developed than the others at this point. The vein is a true fissure with a gangue of flinty quartz which carries sulphides and some carbonates of lead, with a little silver and gold.

Lying immediately across the draw to the north of the Dude is the Hudson group of lead properties. This latter property is, indeed, very promising and by proper development would make a good producer. Cerussite predominates, which would point to the association of this mineral with the lime formations below. Many beautiful crystals of wulfenite are mingled with the vein matter.

About eight hundred feet to the west of the Dude is the Jim Crow manganese location, which was made in April, 1903, by S. W. Sanders, and the writer, F. A. Jones. Very little work has been done on the property, yet the indications point to quite a deposit of manganese when properly developed; the ore is pyrolusite, associated with calc-spar. The vein breaks through a decomposed andesite covering.

**Bromide No. 1. (Tierra Blanca) District.** This mining section of Sierra county, New Mexico, took its name from the white capped hills or low mountains which are covered by a rhyolite flow, signifying white earth; it lies to the northwest of Lake Valley about fifteen miles, in the foot hills on the eastern slope of the Mimbres range of mountains.

The name of the district proper was given it due to some high grade silver bromide found there in the early eighties of the past century. The ore and its occurrence here is a counterpart of what is found about Kingston, some ten miles to the northwest.

High grade chlorides and sulphides of silver, with frequent occurrence of native silver, found in and near the contact of lime and porphyry or lime and shale, represent the prevailing characteristic mineralization of the district. Occasionally pockets carrying phenomenally high values in gold are encountered; these appear to be always near or at the surface, in association with quartzite and porphyry. This latter feature was the case at the Log Cabin mine where many thousands of dollars in gold were taken out at the grass roots, not exceeding a depth of ten feet.

The remarks applying to the camp of Kingston, concerning the geology of the ore deposits there will in a general way apply here.

Near the head of Trujillo creek is the most prominent producing mine of the district—the Lookout. The lode is a contact between limestone and granite-porphyry and carries sylvanite. Some shipments have proven to be phenomenally rich in gold and silver values. Most of this high grade ore came from a comparatively superficial depth. The property belongs to two of the old timers, Col. Parker and J. M. Webster.

The Log Cabin mine is also, one of the best known properties in Sierra county and is at present producing; although, not however, to the extent that it formerly did.

Many other properties of the district are fairly well developed; among which the Tierra Blanca group, the Midnight and the Bell are the most prominent.

#### **BLACK RANGE NOS. 1 AND 2 DISTRICTS.**

All that portion of the country on the east slope of the Black Range of mountains lying between Kingston on the south and Grafton to the north, was in the early days denominated as the Black Range mining district. This large area, fifty miles north and south and from ten to twenty miles east and west, embraced a number of mining camps and districts; all of which are now usually spoken, of as the Black Range.

The term “Black Range” was adopted by the early explorers from the fact that these lofty mountains, when viewed from a distance, presented a very dark or black appearance, due to the heavy growth of pinon and pine timber which covers the surface. Many traditions, superstitions and perils pertaining to pioneer life in the great southwest, are historically interwoven in a woof inseparable from the black band which impresses its inky form in the distant horizon.

**Kingston Camp.** The excitement about Hillsboro in its early days led to the discovery of silver in the Kingston camp. There were two parties of prospectors, who first entered the Black Range district and who accidentally met at the present site of Kingston; this was in the latter part of October, 1880. Bob Forbes, Frank Pitcher, Dan Cameron, Jim W. Wilson and H. W. Elliott constituted the first party; the second party was composed of Messrs. Chapman, Heard and Phillips. To the honor of the second party mentioned, belongs the discovery of silver in the Black Range district at the Kingston camp.

The Iron King and Empire were the two first locations and were made by Phillips and Elliott; they afterward cast lots to determine which claim each should take. Phillips drew the Empire, consequently the Iron King fell to Elliott.

Next located was the Eclipse by the Phillips party; then the Brush Heap by a late arrival having the name of Johnson, and afterward the Blackeyed Susan by Forbes and Elliott. Dan Dugan, famous as one of the original discoverers of gold at Hillsboro, with three partners located the Lady Franklin, the Crazy Horse and others. In the spring of 1881 the mining district was organized and named the Black Range.

Several of the old timers who landed in the camp about the time the district was organized, still reside there. Col. John Logan and Col. A. W. Harris in the spring of 1881 (the latter still a resident of the camp) have the distinction of being the first persons who rode into Kingston in a vehicle (an old ambulance); they coming from Hillsboro, found it necessary to cut away the brush and trees at numerous places along the trail in order that their ambulance might pass.

It was at Kingston that the prospector sallied forth a poor man in the morning, returning a millionaire in the afternoon, for he had "struck it rich". Here fortunes grew in a single day to vanish as quickly by games of chance, under the shadow of the pines, at night. The clinking of glasses, in drinking to the health and good luck of a "pard" and the dizzy whirl in the dance hall under the flaring and flickering flames of pine knots and tallow candles, were vivid scenes of the stirring times in the "good old days" of the early eighties.

The central axis or core of the Black Range of mountains extends approximately north and south and is composed of granites, gneisses and quartzites, flanked with the massive limestones and shales of the Carboniferous period. It is probable that some of the lower series of rocks here, as at Lake Valley and Sierra Blanca, may belong to the Silurian and Devonian systems. The sedimentaries dip away from the axis of the range on either side at an angle of about 25°. Other disturbances occurred subsequent to the primary orogenic upthrust of the granite core, dislocating, warping, cutting and partly covering the great sedimentary series with dikes and eruptive sheets of porphyries. The ore deposits of Kingston in the Black Range, lie at or near the contact of the thick Carboniferous limestones and a blue black shale. Some of these limestones are fossiliferous to a certain extent, indicating their geological horizon; the shales are several hundred feet in thickness. These stratifications dip to the east conformably with the basal quartzite. Still farther to the east beyond the mineralized zone appear sandstones and shales of a later period, which in turn disappear under still more recent rocks of an eruptive character.

Usually the ore deposits occur in the cavernous receptacles previously formed in the limestone and rarely in the true contact itself. During a recent visit by the writer to the Illinois mine, which is a typical representation of the camp, examination bore out the fact that wherever any connection leading from a limestone cavern with the shale contact, even though it be as small as the blade of a knife, mineralization occurred; on the contrary where no such communication with the contact was found, such isolated limestone chambers were destitute of ore values. This rule may be accepted as general through out the Kingston camp; in the Bromide (Tierra Blanca) district to the southeast, and in the Palomas district to the north. Had the mine operators observed this fact and followed the contact to where a communication into the limestone seemed to reach and then to have drifted on this opening, much of the uncertainty of finding an ore chamber would have been eliminated. On the contrary, enormous amounts of money were expended in driving long tunnels and drifts at random in the solid lime rock, without any results, excepting some discoveries made by sheer chance.

Concerning the theory of ore deposits in this camp and in other parts of the Black Range, there seems to be only one tenable exegesis, and that is deposition by descending waters. Since the limestone forms the foot wall, all descending waters would naturally reach it as it penetrated the shales at and near the contact; the openings in the limestone leading to the cavernous receptacles, would thus be in a favorable position to receive the mineralized solutions. Much of the gangue matter of the ore is evidently derived from the overlying shales, and has been deposited in the descent of the water, due to gravity. The largest and richest ore bodies have been found near the surface. A recapitulation of these observations would tend to show that deposition took place from above, by the action of circulating descending waters, which became mineralized in their passage through the overlying shales. It, therefore, appears more than probable that the source of the silver ores of the Kingston camp, and many other places in the Black Range, is from the black shales of the Carboniferous rock system.

Kingston camp holds the record of New Mexico in the production of silver. From the time of its discovery to January 1, 1904, the estimated production is \$6,250,000, nearly all of which is silver. At the present time but little is being done: the production having gradually declined, since the demonitization of silver, until it is practically nothing at this writing.

The famous producers of the camp, with a number of the more prominent prospects, are here given: Lady Franklin, Brush Heap, Illinois, Saratoga, Templar, Virginius, Calamity Jane, Superior, Monaska group, Blackeyed Susan, Andy Johnson, Old Savage, Keystone, Comet, Black Colt, Bonanza and Teddy group; the latter locations were made recently.



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