

The story of this land began much earlier than the settling of the west. However, these narratives and pictures are about the Cloh Chin Toh Ranch and documents the origins of Timberlake beginning in the 1800s.

Savoia Cemetery and the Savoia Settlement



Mormon missionaries to the Zuni and Navajo Indians were the first to settle Timberlake around December of 1876. They called this place Savoia (also spelled Savoya). It is notable that the settlement at Savoia preceded any of the white settlements in Western New Mexico like Farmington, and railroad towns, Gallup and Grants. To the Mexicans, Timberlake was called Cebolla. Savoya/Savoia is the anglicized spelling of the Spanish word Cebolla meaning onion and correlates with Tloh Cin Toh (Cloh Chin Toh) which means “stinking grass” (wild onion) in the Navajo language.

On the advice of one of the traveling missionaries, 140 more men, women and children left their homes in Arkansas to come to Savoia. They were said to be fleeing persecution and the polygamy laws that were breaking up families. As they passed by Albuquerque, one family learned too late that the house they had stayed in there had sheltered people with smallpox. With the disease and the cold winter of 1877-78, Savoia’s inhabitants were nearly wiped out. At least twelve of Savoia’s smallpox victims are buried in the cemetery. The thirteenth grave is that of Peggy Hamblin, daughter of Duane Hamblin.

The Zunis were not spared from the disease as a Mormon missionary (Llewelyn Harris) documented that he personally administered to 406 in one day.

Once healthy again, some of the Mormons moved on to Gila, Duncan and Graham, Arizona. The Savoia settlement survived for a few more years. Several resettled in Ramah and surrounding areas.

SAVOIA PIONEER CEMETERY

In this valley, in 1877, a missionary outpost was established by a few pioneer families under the direction of Bishop John Hunt and two Mormon elders, Ernst Tietjen and Luther Burnham, who were sent by Brigham Young as missionaries to the Navajo and Zuni Indians.

In the fall of that year, a wagon train, consisting of Latter-day Saint converts from Georgia, Alabama, and Arkansas, led by Nelson P. Beebe, arrived in the valley. These emigrants, calling themselves "The Arkansas Travelers," were on their way to Mormon settlements on the Little Colorado River.

At this time, there was an outbreak of small pox, and 13 people died and were buried at this site. Some of them remain unidentified.

During this cold, harsh winter of 1877-78, these hardy pioneers showed great courage and devotion in caring for the sick and dying in their small community. The Indians also brought food and dropped it in the snow outside the village to help the group survive.

The three old stones are all that remain of the original markers. Descendents of some of the people buried here have placed the newer stones and installed the wrought iron fence in loving gratitude for the faith and sacrifices of their ancestors.



Duane Hamblin Circa 1901



Duane Hamblin was born 1862 - one of twelve children born to Isaiah and Daphne Hamblin. Three of his brothers were of some fame in the "Wild West". William Haynes was known as 'Gunlock' Hamblin because he was a very good gun mechanic. Gunlock, Utah, is named after him. Jacob Hamblin was a famous Indian scout. Fredrick Hamblin was one of the original settlers of Alpine, Arizona.

Duane Hamblin and his family were sent by the Mormon Church to Alpine, Arizona where they helped build a fort for protection against the Indians and the New Mexicans who were stealing their stock. He built his first home at Nutrioso and according to his daughter, "He always had a good team, horses, a few cows, wagon and farm implements...." Duane met Sue Greer in Eager at a church dancer and her father gave her an oak churn for a wedding gift. She became the best butter maker in the State of Arizona. Duane hauled freight from Albuquerque to Flagstaff and, in 1897 moved to a ranch in Greer, Arizona.



In 1901 the Arizona Rangers were organized and Duane became one of only twelve. According to the first Captain Burton Mossman, the organization was strictly nonpolitical and recruiting enlistments depended on their records as efficient officers, good shots and good frontiersmen, well acquainted with the country. During the first year, 125 arrests were made of actual criminals." Duane and another member, Carlos Tafolla, reinforced by four St. Johns cattlemen, chased the Jack Smith of outlaws into the Black River country south of Springerville. The outlaws were headed for Mexico with a band of stolen horses and were surprised while in camp. After an apparent surrender, they dodged behind trees and opened fire. Tafolla and a cattleman named Maxwell were killed and two of the outlaws wounded. Captain Mossman, with three more rangers soon were on the trail but the gang, stealing fresh horses, managed to escape in the snow of the New Mexican mountains." The gang was never active again and Duane served two years in the rangers.

In 1912 Duane Hamblin bought a ranch above Ramah Lake from Col. E.A. Carr and then built a home. Their home was called "The House by the Road Side". Everyone was welcomed and treated as one of the family. *This home is the current Timberlake community Center Ranch House without the adobe room additions that were added in the 40's.* After a period of time, Carr needed someone to manage his ranch and so he formed a partnership with him in which he would deed his section of land back into Carr and Hamblin Cattle Company and Hamblin would manage the ranch, run the cattle, and supervise the farming while Carr handled the sale of the cattle. Apparently Hamblin became concerned with Carr's debt, so he withdrew from the partnership and took his land back. A period of time later he sold his land back to Carr but kept the cattle. In 1931 the family moved to St. Johns, Arizona, and he died in his home June 27, 1936. Sue joined him 16 years later.

Duane Hamblin was a hard worker in the Church in Ramah and was Bishop from 1914-1916. His daughter wrote, "Although he had no college degree, his knowledge of human psychology, his tender thoughtfulness in dealing with his fellow man far exceeded anything. He was always the same at home as he was abroad an example in dignity, generosity and loving kindness. He never had time for himself. He was never known to speak a cross word to his wife. " He was given the great gift of healing. On his deathbed he said, "Never deny the gospel, it is true."

Hand Written Lumber Order



During renovation of the Ranch House in July of 2009, an aged pale yellow paper floated to the ground while removing rotting rafter coverings between the kitchen door and Rock Room addition. It appears to have been attached to the hidden rafters for a very long time. Even though there are still a few words/numbers that remain illegible, the document speaks for itself. It was written by Duane Hamblin in May of 1918 and appears to be about the purchase of building materials.

Ramah NM

May 18, 1918

Dear Sir,

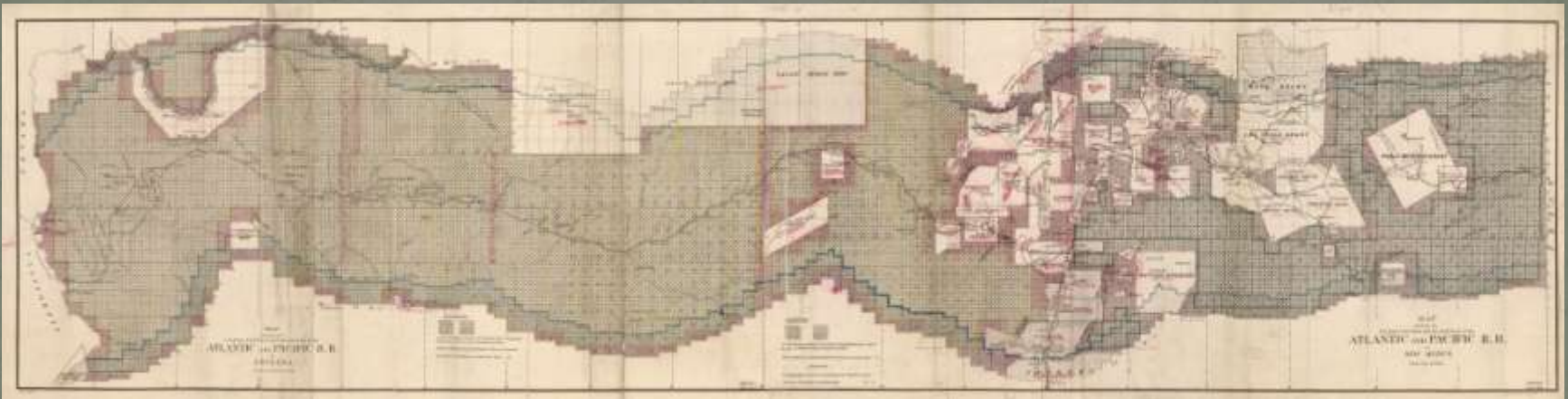
Am sending for Premium 82060S – given for selling 25 dozen – if I have not enough coming to me to receive this I will gladly send money to finish paying.

Truly,

D.V.Hamblin

Ramah Box 34, New Mexico

Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Land Grant



In July 1866, Congress passed a law incorporating the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad under control of Fremont and Associates. The company was given the power to build near the 35th parallel from Springfield, Missouri west to the Pacific. In exchange for its completion by 1878, the railroad would receive land grants along its route.

The Pacific Railroad Act of 1864 granted twenty (20) miles of alternating sections (checkerboard pattern) on either side of the tracks and full rights to all the minerals underneath all that land in exchange for completion of railroads across the southwest. NOTE: The government retained even numbered sections and railroad would obtain odd numbered sections – hence, the checkerboard pattern. When railroads traversed Indian lands, the government gave them an extra ten (10) miles called “indemnity strip”.

NOTE: This part of history explains the section individual Timberlake landowner Warranty Deeds which states, “SUBJECT TO Reservation of Easements contained in the Warranty Deed from the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company, to Cibola Cattle Company recorded November 8, 1890.

E.A. Carr and the BOX S RANCH



In 1882, a military group started ranching operation from Ft. Wingate. In 1883, Col. Luther Bradley, James Fornance, and Thomas Mumford formed the Cebolla Cattle Company, also known as the Box S Ranch. At a later date the name was changed to the Cibola Cattle Company. Their headquarters were just a couple of miles from the spring at Savoia. The operation became something of land-grabbing scheme for which New Mexico was so famous. Soldiers at the fort could homestead the land without living on it; afterwards they could and did sell it to the Cattle Company. In 1884, Col. E.A. Carr was transferred from Arizona to Fort Wingate. November 1866 the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad agreed to sell a large chunk of land (65 sections – 41,600 acres in a checkerboard pattern) to the Cebolla Cattle Company. The price was fifty cents per acre. The cattle company then seized a wonderful opportunity and they sent the following eviction message.

NOTICE

To the people living on Section 35 of Township 11 North Range 16 West. You are hereby notified that all settlers on Section 35 are requested to vacate the land by the 15th of March 1889 (this being one of the railroad sections purchased from the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad by the Cebolla Cattle Company in 1886). It may be well to remind you that any improvements on the land in the way of houses, stables, corrals, fences, etc., you are, according to the law, prohibited from removing or destroying. The company does not wish to sell or lease this land. The rent for the use of the land in the last few years will be a subject for further consideration. (Signed) The Cebolla Cattle Company, by E.A. Carr, president. Clark M. Carr secretary. Wingate NM Jan. 1, 1889

The Cattle Company certainly intended to drive the settlers out, for they set an "exorbitant" price, \$10/acre, for land, twenty times what they had paid for it, but now they had them "over a barrel," and they pressed their advantage. The Church in Salt Lake City agreed to pay the price to secure the town of Ramah. The Box S Company did very well as the money from this one section paid for one third of the entire ranch.

With ownership of these sections the company controlled the alternate sections. The ranch now bordered on the Zuni Reservation, included the town site of Ramah, and extended to the southern edge of the Ft. Wingate military reservation (Two miles south of McGaffey). Based on an interview with Clark M. Carr, the following was written: "Col. E.A. Carr dominated the Cebolla Cattle Company, eventually taking complete control. The stock holders were also army people, Capt. Washington Matthews serving as president for a time. Apparently the major ranching began while Col. Carr was stationed at Ft. Bayard, NM but this did not prevent this exercising active direction through his son Clark, who served as manager. Evidently Col. Carr persuaded Gen John Schofield to help pay for the land until the latter became alarmed at evidence of poor management. The Box S never proved highly profitable and with the depression in 1893 it only got worse. Finally, in 1894, Schofield had a showdown with Carr over control, General Schofield's sons trying to throw the concern into bankruptcy to win domination. Col. Carr outmaneuvered them and five years later used this very technique to buy the company at a sheriff's sale in April 1899. He was determined to leave the ranch to his wife for her old age.

Col. Carr's last Indian campaign occurred in December 1890, when he took part in the sad events leading to the Wounded Knee Massacre in South Dakota. He was in the field helping to restore order in Wyoming in the wake of the Johnson County War when word came of his promotion to brigadier general, effective in July 1892. Carr and his wife moved back east to Washington, D.C., where they maintained a residence after his retirement in February 1893. Carr died in Washington on December 2, 1910, and was buried in the cemetery at his alma mater, West Point.



**This is all that remains of the Box S
Headquarters north of Timberlake Ranch.
One can still see that the structure had four
rooms with a central fireplace.**

Mary Carr (widow of Gen. E.A. Carr) sells Timberlake Area for \$10 to Washington Investment Co. on April 27, 1915

WARRANT I NED RECORD.

NEW YORK: HARRIS & HARRIS, PRINTERS.

INDEXED

FBI

Mary P. M. Carr

TO

Washington Investment
Company

State of New Mexico, County of McKinley, ss.

I, Clerk of the Court, do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

Charles W. Harris
Clerk of the Court
Harris & Harris, Printers

This Indenture, made this 1st day of April, 1914, in the presence of one John W. Harris, Clerk of the Court, do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

WITNESSETH, that the said part, by of the said part, be and is constituted by the one of

John W. Harris

CLERK OF THE COURT

I, Clerk of the Court, do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

do hereby certify that the within and filed for record on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1914, at St. Albans, N. H., and duly recorded in Book No. 107, Page 107.

Warranty Deed records show that Mary Carr, widow of EA Carr, sold the ranch to Washington Investment Company in Albuquerque, NM on April 27, 1915 for \$10. It was filed for record on June 1, 1920 in McKinley Co. This included 10 sections in Township 11N Range 16 W and 10 sections in Township 10N Range 16 W. (Section contains 640 acres and is one mile by one mile; Township contains 36 sections and is six miles by six miles and measure east and west; Range is assigned to a township by measuring north and south of the Principal Meridian)

Special Master's Deed

COUNTY OF BERNALILLO		SPECIAL MASTER'S DEED	
This deed is made in the County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico, this fifth day of April, 1925.		THIS INSTRUMENT, made this fifth day of April, nineteen hundred and twenty-four, between Deane E. Bailey, as special master, party of the first part, and First Savings Bank & Trust Company of Albuquerque, N. M., a corporation organized under the laws of New Mexico with its principal place of business in the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, party of the second part, witnesses:	
That the said Deane E. Bailey, as special master, do hereby certify that the said First Savings Bank & Trust Company of Albuquerque, N. M., is a corporation organized under the laws of New Mexico with its principal place of business in the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, party of the second part, witnesses:		Whereas said Deane E. Bailey, in a certain cause pending in the district court of Bernalillo county, New Mexico, versus First National Bank of Albuquerque, N. M., as plaintiff, and Washington Investment Company et al., were defendants, being cause No. 14203 in the docket of said court, a decree was duly entered on the 25th day of November 1923 for the foreclosure and sale of the real estate herein-after described, which said decree was modified by judgment dated March 4, 1924;	
And whereas the undersigned Deane E. Bailey was in and by said judgment and decree duly appointed as special master to make sale of the real estate herein-after described;		And whereas the said Deane E. Bailey in pursuance of the judgment and decree of said court and in accordance with law gave due notice of the time, date and place of sale, together with a description of the property to be sold, by publication in the Albuquerque Herald, a newspaper published in the English language in the city of Albuquerque, N. M., and of general circulation in said state, for four consecutive weeks, being on the 19th, 26th, 3rd and 10th days of March, 1924; all of which will more fully appear from the proof of publication on file in said cause;	
And whereas the said special master, at the time and place fixed in said notice of sale, did offer said real estate at public auction, to the highest and best bidder for cash, and did then and there receive and sell said real estate to First Savings Bank & Trust Company of Albuquerque, N. M., for the sum of twenty-one thousand, six hundred and fifty dollars;		And whereas said special master thereupon reported said sale to the court and the court after reading said report and being fully advised in the premises did first vote said sale in all respects fair and regular and in accordance with law and said judgment and decree of the court and did then and there confirm and approve said sale and the proceeds thereon, and order and direct said special master to execute and deliver to said purchaser a good and sufficient deed for said real estate;	
Now, therefore, in consideration of the premises and of the sum of twenty-one thousand, six hundred and fifty dollars or money and paid by said First Savings Bank & Trust Company of Albuquerque, N. M., the following real estate situate in the counties of Valencia, Bernalillo and Bernalillo, to-wit:		All of section five; the undivided one-half of sections seven, seventeen, nineteen, twenty-nine and thirty-one, township ten north, range fifteen west, Valencia County, New Mexico;	
Also the undivided one-half of sections one, eleven, thirteen, fifteen, twenty-one, twenty-three, twenty-five, twenty-seven, thirty-three and thirty-five of township ten north, range sixteen west, Bernalillo County, New Mexico;		Also sections five, seven, eleven, seventeen, twenty-nine and thirty-one of township eleven north, range fifteen west, Valencia County, N. M.;	
Also all of sections one, three, nine, eleven, thirteen, fifteen, twenty-one, twenty-three, twenty-five, twenty-seven, thirty-three and thirty-five of township ten north, range sixteen west, Bernalillo County, N. M.;		Also the north-east quarter of section twelve, township twelve north, range sixteen west, Bernalillo County, N. M.;	
Also the following real estate situate in the county of Bernalillo, state of New Mexico to-wit: lot one of Block 107 of the Eastern Addition, formerly E. T. Arnold Addition No. 2, as the same is shown and designated on the map of said addition;		Also the following real estate situate in the county of Bernalillo, state of New Mexico to-wit: the north-east quarter of the south-east quarter and the south-west quarter of section eight, township nine north, range three east, containing two hundred acres of land;	
Together with all the right, title and interest of the parties in the said real estate and the said party of the first part might or could convey by reason of the premises.		To have and to hold unto the said party of the second part its successors and heirs forever.	
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said party of the first part has heretofore set his hand and seal the day and year first-above written.		Deane E. Bailey Special Master (seal)	

Record shows that a foreclosure and sale was ordered by the district court of Bernalillo County, NM on November 16, 1923 and modified on March 4, 1924 against Washington Investment Company and sold to First Savings Bank & Trust Company of Albuquerque, NM for \$21,650. This transaction was filed for record in McKinley County Sept. 23, 1925.

Quitclaim Deed

FIRST OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF ALBUQUERQUE		QUITCLAIM DEED.	
First ye record in the Book & page:			
No. 11, Page 11.			
A. B. SMITH, of the County of Albuquerque, N. M., and recorded to book.			
of books.			
P. E. CRIGAN			
Deputy Clerk			
By A. B. SMITH			
Deputy			
THIS INSTRUMENT, made this twenty-fourth day of December, A. D. 1924, between FIRST SAVING BANK & TRUST COMPANY OF ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., a corporation organized under the laws of New Mexico, with its principal place of business in the city of Albuquerque, county of Bernalillo, N. M., party of the first part, and the First National Bank of Albuquerque, N. M., a corporation organized under the banking laws of the United States, with its principal place of business in the city of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, N. M., party of the second part, do hereby:			
That the party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of one dollar in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, does hereby release, release and quitclaim unto the party of the second part, its successors and assigns, the following real estate situated in the counties of Valencia, Bernalillo and Bernalillo, to-wit:			
All of section five, the undivided one-half of sections seven, seventeen, eighteen, twenty-nine and thirty-one, township ten north, range fifteen west, Valencia County, New Mexico.			
Also the undivided one-half of sections two, eleven, thirteen, fifteen, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-five, twenty-seven, thirty-three and thirty-five, of Township ten North, range sixteen west, McKinley County, New Mexico.			
Also sections five, seven, seventeen, twenty-nine and thirty-one of township eleven north, range fifteen west, Valencia County, New Mexico.			
Also all of sections one, three, five, eleven, thirteen, fifteen, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-five, twenty-seven, thirty-three and thirty-five, of township eleven north, range sixteen west, McKinley County, New Mexico.			
Also the north-east quarter of section twelve, township twelve north range sixteen west McKinley County, New Mexico.			
Also the following real estate situated in the County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico to-wit: Lot one of block "A" of the Santa Fe Addition, Survey No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.			
Also the following real estate situated in the County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico to-wit: Lot one of block "A" of the Santa Fe Addition, Survey No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.			
Together with all the right, title and interest of the said parties of the first part, either in law or in equity.			
TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto the said party of the second part, its successors and assigns forever.			
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said party of the first part has caused this instrument to be executed in its corporate name, by its President, attested by its Secretary, and its corporate seal to be hereunto set and past first above written.			
FIRST SAVING BANK & TRUST COMPANY OF ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., By J. M. Reynolds President.			
Attest: J. M. Reynolds Secretary			
STATE OF NEW MEXICO : : ss. COUNTY OF BERNALILLO : On this 24th day of December, A. D. 1924, before me, a Notary Public within and for said county appeared J. M. Reynolds, to me personally known, who being by me first duly sworn did say that he is the President of First Saving Bank & Trust Company of Albuquerque, N. M., and that the seal affixed to the foregoing instrument is the corporate seal of said corporation, and that said instrument was signed and sealed in behalf of said corporation, by authority of its board of directors; and said J. M. Reynolds acknowledged said instrument to be the free act and deed of said corporation.			
IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the day and year last above written.			
By commission expires 1/15/1927			

Filed in McKinley County on February 3, 1926 documents that First Saving Bank & Trust Company of Albuquerque transferred all the sections to First National Bank of Albuquerque for the sum of \$1.

Warranty Deed to L.L. Dent

(If new deed) No. 4117
 JURY OF BUREAU
 Filed for record in the Office of the
 County Clerk of New Mexico
 A.B. 1914 & B. 1914 A.
 and recorded in book 10
 at 10:00 o'clock
 Eva Ellen Smith
 My Office, Esmeralda, N.M.
 My Office, Esmeralda, N.M.

WARRANTY DEED
 WHEREAS
 THE UNDERSIGNED, made this 26th day of February, 1926,
 between the FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO,
 a corporation, party of the first part, and L. L. DENT, party
 of the second part,
 WITNESSETH:
 That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration
 of the sum of Fifteen Thousand, Seven Hundred Twenty Dollars,
 lawful money of the United States, to it in hand paid by the
 said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby
 acknowledged, has granted, conveyed, sold, released, conveyed,
 released and confirmed and by these presents does grant, bargain,
 sell, remise, convey, release and confirm unto the said party of the second part, his heirs
 and assigns, forever, all of that real estate situate in the Counties of Valencia and
 McKinley, State of New Mexico and more particularly described as follows:
 Sections 8, 9, 17, and also 21 in Township
 Eleven North, Range 11 East, Section 18
 T. 11 N. R. 11 E. S. 18, all in Valencia County,
 Sections 1, 3, 9, 11, 13, 23, 25, 26, 28,
 29, and 30 in Township 11 North, Range 11
 East, S. 11 E. S. 11 E.
 The South half Southeast Quarter, Section
 24, Township 11, North Range 10 East.
 The Northwest Quarter of Section 12, Town-
 ship Twelve North, Range 10 East, S. 12
 All in McKinley County, New Mexico.
 Together with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereto
 belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the rents, issues and profits thereof.
 TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the said premises together with the appurtenances
 unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, forever.
 And the said party of the first part, for its successors and assigns, covenants
 and agrees to and with the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that
 at the time of conveying and delivery of these presents, it is well seized of the above
 surveyed premises, of a good, sure, perfect, absolute and indefeasible estate in fee
 simple and has good right, full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell and
 convey the same in manner and form aforesaid, and that the same is free and clear from
 all taxes and other debts, mortgages, liens, encumbrances and incumbrances of
 what kind and nature soever; and the above described premises in the quiet and peaceable
 possession of the party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against all and
 every person or persons, lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof, the
 said party of the first part shall and will warrant and forever defend.
 Subject, however, to a certain water contract now outstanding from the party of the
 first part to McCarty Company, covering Section 8, Township 11 North, Range 10 East.
 Also subject to a certain lease to John Irwin, which said lease expires April 1,
 1926.
 IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said party of the first part has caused this instrument to
 be executed in its corporate name, by its President, attested by its Cashier, and its
 corporate seal to be affixed, the day and year first-above written.
 (SEAL)
 FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ALBUQUERQUE,
 NEW MEXICO
 (Seal)
 J. M. Reynolds
 President.
 Attested
 E. A. Smith
 Cashier.
 STATE OF NEW MEXICO :
 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO :
 On this 26th day of February, 1926, before me a Notary Public within and for said
 County, appeared J. M. Reynolds to me personally known, who being by me first duly sworn
 did say that he is the President of the First National Bank of Albuquerque, New Mexico,
 and that the seal affixed to the foregoing instrument is the corporate seal of said
 corporation, and that said instrument was signed and sealed in behalf of said corporation
 by authority of its Board of Directors and said J. M. Reynolds acknowledged said in-
 strument to be the free act and deed of said corporation.
 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the day and year
 last-above written.
 J. M. Reynolds
 Notary Public
 My commission expires at 2/25/1927

February 26, 1926

First National Bank of
 Albuquerque sold to L.L.
 Dent eighteen sections in
 Timberlake area for the sum
 of \$15,720. The deed was
 not filed in McKinley County
 until November 2, 1931.

Louis L Dent and the Cloh Chin Toh Ranch



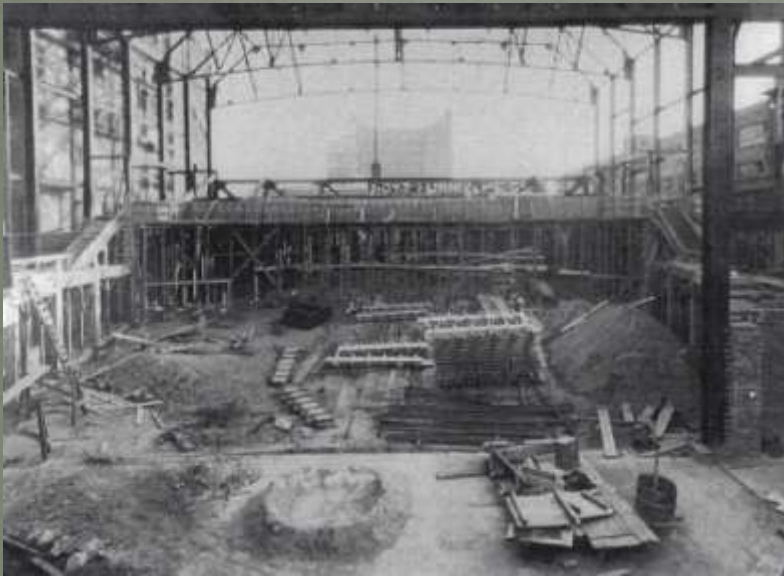
The Dent Ranch and also known as the Cloh Chin Toh Ranch was in operation for 42 years. Most of the stories and significant changes occurred in this time period.

Who was Louis L Dent?

Mr. Dent is mentioned extensively in Chapter 8 of the book Showtime! From Opera Houses to Picture Palaces in El Paso by Cynthia Farah Haines. "In the early 1920s, C. J. Musselman and Louis L. Dent of Dallas established a statewide chain of movie theaters. In addition to buying theaters, they entered into local partnerships and soon had a circuit that operated from Paris, Texas, to El Paso and from the Rio Grande Valley to Amarillo. In 1926, Musselman sold his ownership in the chain, and the circuit became Dent Theaters, Inc. Realizing the potential value of building a modern motion picture theater to accommodate the new talking pictures, Dent began looking for property in El Paso.

In February of 1927, Louis L. Dent, Inc. bought land in the center of the business district of El Paso at Pioneer Plaza where four major streets converged for \$287,000. Dent owned the principal movie theaters in El Paso: the Ellanay, Palace, Wigwam, and Grecian, and was leasing the Texas Grand.

In 1928 Louis Dent began construction of an atmospheric theater in El Paso specifically for talking pictures. Built during 1929 and 1930 in the midst of the Depression at a cost of \$1 million, the Plaza Theatre was heralded as the southwest's most perfect theater. A 3000-seat multi-use theater was intended to accommodate road shows and grand opera, but primarily motion pictures. The front page of the February 14, 1927, *El Paso Times* featured the headline "\$1,000,000 For Pioneer Plaza." In the article Dent proclaimed, "El Paso has been good to me and I am going to put up something everybody will be proud of." To achieve his dream, Louis Dent contracted with H.T. Ponsford & Sons to build a theater unlike anything anyone had heard of before. Architect W. Scott Dunne prepared the Spanish Colonial architectural style and C.A. getting Construction Company erected this unique building, beginning construction of the Plaza Theater in 1929.



Plaza Theater under construction, 1929.

In August 1929, while the Plaza was under construction, Louis L. Dent announced that Paramount-Famous Pictures-Lasky Corporation had become the sole owner of Dent Theaters. Paramount-Publix, a distribution subsidiary and run by Sam Katz in New York City, would assume operation of all Dent's theaters in El Paso: The Ellanay, Palace, Wigwam, American and the Plaza, which was still under construction.

In a telegram sent to the *El Paso Herald*, Dent stated, "Texas and especially El Paso have been good to me and my company. My chief regret is that I will not personally be involved in the completion of the visible expression of our gratitude in the new Plaza Theatre



Facade of the Plaza Theater

From Sept. 12, 1930 when the Plaza Theater first opened its doors, it fascinated El Pasoans and people from other areas with its uniqueness and glamour. Patrons went to the popular Plaza to be seen. It was known as "The Greatest Showplace in the Southwest," "home to a multitude of elegant and lavish decorations.

Valuable oil paintings, antiques and other art objects found their home throughout the lobbies, hall and stairways of the theater. Posh carpeting, wrought iron banisters and mosaic tile floors and walls adorned the lobby and foyer. The building itself, along with its furnishings, was of elegant Spanish motif.

The extravagance of the Plaza's architectural design held fast, from its transition from a theater for live stage performances, to a theater exhibiting first-run motion pictures.



At the point where the entrance wing of the Plaza adjoined the auditorium, a domed tower rose in three tiers, projecting above the roof line. Other exterior references to the style included modes brick delineations at the building's corners, simple cartouche motifs and stepped and cured parapets with tile accents along the roof line. All these exquisite styles suited our city perfectly.



Among the best known features of the plaza was its Wurlitzer organ, played before live performances and movies and during intermissions. Resting below the actual seating area in front of the stage and out of the audience's vies, the organ was elevated to its playing position, astonishing theater goers. After a musical interlude, the organ was lowered back to its original position on the platform.

The Plaza could accommodate more than 2,000 people comfortably. The original seating capacity was 2410, with 1,510 seats on the main floor, 508 in the mezzanine and 392 in the balcony. Patrons would meet and mingle inside the Plaza, while above them in the auditorium puffy clouds crossed a sky filled with twinkling stars. Two machines worth \$1500 each controlled the enchanted sky.

How did Louis L. Dent find the Timberlake area?

This appears to be a question that has no concrete answer at this time. He was from the Dallas, Texas area and may have known some of the original investors in the Cibola Cattle Company or even Col. Carr and his son Clark Carr. In the book Bailing Wire & Gamuza by Barbara Vogt Mallery she spoke of her father Evon Vogt 's difficulties when the cattle business did not thrive and sheep ranching became the main focus. "Never one to despair, my father returned to his own sheep business. Bank records and correspondence about land leases and bank loans reveal various sheep companies: The Ramah Sheep Company in 1926-1927, the Vogt Sheep Company in 1927 and eventually the Atarque Sheep Company, organized and incorporated with investments from special friends Artie Bruce, Ray Smith (of the A.P. Smith Corporation) and Louis Dent, theater owner from Dallas, Texas."

It is also unclear how and when Mr. Dent acquired the Hamblin House (TCC Community Center). All the adobe add-ons to the main wood structure were the result of Mr. Dent which are now referred to as the Rock Room, office, workroom and well room. He also was responsible for building the upper ranch house in the early 40s.

Louis L. Dent in J. Evetts Haley: A True Texas Legend

J. Evetts Haley: A TRUE TEXAS LEGEND



92 • BILL MOHSETT

one side so it'd be steady while the reins were dragging back about his heels. And I just reached over with my foot to step on the reins and when I did, he just stood on his head. He kicked my feet out from under me and broke my leg. My boots held it in place. Just broke it right straight across."

In pain, Haley told a cowboy named Bob who was with him at the time that they needed to find some thin wood to use for splints on his leg. After searching, Bob located an old food crate and the thin slats of wood made ideal wood splints.

As he recalled details of the incident, a smile spread across Haley's face. "Bob was a gentleman. He wore a T-shirt," Haley chuckled in retrospect, recognizing the mirth of the incident. Bob pulled off his T-shirt and used it along with the wooden slats to fashion a crude cast for Haley's leg.

"I had my right leg broken. I needed to get on the horse from the right-hand side rather than the 'on' side because I wouldn't have to throw that leg over the horse's back and I said, 'Reckon I can get on that old horse on the wrong side?'—which would be the right side." "Oh," Haley remembered Bob answering, "he doesn't know right from wrong."

"So I went around there and he boosted me up and I got my good leg over the saddle, and I rode about a mile, a little over, to our camp where my car was where they could get to me. Man, that was misery. Well, I lived over it and got in there. Then they put me in my car, stretched my legs out and drove me to Gallup. Well, hell, I wanted to get home. I didn't want to be laid up in the hospital."

Eight days after the accident, the injured Haley presented himself for medical treatment. "I went into the hospital and I had a comical sort of doctor, and he came out and looked at that splint and just laughed to beat the band. Took me in and X-rayed it and it was set completely. Both bones set completely!

"He put a cast on it—and then charged me for setting it, of course!"

Another time—about forty years after the Atarque Ranch accident and this time on the Haleys' Loving County, Texas ranch—Haley was working in a corral with a mother cow and a calf present. While his back was turned, he heard a sound behind him and turned just in time to be hit full in the face by the cow.

"One horn went on either side of my face," Haley recalled, "and I guess I was really lucky in that regard." The impact of the cow's charge broke Haley's jaw in three places. On that occasion, Haley was injured seriously enough to require assistance getting out of the corral and to a physician.

But he did survive the accident, and many times accidents on the range don't even give a cowboy that option.

During the 1930s and 1940s, Haley was employed to manage ranches for other entrepreneurs, notably L. L. Dent of Dallas and J. M. West of Houston.

The Dent property was located in Arizona, about halfway between Holbrook and Gallup, New Mexico. "It was a big outfit, in bad shape," said Haley, adding "Absentee management."

"They were having trouble at that time trying to keep in touch," he noted, "and they were having management troubles, and I agreed to go out there and look at that ranch and let them know."

"I went out there and it was in terrible shape, in the middle of a terrible winter. They had about 750 cows. There were supposed to be about a thousand on it, and the manager had gone off—he'd gotten fascinated with town life—he'd gone off and would sit around hotel lobbies and punch cows all around the lobby or something."

"I went out there and accepted that job at \$250, I think it was, a month. And the corporation—the corporate setup—was broke, by golly!

"And the snow was that deep," said Haley, holding his hand about two feet above the floor, "all on the plateau—everywhere—

J. Evetts Haley: A True Texas Legend

H
BY
BILL MODISSETT

with an
Introduction
by
Elmer Kelton

Editor
Betty Wilke Cox



❖ MIDLAND, TEXAS ❖

94 • BILL MODISSETT

when we got down there. Cattle starving to death and freezing to death, and so on. It was a pretty touchy proposition. Very tense with the past ownership and so on. Anyway, I worked that out and cut my salary, finally, to \$100 a month because the corporate setup just didn't have the money."

Dent—who also had an interest in Westland Theaters—was "very imaginative" and "a wonderful person," who also was "a great enterpriser," said Haley.

"He was one of the brightest, smartest men I ever knew."

At one of the political meetings Haley attended during the 1930s, J. M. West met Haley, apparently liked him immediately, and asked the feisty rancher and historian to come visit him in Houston. "He didn't say what he wanted. I was just going to come down to see him," Haley recalled.

"I went down to Houston and he wanted to hire me to run his ranches," Haley agreed and began to manage West's 300,000 acres of range located in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. In 1939, Haley moved to Houston to become executive assistant to and general range manager for West, then the largest individual owner of ranches in Texas. "The King Ranch was bigger," Haley noted, "but it was a corporation in Texas."

"I stayed with West and before long, he died, and I didn't like the looks of the setup. J. Marion was one of his sons and Wesley, the other. J. Marion was an extrovert. 'Silver Dollar' Jim; you've heard of him. He liked to put on a show. He did have a good mind, but the two brothers were just like this and I just knew it was going to be a hard thing to stay on there. So I resigned," said Haley. He returned to Canyon.³

West was the last man that Haley worked for on a regular, fulltime basis. His decision gave him more time to devote to his own ranches. Yet his move to become totally self-employed "as bittersweet in one regard: it prevented the close

J. Evetts Haley: A True Texas Legend • 95

relationships he had developed through his jobs on other ranches.

"I've had the good fortune," Haley observed, "to have the friendship and association of some very remarkable men—L. L. Dent in the business field was unusual and Dr. E. C. Barker at The University of Texas was a marvelous man. And Mr. West, J. M. West whom I worked for last, he was one of the finest and the most unusual men I've ever known. Tremendous courage and character, too."

"He started work at a sawmill in East Texas and from that, pretty soon he was investing. He offered me a job to come down and run his ranches. I did a lot of work for him," Haley recalled.

"I remember he initiated one of his companies after he sold out at the Clear Lake Ranch down there south of Houston. It came right up on part of the old Hobby Air Base. It was in one of our pastures and, so, the issue was to have West Securities come and issue some securities and one of his top men—the man who started his securities company—came in to see him in the dark depths of the Depression and said, 'Mr. West, we could buy up all these securities we've issued at a few cents on the dollar.'"

"And the old man just ate him out and said, 'Listen here, get that stuff out of your neck,' only he didn't call it stuff. 'Anything that's got J. M. West's name on it is going to pay for a hundred cents on the dollar!'"

"He was great," Haley remembered.⁴

It was the personal character of the people with whom he came into contact that impressed Haley the most—whether that person was the president of the United States, a bank teller, businessman or a cowboy. One was Haley's brother, John, who quit school at about age fifteen to begin ranching.

"Most people would think it was a tragedy, but he wasn't interested in studying. He was interested in work and, I mean,

Letters of J. Evetts Haley and L.L. Dent

June 29th, 1939.

My dear Mr. Dent:

I am greatly disappointed you did not call when passing through the penhandle, as we were not only anxious to see you, but wanted to discuss a few final matters relating to the ranches.

Since trying to sell some of our own cattle in the Midland country (even since the ruins) I am more than ever convinced that we made a good sale of the last Becker stuff. We have not been able to get \$50.00 for cows and calves of our own in that section that are better quality than the Becker stuff that was sold.

However, I believe that the next few months will see a decided demand for light cows and cows with calves, such as we have on Atarque. As you know, there is a considerable portion of this stock that should be sold, by all means, this fall. I have discussed this with people well advised as to the cattle industry and the financial side of the industry and they agree that this would be a good year to liquidate stock cattle. I am prompted in this view considerably by the fact that next year is an election year and I believe everything will see a decided slump, but upon the matter of general business, of course, your views are much better than mine.

Belled down, this is an attempt to say that I think it might be wise to lighten up on the Becker range by rather heavy sales, and also to clean out all of the old stuff on Atarque. If you can get \$35.00 a head for the old dry cows and \$50.00 to \$55.00 for the cows with calves, I believe it would be wise to sell. I would attempt to sell by the head and avoid the extreme shrinkage of the long drive to the railroad, if it is possible to do so. I am writing these suggestions, anticipating the rainy season in the mountains and a strong demand in that section in case of general ruins. We have at least had good rains in the penhandle, as you note, and if you do not get buyers who will make an offer, it might be wise for Bob Carter to write Oscar Archer at Spearman, to see if he is still in the market for more cows.

I wish you would call on me at anytime that I can help you in any way. I would be glad for you to phone me at Houston and I will be happy to come to Dallas whenever I can spare the time to help you in any way. Please remember me affectionately to Mrs. Dent and be eternally assured of my whole family's very great affection for you and our appreciation of all that you have done for us.

With extreme regret upon leaving, and with my renewed assurance of my love for you both, I am,

Your friend,



YUCCA HOTEL

TOURIST AND COMMERCIAL HEADQUARTERS

CHANDLER, ARIZONA July 16, 1939

Dear Evetts:

This is being written in a great rush in order to catch the mail so please make allowances for my ineptness.

Someone talking to the cattle inspector Harrington heard that some cattle were expected soon at Thoreau so I am making daily inquiries at the Hamsh store for your telegram.

Burns is coming through here with the cattle he is shipping to you next Wednesday and has ordered three cars for Friday the 23rd. I think the horses went to Stinnett. Where do you want the cattle shipped?

I intend to cut pretty deep on this herd here at CCT; do you want to add them to the Becker D outfit. If so please let me know at once and at what prices including the yearling bulls so I will know whether or not to sell out here. There will be 20 (about half) yearling heifers, 10 or more two, 10-20 cows mostly with calves, 12 steers and the bull with incipient cancer eye Sunset Rupert. Possibly 5-6 yearling bulls in addition to the stuff you have held there out of Dallas.

Last but not important an inclosing letter from Renfrow which should have some attention. He may lose there a good part of what is made at Becker D. What can we do with hay at \$200. baling cost. In order to avoid confusion I am not answering but leaving up to you. All monies hereafter will have to go through you and will send account to date. H. E. H. S.

June 20, 1940

Mr. L. L. Dent
Ranah, N. M.

My dear Mr. Dent:

I have talked the matter of the use of the JH's over with my brother and find that he does not feel that is particularly to his advantage to spread out at this time. Hence the way is open for us to work out some plan mutually advantageous, which I am anxious to do.

It occurs to me that the simplest method of operation would be on a partnership basis. I think I could keep a distant but zealous eye on the place and the cattle, and relieve you of a little worry by perhaps handling the sale of whatever stock we might have to offer, or what we might handle from the JH's as a base of operation. As you suggested the handling of the accounts from Dallas would be a compensatory convenience, if it would not place a burden on Betty.

If you wish to leave some of the registered cows there I suggest that we cut the number to fifty head and take care of them with one good bull. We can do this by keeping a young bull on them and giving him extra attention. I would take a half interest in them if you wanted to sell; otherwise you could pasture them with the partnership. But in taking this interest, if the trade should be made now, I would want to put my lease in for the year at \$1200 against the purchase of the cows at \$100 around. Also I would like to trade in my 2 stock at its actual value on the same trade. I think we could sell a few good bulls, but primarily, it seems to me, the use of the place would be for the holding over of calves and yearlings. I think the partnership might at times buy the 2, Atarque, and other calves and handle on grass and wheat in the Panhandle if the companies did not wish to carry them over.

If this proposal is not agreeable let me know, and we will work out one that is. I am sure that you can suggest a lot of refinements. I think we should get started this fall, at the latest. During the summer I would be glad to shape up the cow herd for the winter, if you wanted me to, and also I think it would help to shape your steers before showing. We might throw the two into the JH's, if there are not too many, thus saving you some pasturage, and, more important perhaps, to enable you to show for sale better. A mixture of ages makes sale of steers more difficult. I would try to do this at some time during the summer if you like.

Of course under such an arrangement I would not want to take any of the heifers or cows in on the current pasturage as I one time suggested, except perhaps for a couple of heifer calves and a bull which I would like to give to my nephews at Midland. The expense of operation should not be heavy, but to meet it I suppose the simple thing would be to make a common advance to a fund under Betty's control and let her handle all the bills.

If this does not appeal to you let me know and we will work it out. Nita and Jimmie are already at the JH's, and I want to plan a mid-summer trip out there and should like to do what I can then ~~toward~~ as getting Art started toward shaping up your steers.

I've typed this myself, by way of apology, but you must have guessed that already. My love to Mrs. Dent and

Kindest personal regards to you,

EXCHANGE HOLDING CORPORATION
DALLAS, TEXAS

Pasadena, New Mexico,
August 18th, 1940.

Mr. J. Everett Haley,
Sterling High.,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Everett:

Since I don't even have a typewriter, I did not undertake to answer your letter of June 10th until I might have Betty available to take dictation. I doubted that you could read my scrawl, whereas I can see no reason for your apology of your typewritten letter.

Betty is paying us a short visit at Cloehinitoh to help me catch up with back correspondence and other matters. I attempted to do some construction here which is taking much longer than I expected.

With regard to Atarque, I know you will be glad to learn we have brought in a splendid well on the Canasas section and now have a 35 ft. tank full of water on top of the hill as well as two small drinking tanks. We took the tall air motor windmill down there from my place. Prior to bringing in this water we were having the same old trouble losing about forty cows because of the drouth this spring, but grass is still plentiful and with this water I believe most of our troubles are over.

As to Zeabar, we finally had a big general rain in that section refilling Pablo Lake and other tanks, but unfortunately washing out Cabin Lake. However, the cattle there in considerably reduced number, as you know, are doing very well. I sent over five new bulls of good quality from Cloehinitoh, but Lee still seems to be dissatisfied with some of the older bulls which he had on hand there and wishes to replace them. We have there only between three hundred and three hundred and twenty-five cows and not over eighty calves this year. You remember we moved three hundred twenty-seven cows to Atarque last fall because of the drouth and with them nine bulls. Before then shuffle them back and forth, I had Dent Trust Company accept them as payment on the mortgage on the basis of \$40.00 for the cows and \$100.00 for the bulls, a total of approximately \$16,000.00. This, together with certain cattle in the Panhandle effected a reduction in the mortgage which Dent Trust Company holds on Zeabar assets from \$40,000.00 to \$20,000.00, which at 4% results in a fixed carrying charge of \$1,000.00 a year. However, even the \$20,000.00 at this time represents almost the full value of the cattle left on Zeabar, so that the value of the stock would be represented chiefly by the value of the land, leases, horses and improvements. I am not forgetful of the fact that I owe you, I think, three more shares of stock. I have just been neglectful about turning it over to you, however, the stock at this time could not have a very great value and I think that it would be better to leave it out of consideration until we have had a chance to build back the assets.

As to the rest of your proposition as outlined in your letter with regards to J. H., it is entirely agreeable to me to go ahead as you suggest (other than as to the Zeabar stock); or what might be better for you, would be a partnership in which I would place on the J. H. forty to fifty cows and a herd bull (moving the younger cows back to Cloehinitoh) against your equity in your ranch. This partnership would take care of all operating expenses including taxes on your property and interest only on the mortgage. You, of course, would have to supervise the operation as suggested

in your letter and Betty could take care of the books if you so desired. Any funds needed for operation would of course be advanced by us equally and on any anniversary in the event we should desire to discontinue such operation, the ranch of course would remain as your property and the partnership could return to me cattle in kind and of similar age, condition and quality. In this way you would not need to purchase a half interest in the starting herd, but could simply apply principal payments by yourself to liquidating the mortgage on your property. As the mortgage would be reduced and your equity increased, you would of course be entitled to receive from the partnership the later at therefore going to the mortgagee.

My present verbal lease on your place term dates on November 1st. Any cattle which I am going to move to Cloehinitoh will have to be brought here within the next thirty days. I am proceeding with such transfer but will arrange to leave fifty head there at the J. H. provided I hear from you that you wish to go ahead with one of these plans.

Whenever I think of it, I experience the keenest regret that your best interests did not lie in continued association with Bill and myself in this ranch business. It presents many problems which I am hardly competent to deal with. However, I believe we are doing better all along the line than last year. If this drouth only would break!

Betty tells me that you have been kind enough to dig up a purchaser for some of my bulls. It is a great help to me indeed and solves the problem of moving all those bulls from the Panhandle. Betty is being authorized to have them moved back from the J. H. to Dallas. Unfortunately because of the drouth around the Panhandle the bulls are not looking as good as out here at Cloehinitoh, but I hardly feel justified in moving bulls from here to Dallas. Betty will pick out the best available at the J. H. ranch for transfer to Dallas.

You should pick out the bull you would like to have remain at J. H. If you prefer I can secure the Letts bull and return him there. This, I think, is a fine bull and has never been used with those cattle. I let the Band boys have him last year and have arranged to exchange the Kimberly bull for him this fall. I am bringing out RV from J. H. this autumn for my herd sire here. Ultimately when we need a change we might bring up the Dean bull from Dallas to the Panhandle.

All of us miss your cheerful visits to the ranch and wish you, Rita and Jimmy were all out here where you could visit us at least occasionally. I am hoping Bill Fisher and his family will stop by on their way from Hawaii. Louise joins me in sending kindest regards and good wishes to you and all your family.

Sincerely,

Louis L. Dent

Louis L. Dent.

110-2

J. H. I left open the matter of number of cows stating forty to fifty cows, because I thought you might prefer to have some of the cows with calves left, in which case I would expect to leave two calves in lieu of one cow; thus forty cows and twenty calves or forty-five cows and ten calves, as you might elect.

WESTLAND THEATRES, Inc.
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

September 14, 1940

Jimmie Evetts Haley
J-B Ranch
Spearman, Texas

Dear Jimmie:

The heifer about which you have written me presented quite a problem to me as she could thrive only in her present environment. I had considered having her destroyed. The suggestion that you would like to have her, therefore, settles the problem for me for I know she would receive good care at your hands.

I do not think, however, that she should be classed as salable. I am very happy to find that you would like to have her, and therefore want to give her to you.

I hope that you and your mother have had a happy time at the ranch this summer, and that your daddy will soon be with you relieved of all worry about his own condition.

Sincerely yours,

Louis L. Dent

Louis L. Dent

LLD:mf

EXCHANGE HOLDING CORPORATION
DALLAS, TEXAS

Ramah, New Mexico,
September 27th, 1940.

Mr. J. Evetts Haley,
Sterling Bldg.,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Evetts:

In my great desire to maintain a contact with you I became overly optimistic of my ability to carry on another year at the J. B. This was partly due to the fact that I had anticipated a higher return from the cattle in the leasehold and underestimated the demands that the Aterque and Leebor companies will have to make on me during the next twelve months. Then too, other businesses in which I am interested are having their worst year.

For the above reasons I am taking the liberty of withdrawing from the J. B. proposition. I will of course pay out the lease through the original year term; that is to November 1st and if this change in plans greatly inconveniences you I will continue the rental another two months through December, which I feel to be only right inasmuch as you are not being given very much notice of this change in my plans.

Needless to say I am greatly disappointed in being forced to make this move, as I should have liked to have continued with you but under present conditions it is just impossible for me to hold up my end on anymore activities.

I do hope you got some satisfactory news when at Rochester and that this finds you in good health and spirits. If only Willie could be elected I think the future would look brighter for all of us.

I am having Al and Hubert move all the cattle; the old ones at Oetern to Dallas as you suggested and the others out here, where for once we have plenty of grass especially at Leebor. It is certainly too bad we had to move all the cows away from Leebor last year as this year the feed and water are both plentiful.

As you stated to Betty that you probably would not be able to deliver the cattle to Archer, I am having Monday make the delivery sometime between October 20th and November 1st, as per contract.

J. Evetts Haley,
Continued - 2

Please give my regards to your wife and Jimmy and let us see something of you whenever you come to Dallas.

Sincerely and cordially yours,

Louis L. Dent
Louis L. Dent.

LLD:D

Houston, Texas
Sept. 30, 1940

My dear Mr. Dent:

Your letter advising me that you were having to withdraw the JH proposition has just reached me, and while I cannot blame you at all for pulling out of the Canadian breaks I am keenly disappointed that the opportunity for closer personal relations, which have always been so pleasant for me, will be thus circumscribed. The last year must have been a discouraging one and nature hasn't been kind to you on any of the ranches since I have known you. I am glad that she has reversed herself this year, however, on the E's. With the registered herd shaped up a little better and with the stocking of the place with a little bunch of calves, annually, however, I think I could have made it paid us both.

I am sorry that you were disappointed with the sale of the yearlings. I told you they brought the top price. The best Panhandle, native stuff, is not bringing over 9¢ for steers and a lot are going at 8¢; heifers a dollar per hundred less. I sold yours straight across for 8¢, which is equivalent to 8 and 9, or a little better, as they won't have to be cut in the pens and a little shrinkage will thus be saved. The best I could do on the rougher end, the cuts, was 7.25, and instead of 10¢ by number I ~~agreed to~~ made Archer agree to take this cut in weight, which saves more shrink at the scales and keeps him from tripping out 10¢ of the biggest steers instead of the roughest, as they sometimes do with that kind of a cut. We have just sold over 2000 yearling heifers of even better grade than yours that we measured in Kansas, and the best we could do on them was 7.75. Hence I know your price is strong; the only thing wrong is the weights, and in keeping with my conservative policy I may have—I always do—under-gassed their weights because I did not want to build up too optimistic expectations. If the Panhandle hadn't been as dry as a bone every since the stuff has been there they would have weighed something. The last two months have been fine, however, and Art writes me they are doing good.

It will be advisable, now, for me to go to the Panhandle this fall and I'll try to be there for the delivery. I'd like for Betty to be there to take the weights, and if I can arrange to make the trip I'll guarantee that the stuff will be handled to your best advantage. I do not care about Monday's riding my horses, and I know that Arthur will not take anything more off of him, so in order to keep everything smooth I'll try to be there, but I want you or Betty to be there too. Or if you really want Monday to make the delivery, Art and I will turn the cattle over to him at Coble's, and he can make it from there, but he will have to rustle him a mount. This may seem a matter of personal petulance and I have never bored you with the back-ground, and shall not now. I'll try to be there about the 20th, and wish you would write me at once as to how you want this handled.

In the summer I bought some horse feed at Spearman, and had the company bill Bent Trust. Some of this was delivered, and I understand that Art was refused delivery on the balance just before Mita left the Panhandle because it had not all been paid for. Anyway, there was some confusion, as Betty thought I had bought it all for your and my use, which arose from the fact that I had told her that you and I would take over all that had not been used when we started out in the fall. I do not know whether the account

2.

was straightened out or not, but she will know. Anyway I will take whatever may be left off your hands, and will try to do the same with any of the cake that is still there. Also I owe you for two heifers that I got for my brother's boys, and Mita paid a few bills for some day work, horse medicine, etc., which probably should be charged to you. I'll try to gather the cancelled checks together and bring them up when the cattle are delivered, and straighten up with Betty. I might trade you out of a yearling bull, too, if I'm not too short of rope at that time.

Mr. Dan Harrison, of Houston, who wants to look at your bulls, asked me about them again night before last. I think I can dispose of a small truck load of the best of those you have, especially if you had three or four of the best ~~ones~~ coming threes in the Panhandle down there at Dallas. I would not show them before, but they will show good from now on, and I have given him your address and he will call when he's in Dallas, sometime. Otherwise I'll try to get up there with him, but I'm out in the hill country closing out the estate, or getting it in shape to close out, of one of Mr. West's nephews, ~~just~~ deceased. It's a good sized ranch and it looks like I'll be there throughout the fall.

Hoping everything goes well with all of you in this terribly tragic age, and with reassurance of my personal gratitude and esteem,

Sincerely,

EXCHANGE HOLDING CORPORATION
DALLAS, TEXAS

Box 5302,
November 23rd, 1940.

Mr. J. Everett Dwyer,
Sterling Mfg.,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Dwyer:

You made two trips to the Panhandle to do me a friendly turn and I greatly appreciate it, but will not feel right about it unless you accept the enclosed check. I am also beholden to you for selling the bulls to Mr. Harrison. My company came out all right on the cattle.

Betty says you have written about an unregistered young cow from my good herd, which is still at the J. E. Betty says if it is the one she has in mind it is a very nice animal which means of course she wants a lot of money for it, however, I am going to leave it to your judgment. Her you go up there and see her, just send us a check for what you think she is worth to you.

I am on the trail of 165 calves and yearlings belonging to C. C. Wallace which happen to be located at this time at Chambers, Arizona; very handy for us. If we can buy them right I was going to send them to Leebur, but as the market goes down in Texas they seem to go up in New Mexico and Arizona, as they are talking 10¢ out there, whereas I see the market here is only 8¢ for the best calves, so maybe we will miss them. I would certainly like to have them to convert some of that good grass at Leebur into some for us.

Regards.

Sincerely,



Louis L. Dent.

LLD:D
incl.

Death Takes Louis L. Dent

Louis L. Dent, 64, of 5505 Northwest Highway, widely known western theater executive, died Saturday in Phoenix, Ariz., after a two months illness.

Dent was president of Westland Theaters, Inc., which operates a group of theaters in Colorado cities. In 1918 he formed in Texas the Dent Theaters, Inc., and operated show houses in twenty-six Texas cities and towns including El Paso, Waco, Amarillo, Wichita Falls, Abilene, Paris, Denison and Temple. He sold the Dent circuit in 1929.

He owned large ranches near Colorado Springs, Colo., Matheson, Colo., Stinnett, Hutchinson County, Texas, and south of Gallup, N.M. The town of Atarque, N.M., is located on one of his ranch properties.

Surviving are his wife and son, Frank L. Dent of Colorado Springs, and a sister, Mrs. F. H. Duckett of Hyattsville, Md.

Mr. Dent died February 8, 1948 of cancer. The obituary from the Dallas Morning News stated: "Death Takes Louis L. Dent: Louis L. Dent 64, of 5505 Northwest Highway, widely known western theater executive, died Saturday in Phoenix, Ariz. after a two months illness. Dent was president of Westland Theaters, Inc. which operates a group of theaters in Colorado cities. In 1918 he formed in Texas the Dent Theaters, Inc. and operated show houses in twenty-six Texas cities and towns including El Paso, Waco, Amarillo, Wichita Falls, Abilene, Paris, Denison and Temple. He sold the Dent circuit in 1929. He owned large ranches near Colorado Springs, Colo., Matheson Colo., Stinnett, Hutchinson County, Texas, and south of Gallup, NM. The town of Atarque, NM is located one of his ranch properties. Surviving are his wife and son, Frank L. Dent of Colorado Springs, and a sister, Mrs. F. J. Duckett of Hyattsville, Md."

Several people worked on the Cloh Chin Toh Ranch for Mr. Dent and later Mrs. Dent after his passing. The following recorded events that dealt with the ranch were taken from Ramah, A Documentary History (1930-1995) by Geraldine Tietjen. Along with these following recorded historical events, some of those who were employed by Mr. and Mrs. Dent offered their memories through interviews and personal pictures that hang on the walls of the Historical Room.

10.26.39 Ray Hawkins tractor plowing 90 acres of valley land for Mr. Dent.

11.9.39 W.A. Brammer sawing 100,000' lumber for Dent Ranch. Alma Hawkins completed 7' high adobe corral at /Dent Ranch. 3000 adobes used.

11.7.40 Joe Merrill made foreman of Dent Ranch.

3.20.41 Water backs up from dam to CCT Ranch House.

9.11.41 Al Clawson who had been working with cattle of Atarque Sheep Co. now employed at Ft. Wingate.

10.16.41 Cal Clawson and Jack Payne employed by Dent passed through Gallup with truckload of white faced steers to Dent Farm in Dallas (Paris, TX) 98 miles NE of Dallas.

11.6.41 Mr. and Mrs. Dent closed CCT Ranch Houser for winter leaving Al Clawson and Clarence Wilson in charge.

6.42 Lake drying up.

9.3.42 Kirk Clawson about to begin building house for Cal Clawson – head man on Dent Ranch at the new well recently drilled on hill east of Section 19



L to R Louise Dent (wife of LL Dent), Angeline King, possibly nieces of Angeline, unknown, and Mrs. Evon Vogt



Mrs. Dent (far right) with visitors. Summer 1949.



Frank Dent (center) , son of L.L. and Louise Dent, in front of the Upper Ranch House. Jim Bond on left.



Mrs. Dent's Woody Station Wagon on west side of Ranch House. Summer 1949.



**Becky Dent, oldest
daughter of Frank
and Arrieta Dent**



**Frank Dent
(son of L.L. and
Louise Dent)
with children
Skipper "Skip",
Becky, and
Poupe' at the
Colorado
Springs Ranch.**



**Front adobe
add-on
porch of the
Dent Ranch
Circa 1940**

Conversations With The Past

Luella Clawson with Kirk Clawson and Carmen Johnston



Carmen, Kirk and Luella

Luella Clawson is petite, spry, and 90 years young. Her husband Cal was employed by Mr. Louis Dent as foreman of the Cloh Chin Toh Ranch (also referred to as the Dent Ranch) along with his twin brother Al and later his younger brother Kirk. Luella, her daughter Carmen, Kirk and his wife Flora recounted their memories of Timberlake in the late 30's and 40's.

Mr. Dent lived in Dallas, TX. He and other partners owned ranches in Atarque (about 40 miles south of Ramah) and Colorado Springs. The Atarque ranch had both cattle and sheep whereas the Cloh Chin Toh Ranch ran about 100-150 head of cattle. It has been stated that Louis Dent purchased Timberlake for \$40,000. The brand consisted of two C's with a T under them CC.

Luella and Cal along with their 3 year-old daughter Carmen lived in a house about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile north of the lower ranch house when he started working for Mr. Dent. *The lower ranch house is what we now refer to as the TCC Ranch House.* Around 1945 a man from Atarque arrived in March to buy bulls from Cal. It was cold that day and when they stoked the wood stove (converted from the Bloomfield Sawmill firebox), the flue evidently overheated and caused a fire to start upstairs. Cal had to ran back into the burning house to save his War Bonds and exited a different direction causing one of the young ranch hands to run screaming thinking the roof had collapsed on Cal. Unfortunately this wasn't the only time fire consumed something precious as Luella said she accidentally burned Cal's \$45 Christmas bonus check (Cal only made \$45/mo.) and thereafter she was blamed for anything missing.

Luella, Carmen, and Janice (Luella's youngest daughter) were the only ones who didn't lose all their clothes in the fire as Carmen was staying in Ramah with her cousin and Luella and Janice were visiting in Mesa, AZ. Cal was left with only the clothes on his back except for a Pendleton suit and two shirts Mr. Dent had bought for him as they were at his mother's house in Ramah. Luella, Cal and the girls lived temporarily in two rooms of a barn until Mr. Dent had an adobe addition put on the lower ranch house that we now refer to as the Rock Room and then they lived there.

There were two large adobe corrals for the horses – one to the south and one to the northeast of the lower ranch house. The walls were about 5 feet tall and 16" thick. Large flagstones topped the walls and Carmen recalls how she and other children would run on the flagstones. All the horses had to be broken and some of their names were called Breeze, Bobby, Jeff, Zephyr, Joey, Blonde, High Pocket and Peanuts. Corn and chickpeas were grown to the east of the corrals and barns as additional feed for the cattle.

The adobe blocks used to build the Rock Room, corrals, and later the upper ranch house were made on the ranch. Kirk recalled making 700 blocks each day and told a story about the old mule that was attached to an adobe mixer and a jockey stick. One of the ranch hands (according to Kirk not one of the smartest people in the world) would walk behind the mule as he tended to slow down towards the end of the day or on an uphill slant and the ranch hand would hit him on the rump with a shovel. He wasn't paying attention after one of these swats on the rump and the mule came up behind him, startled him with a bump and he turned around and hit the old mule over the head with a shovel. Well – that ole mule broke his jockey stick and tore off down the flats with the adobe mixer behind him. Kirk says that one can still find the stone structure on the hill by the lower falls near the McGaffey road where they burned the limestone to get the lime for the mortar.

Highlight for many of the Dent employees was branding time. Mr. Dent had brought registered Herefords from England and named them after Luella's daughter Carmen. Luella and Carmen remembered how they tattooed the inner lip of the Herefords rather than the usual branding method and how the men would throw the Rocky Mountain Oysters into the fire for a "blackened" culinary delight

The cattle drive would start in Atarque and go north to Ramah around the point on the north end of Ramah Lake. They would move as many as 600 head over the mountain to Thoreau. There the cattle were loaded on railroad cars and taken to a location about 50 miles outside of Colorado Springs for summer pasture and sale in the fall.

According to Luella, Mr. Dent was a wonderful man. He was conscientious of the help and kind. Mrs. Dent would come only in the summer and bring a companion lady by the name of Angeline, her personal maid/secretary. Only 1 or 2 local people would do chores such as the laundry. Luella said it was a big thing to be invited to dinner at the Dent house – “one had to mind your manners.” The interior of the house was not overly elaborate with fancy furniture as the house in Colorado Springs. There was no running water or indoor plumbing. It was stick built and did not have the stucco surface we see today. The Dents would be supplied with cream, butter, eggs, and meat by the ranch help. According to Luella and Flora the house had 4 large rooms and owned by Duane Hamblin before Mr. Dent. Luella remembers how the lake would come right up to the porch of the ranch house.

Cal and his family left to work at the Colorado Springs Ranch for a few years and then sent to Atarque by Mr. Dent to manage the ranch there. Mr. Dent gave money to Cal to buy a ranch at El Morro years later and then he and Luella left to manage their own place. They were married for 54 years.

Mr. Dent died of cancer in Scottsdale, AZ and his only son, Frank, ran the Cloh Chin Toh Ranch. According to Luella “he wasn’t worth shooting or a bucket of nails” and squandered the fortune. Frank built a three story “hunting lodge/cabin” on Timberlake’s Pinion Rd. The ranch hands referred to it as the “Penthouse”. It evidently was torn down several years later but you can still see the windmill and part of the rock foundation. It has been said that Smitty Eoff bought the ranch from Frank Dent for \$317,000.

The following are stories and memories.

Carmen: We use to go down the middle of reservoir on a sleigh pulled by two big horses to get to Ramah in the winter. There were always complaints about the creaking and cracking sound of the ice and the possibility of falling through. Al would cut a hole in the ice to show how thick it was to make them stop whining.

Luella: Cal and Al had gone fishing one day when a young Navajo boy drowned. They had always told the boy that if you somehow get off the road and into deep water, just hold onto the horse’s neck and he will bring you to safety. Al and Cal had separated to fish. Al saw a Stetson hat floating to the surface and at first thought it was Cal. Sadly it was the young Navajo boy who still had his arms around the horse’s neck and they both had drowned.

Kirk and Flora Clawson



Kirk: There were three deaths attributed to smallpox in the dead of winter in the late 1800's when it was impossible to dig graves in the frozen ground. They had to place the bodies in a well by the falls on McGaffey Road. The man who had lost his wife took his two small sons to the Zunis in Fish Springs (Pescado) and told them that if he didn't return in 2 months, the boys were theirs. He did return to fetch his sons. Luella believes there were up to thirteen people buried in the well.

Flora: After the war Kirk made a trip with Mr. Dent to Colorado Springs. Kirk discovered a saddle-making machine, but he couldn't afford it. Mr. Dent bought the machine for Kirk and had it shipped to Cloh Chin Toh Ranch as he recognized Kirk's talent with leather. Kirk has made between 2500 and 3000 saddles with that machine.

Cal Clawson '33



Luella Clawson



Luella and
dog from
England in
front of
original
house north
of the current
Upper Ranch
House (1941).
Burned to
ground in
early 40s

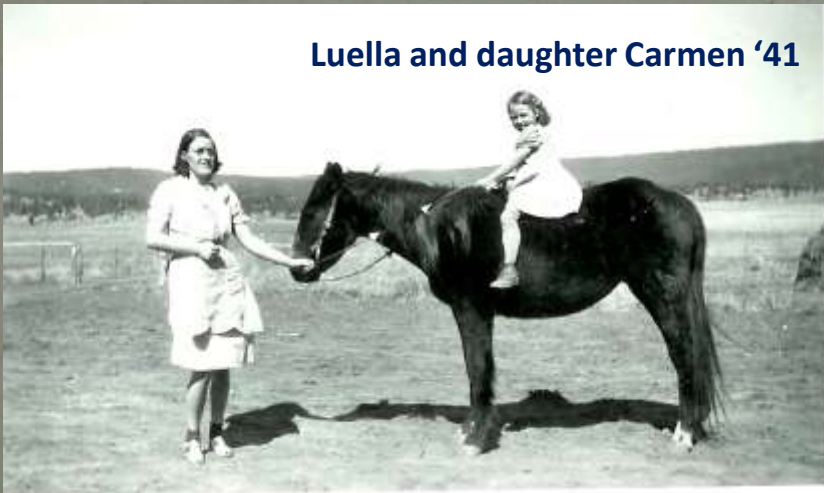
Carmen '39



Carmen '40



Luella and daughter Carmen '41



Carmen



Carmen and Janis



Twins Cal and Al Clawson



Kirk, Cal and Al



Cal and Al Clawson



Al Clawson



Kirk, Al and Cal

7' Adobe Corral at the Upper Ranch House



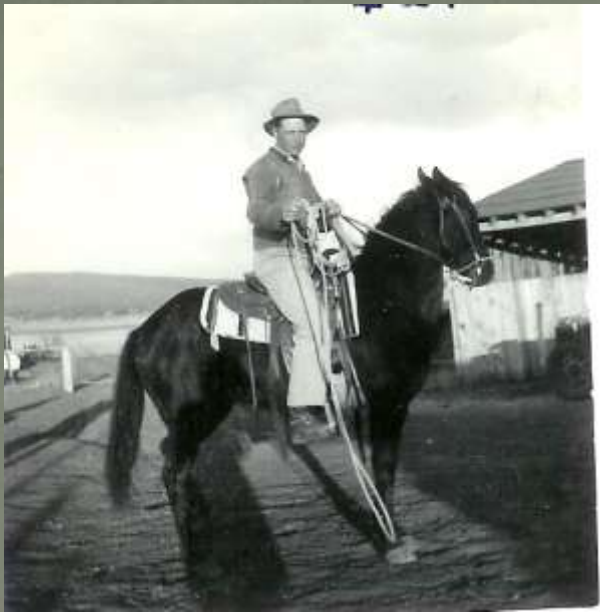
Cal on Peanuts and Luella's horse Breeze



Cal and Kirk with registered Herford Domino breed calf '42



Hereford's in 7' Adobe Corral



Irvin Adair (good friend of Cal) '42



Cal Clawson on Peanuts and Stanley Lewis '44



Peanuts 1950



Alden Lambson



Lovell Lambson with Curly 40's



Riding Stock Upper Ranch House

Conversations With The Past



Daryl and Elsie Clawson recalled the time that he helped Kirk Clawson make all the adobe blocks for the 6' high corral along with the addition to the Dent Ranch House and construction of Upper Ranch House. Daryl said they made a thousand a day. There was only one form that held three blocks.

Conversations with the Past

Dale and Audrey Bond



On June 22, 2011 Dale and Audrey Bond stopped by the TCC Ranch House and took time to share much of their recollections and experiences living on the Cloh Chin Toh Ranch.

Dale first came to the ranch in 1934 when he was only two years old. His father Jimmie Bond had been hired by Mr. Dent to help manage the cattle and daily ranch work. Dale left when he was around five or six when Cal Clawson came. When he and Audrey were married in 1950, they moved in with Dale's folks Jimmie and Nancy, sisters Sybil and Zora who were 6 and 12 years old at the Upper Ranch House. The Upper Ranch House had been built in the early 40s during the war. Between Jimmie and Dale, they spent nearly 30 hard years running mostly cattle and some sheep through good and bad years – drought and floods. Dale and Audrey leased the CCT Ranch from Mrs. Dent for four years before it was sold in 1965.

Mr. Dent had several ranches. Madison Ranch east of Colorado Springs that they called the "White House" near the Garden of the Gods, Z Bar Ranch in Arizona, The Rockin D Ranch near Canadian, Texas and Atarque Ranch on the way to Fence Lake. Most of the sheep were at the Atarque Ranch. They ran around 250 head of cattle and leased land near EL Malpais for grazing in the summer, but would winter them in Timberlake. Cattle were branded with CCT brand and the horses with the Rockin D brand, which was used on the Texas livestock. The cattle were Registered Herefords Domino bred cattle. They would be herded to Thoreau for shipping.

Mr. Dent had several ranches. Madison Ranch east of Colorado Springs that they called the "White House" near the Garden of the Gods, Z Bar Ranch in Arizona, The Rockin D Ranch near Canadian, Texas and Atarque Ranch on the way to Fence Lake. Most of the sheep were at the Atarque Ranch. They ran around 250 head of cattle and leased land near EL Malpais for grazing in the summer, but would winter them in Timberlake. Cattle were branded with CCT brand and the horses with the Rockin D brand, which was used on the Texas livestock. The cattle were Registered Herefords Domino bred cattle. They would be herded to Thoreau for shipping.

Dale recalled several individuals that dealt with the Dent Trust Co. coming and going during his time here. Billy Duckett, son of Mr. Dent's sister, was at the CCT Ranch when his dad first came. Billy and wife Betty divorced and Betty married Mr. Federer, partner of Mr. Dent in the Westland Theatres throughout Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado. (Note: Betty's name appears as Secretary-Treasurer of the Dent Trust Co. on land deeds). Grant Fraziers was at one time a manager for the Dent Trust Co. out of Colorado Springs. The most notable individual and a good friend of the Dents was J Evetts Haley (Historian). He wrote the books *Charles Goodnight* and *XIT* and founded the Haley Memorial Library and History Center in Midland, Texas. Mr. Haley managed the Z Bar Ranch in Arizona and Atarque Ranch for Mr. Dent. He bought the cattle when the Artarque Ranch was sold.

Mrs. Dent confided in Dale one day that her family actually had the money. Mr. Dent borrowed \$10K from her dad to start the theatre business. Mrs. Dent claimed that it was her money that bought the Cloh Chin Toh Ranch. Dale believed that originally Mr. Dent worked in Utah as a surveyor platting the state sections for the government. The investment of \$10,000 paid off and at one time Mr. Dent was a part-owner of the NY Yankees. Mr. Dent divested himself of the theatres in 1929 just before the crash of 1930. Since Mr. Dent died in 1948, Dale recalls only a few things. He was a tall thin man and very nice - more laid back than the more formal Mrs. Dent. He had a carpentry shop which is the furthest south facing shed of the TCC Ranch House. His office was the first room on the furthest north side which is now the well room. There, he would draw up plans and conduct business. Mr. Dent did not believe in insurance. He would put the money in the bank of what the insurance would cost him so he could draw interest on his own money. Dale never saw any pictures of Mr. Dent in the Ranch House – only an oil painting of the Dent's son Frank.

Frank Dent arrived in Timberlake in 1945 after the war and brought with him a lot of furniture from China. He was going to run the ranch and stayed in the Upper Ranch House. He only lasted one year. He did return later and his family built a three story one room summer place and stayed there when visiting the ranch. Frank and his wife Arrieta had five children, Becky , Skippy, Poupe', Danya and Beenie Boo. Frank would bring his hunting buddies in the fall and use the summer place as a hunting lodge. This structure was torn down in the late 70s by the Developers, but the stone foundation can still be seen across the road from the old corral on Pinion Rd.

Louis Dent fell ill the summer of 1947 and he and Mrs. Dent went to Phoenix for medical care. He died February 8, 1948 at the age of 64. During this brief illness Mr. Dent was impressed with the care given to him by a French Canadian nurse from Toronto, Canada. Her name was Angeline King. He and Mrs. Dent contracted with Angeline to be Mrs. Dent's companion until her death. Angeline and Mrs. Dent would come each spring to the ranch and leave in late fall to winter on the Dent Farm in Paris, Texas.

Dale and Audrey mentioned several other informative tidbits:

There were no elk in Timberlake when he was working the ranch. They came later after the ranch was sold, but there were a lot of deer and coyotes.

The CCT Ranch ran all the way from the top of the mesa to the Zuni Reservation.

The coldest temperature he remembered was 40 degrees below zero.

They had to tear down the 7' high wall 100' across adobe corral in the 40s that was built in 1939. It was just too hot to work in and if something got after you, you couldn't get out.

Dale worked for a brief time at the steam engine sawmill by the lake, which could be seen from the Ranch House.

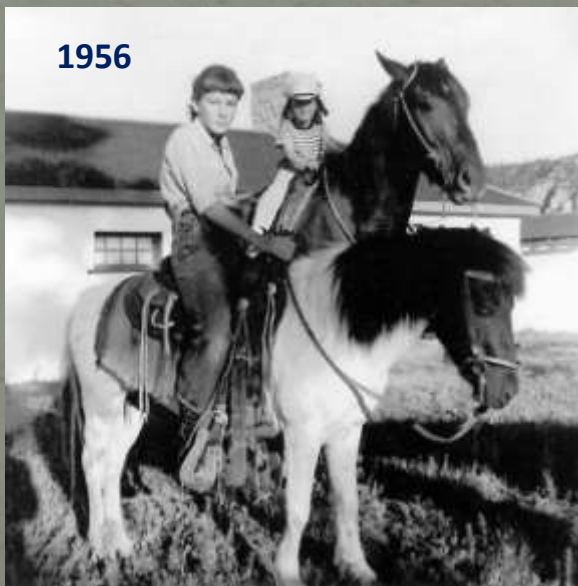
There were huge stands of old Ponderosas coming into the ranch area that were lumbered after he left. He and his dad spent a lot of time on the back of a horse!

Dale Bond '36



Dale with father Jim '35

1956



Zora Bond

Zora Bond, Sonja Heap and Jim Bond



Zora Bond (daughter of Jim Bond) and Vonda Bond (daughter of Dale Bond)

Dale Bond 1949



Sybil Bond 1954



Sybil Bond (daughter of Jim Bond)



**Sybil
and
Zora
Bond
1952**



**Sybil and Zora Bond (top and
bottom) with Danya (L) and
Poupe' (R) Dent 1950**



Ranching in Timberlake Circa 1950



Conversations with the Past

Randy Eoff

My dad and mom, W.S. "Smitty" and Zoe Eoff purchased the Cloh Chin Toh Ranch from Mrs. Dent through a real estate agent in 1965. Smitty was a former state senator, businessman, and long-time Gallup resident having moved to New Mexico in 1934 to homestead. He paid \$17 an acre. Smitty would stay at the lower ranch house from the 1st of May to the 1st of Nov. They ran about 350 head of cattle. There were 9 water sources – the lake, 7 windmills and one electric well.

Randy said that the saddest day of his life was August 10, 1972 when he left the ranch. Drought and lack of feed for the cattle caused his dad to sell and they moved to their other ranch in Pagosa Springs, Co.

He shared some of the following:

Smitty Eoff was responsible for putting the ranch together as a solid continuous unit as there were sections in the middle of ranch owned by National Forest.

They took the Cloh Chin Toh brand and registry with them to Pagosa Springs, CO along with saddles that Kirk Clawson had made.

Some lumbering was being done while he was working the ranch on Section 32 owned by Paul Davis.

Box S was owned by Adrian Berryhill

They built the steel corrals by the upper ranch house.

Corrective Deed to Resolve Mineral Rights

BOOK 18 PAGE 101

CORRECTIVE WARRANTY DEED

DENT TRUST COMPANY, a Corporation of the State of Delaware for consideration paid, grants to W. S. EOFF and ZOE L. EOFF, husband and wife, the following described real estate in McKinley County, New Mexico:

Sections 1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 23, 25, 27 and 33, Township 11 North, Range 16 West, except a tract of land heretofore conveyed to Dale Bond and Audrey Bond, husband and wife, and described as a part of Section Thirty-three (33), Township Eleven (11) North, Range Sixteen (16) West N.M.P.M., beginning at a point four hundred feet (400') West of the Southeast Corner; thence North Two Hundred and Twenty Feet (220'); thence West Ninety Feet (90'); thence North Four Hundred and Forty Feet (440'); thence West Three Hundred Feet (300'); thence South Six Hundred and Sixty Feet (660'); thence East Three Hundred and Ninety Feet (390') to the point or place of beginning.

The South half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 24, Township 11 North, Range 16 West.

The Northeast quarter of Section 12, Township 12 North, Range 16 West.

and the following described real estate in Valencia County, New Mexico:

Section 5, Township 10 North, Range 15 West;

Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32, Township 11 North, Range 15 West, excepting and reserving a tract of land about one-eighth of an acre situated in the South half of the Northwest quarter of Section 19, being a tract or parcel of land now used for cemetery purposes as reserved in that certain Warranty Deed from Louis L. Dent to Dent Trust Company dated June 30, 1946, and recorded in Book 64 at Page No. 232 of the records of Valencia County, New Mexico; and also reserving to the owner of said one-eighth-acre tract the right to cross the lands adjoining such one-eighth-acre tract for the purpose of using said tract for cemetery purposes only; and subject to a lane or right of way two rods wide extending along the North side of the South half and the Northwest quarter of said Section 19; and also hereby conveying to the Grantee all of the right, title and interest of the Grantor in and to a 33 ft. right of way along the North side of the South half of the Northwest quarter of said Section 19, Township 11 North, Range 15 West.

BOOK 18 PAGE 102

Together with any and all water, ditch or reservoir rights owned by the Grantor and appurtenant to, or used in connection with the above described tracts, and all of the Grantor's right, title and interest in and to all oil, gas, mines or mineral rights appurtenant to the above-described property.

with warranty covenants.

This deed is made to correct that certain Warranty Deed dated December 2, 1965, and recorded in Book 22 W D at Page 158 of the records of McKinley County, New Mexico, which prior deed might be interpreted to have reserved minerals in the first above described lands and such was not the intention of the parties.

WITNESS our hands and seals this 13th day of

November, 1968.

ATTEST:
By Patricia W. Federer
Secretary-Treasurer

DENT TRUST COMPANY

By Louise van H. Dent
Vice President

COLORADO
STATE OF DENVER
COUNTY OF EL PASO ss.

The above and foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 13th day of November, 1968,

by Louise van H. Dent as Vice President and Patricia W. Federer as Secretary-Treasurer of Dent Trust Company

a Delaware Corporation, on behalf of said corporation.

My commission expires: June 3, 1970

Donald C. Hall
Notary Public

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF MCKINLEY
This is to certify that the within and foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this 13th day of November, A.D. 1968, at 9:00 o'clock P.M. and recorded in Book 18, Page 102 of the records of said County.
By Patricia W. Federer
County Clerk

Conversations with the Past

Patti Christopher Kennedy

NOTE: In 1972 the Cloh Chin Toh Ranch was bought by a Florida Investment Group (Los Ricos) consisting of several golfers including Bruce Devlin. It was subdivided into 20 acre parcels and investors drew their personal acreage from a hat.

“I have wonderful memories of my life at Cloh Chin Toh Ranch. I am so grateful I got to experience the ranch before it was subdivided. Originally I went there with Barrett Mahon, from Florida, we managed the ranch for Bob Mahaney and the Florida gang. We arrived during the summer and spent the first months collecting wood, planting a vegetable garden and tending of the horses and cattle with Al Clawson as our mentor. He was a very knowledgeable cowboy and we loved working and learning from him. The Ramah community accepted the east coast transplants and we assured them a playboy club was not going to happen as had been rumored. The summer was adventurous, climbing the cliffs, experiencing the waterfalls and finding artifacts. The owners of the ranch came out during hunting season, but not too many other weekends so we were lucky to be able to share the beauty of the ranch with our friends. The first winter was a cold snowy one, we were not able to get out of the ranch very easily even with 4 wheel drive, since we had gotten all our vehicles stuck. The snow started right after Halloween, temps. Dropped, winter had truly set in. Since the roads were impassable, we climbed over the mesa at the lake and went to the general store and visited friends in Ramah before heading back. The snow continued and the area was claimed to be a disaster. I remember sitting in my living room with the fires burning for warmth when all of sudden we heard a loud noise. An army helicopter was landing in our front yard. The town's people had not seen us for awhile, and since we had no phone they had them check to see if we needed any supplies, medical or groceries. We were self sufficient and were just in awe of this surprise. We were very lucky that we had made so many friends in town and everyone looked out for each other.

We were equipped with snowmobiles and hooked up a sled and off we went with hay to drop for the horses and cattle. We rode horseback through the winter checking on fences and making sure there were no stray cattle roaming our land. Our water froze up for a few months but we were able to get some from the pump house where we had left a light. The windmills were working so water was present for all, just a bit of a challenge for awhile. All things come to pass and the long winter gave birth to a most beautiful spring and summer. The muddy roads were a challenge but the waterfall was rushing and such a magical place to ride off to.

We had lots of fun moving cattle and riding horses, planting gardens and sunbathing at the waterfalls. We were married on the land, built an altar and placed a cross next to the cliffs. A Catholic missionary performed the ceremony and my sister played the guitar. We had a buckwagon pulled by horses and a beautiful Indian woman made fry bread while the steer was cooked underground. It was a fairy tale, but the fairy tale ended within a year. Barrett and I both decided we were not suited to be married. Looking back on that day I remembered Alan Menapase, from Gallup, had told me a horse that was suppose to pull the wagon was struck by lightning and died. The Indians said it was a bad omen and he had to arrange to get the horses from someone else but the wedding celebration went on and a memorable time had by all. When we split up I wanted to continue to run the ranch so I immediately high tailed to Albuquerque to see Bob Maheney... My brother, Kevin Christopher came out to help me run the ranch. At this point we ran our own cattle, RX brand. Alvie Clawon was still our mentor, and good friend. We ran the cattle up to the notches during the summer, moving on horseback, sleeping under the stars, and playing cowboy. It was all good. All our holidays were spent with JoAnn and Paul Davis and their families. They were like our family and we became very close to Nita, Pamy and Kristi. It was the 70s and there were some wild days but I cherish the special times like all the Indian dances, the Shalico, and being invited into a Hogan while the young girls danced on Thanksgiving Day.

The lower house was haunted. I did hear laughter on more than one occasion and the slamming of doors when no one else human was around for miles. It was never scary to be alone on the ranch, whatever spirits were sharing the space with me were peaceful and happy.

I remember one spring when all the roads were impassable due to culverts washed out and clay ready to devour us. It was Easter and Eddie Merrill and Nita Davis came out on the tractor to the bottom of our long drive. I had hip boots on and a beautiful peasant dress. I hiked up my dress waded through the water and off we went to Easter Dinner at the Davis'. We spent many holidays with their family.

Another time a stranger came traveling up the road with his donkey, he was on an unknown journey, he stayed overnight a bit and then was off to???? There was the rodeo in Ramah down by the lake. We used our steers for the roping competition, worked the rodeo and had a blast. So many memories and just so grateful to everyone that shared those times with me.

I originally was from New York, and moved to Florida in 1969. Therefore I was acclimated to winters. We moved there before Smitty actually left the ranch and stayed in Albuquerque and moved in August as soon as he left. I think John Pifer might have made the cross, a friend from Florida.



The cross where Patti and Barrett were married still remains and is on Timberlake's Common Land.

Conversations with the Past

Anita Davis



Anita was a young child during the time that Mrs. Dent and her companion Angeline would arrive in the Woody Station wagon – Angeline driving and Mrs. Dent in the back. Anita refers to Mrs. Dent as Aunt Louise. Angeline would take care of Skipper (Louis Dent III), Poupe', Dania and Boo and made nice sandwiches for all of us kids to eat on that old blue cement table by the kitchen door. Angeline's room was the small one to the left as you entered the grassy courtyard from the west. Aunt Louise's room was connected to the only bathroom in the house and the dining room on the other side of it. She was very proper and well dressed (expensive) and always wore the most expensive French perfume. The furnishings were formal and beautiful. Beenie Boo was the youngest of the Dent grandchildren and the most talkative. She left the ranch when she was only about 8 years old and has no lasting memories.

Mr. Dent had already passed away before Anita was born. She recalled that he was definitely involved with Col. E.A. Carr (Box S) along with her Granddaddy (Evon Vogt) from family documents and letters.

We used to go to dinner at the Penthouse that Frank and Arietta Dent built. It was not too long lived. It was a three storied tower (like a pine board shack) and had a toilet facing a window with a great view of the pine trees on the third floor next to the water tank. At the time Frank and Arietta's kids were teenagers and (the late) Becky (the eldest) was getting married to a wealthy Mexican rancher and already lived in Mexico.

When the Los Ricos Group from Florida bought the ranch, Anita got to know Patti Christopher and Barrett Mahon. "They were managers/caretakers and lived in the upper ranch house where Jim Bond had lived while working for the Dent Ranch. Patti and Barrett were only about 20 years old. They used to come over to our house and ask Daddy about cows. They didn't know anything about ranching but had all these cows to take care of.

Patti and Barrett got married up there (about '69 or '70) by the cliffs and put that cross there. I made their wedding cake. It was yellow plaid frosting with sunflowers. I flew back from Catalina Island where I was working in a pizza place to go to their wedding. A special assistant of Frank Sinatra's was a guest, and flirted with my Dad at the wedding reception at the old Ranch House. She put a cute note in his jacket pocket!!! Daddy loved it! Mom thought it was funny. I painted a milk stool for their wedding gift. It was a historic Vogt Ranch Milk stool from the 20's, but painted in psychedelic colors. Their milk cows' name was Cremora. Patti used to think the Old Dent Ranch House was haunted. She used to take baths down there in Aunt Louise's bathtub and could hear people talking like if there was a party outside and then when she got out of the bathroom there was nobody"

Patti and Barrett used to plow the fields on the tractor and wear earphones listening to music while they were plowing. We had lots of parties at their house."



L to R: Skipper "Skip", Beenie Boo, Dania, Poupe' Dent (grandchildren of L.L. and Louise Dent) Pam, Kristi and Anita Davis.

Cement picnic table at back of TCC Ranch House.



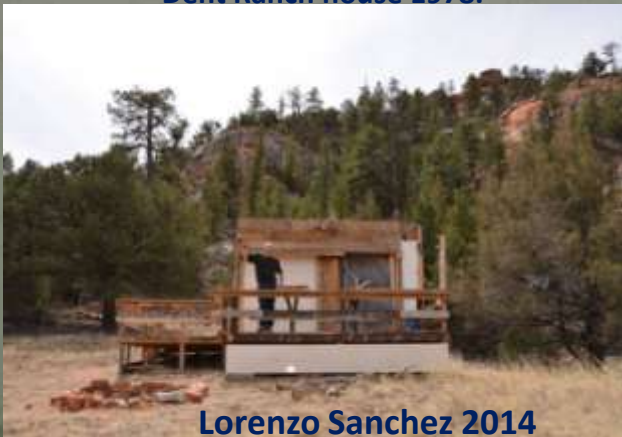
L to R: Poupe' Dent, Pam and Anita Davis, Beenie Boo Dent and Kristi Davis.
Adobe wall that surrounded the Upper Ranch House.

Conversations with the Past

Lorenzo Sanchez, Developer Sanchez Land Company



Lorenzo and Mario transporting moose head to Dent Ranch house 1978.



Lorenzo Sanchez 2014

Lorenzo started in land development when he was only 18. Mario was 12 years younger.

Lorenzo first found out about the Cloh Chin Toh Subdivision when he was Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Committee for Valenica County. A fellow committee member knew Bob Mahaney (manager for Los Ricos Group from Florida who had bought CCT from Smitty Eoff). Los Ricos Group was interested in getting the subdivision approved through the Planning and Zoning Committee. While Lorenzo was traveling through Ramah he decided to walk along the lake side as he was curious as to what was between the cliffs. He discovered the beautiful valley behind. While telling this to his fellow committee friend, he was told that was the land belonging to the Los Ricos Group. He contacted Bob Mahaney about the subdivision and they immediately hit it off. Lorenzo asked him if the Los Ricos Group were interested in selling as Mahaney said that Cloh Chin Toh had a total of 7000 acres which included Cloh Chin Toh. Originally Mahaney said he might be able to get partners interested if they got \$150K down payment, but Lorenzo said he needed better terms. They met a couple of days later at his aunt's Bird of Paradise Bar in Albuquerque and signed a Contract of Title to close the deal. Terms were \$130/acre, \$10,000 down and \$90,000 in 90 days.

Lorenzo and Mario started beating the bushes – they had money but it was going to be tight to develop Cloh Chin Toh and Timberlake. Lorenzo knew Les Purdue (Banker) in California and since he was making his annual trip to Disneyland with his wife and kids, he made an appointment to meet with Les. Les introduced him to Ted Broderick of Newport Group Investors and they hit it off immediately.

Mario and Lorenzo met Ted and Dick Gerardi and Mercedes Baker in Gallup about 10 days later. They had their Suburban and drove the group around Timberlake as much as possible since there weren't many roads. A deal was struck that day and Ted stayed over in Gallup to write up a preliminary agreement with the Sanchez Land Company. They went to Los Lunas to check out deeds, banks, and title company.

Contract with Ramah Lake Venture to have Sanchez Land Co. be the selling/listing agent and contract to do roads which Mario was in charge of along with clearing electrical easements. Mario made around \$60K. Partnership was 50/50. Sanchez Land Company paid 50% of expenses and took 50% of profits and 15% on commission. Bill Williams was hired to do the bulldozing. They bought at \$130/acre and would sell at \$1500/acre.

It took 6 months to get approval of the subdivision with Valencia County and 18 months for McKinley.

Mario and close friend Jimmy lived in the upper ranch house fulltime in 1978 to manage sales during the week. On weekends they would stay in the Penthouse (Frank Dent's old vacation home located on Pinion/Quail).

In 1992 Ramah Lake Joint Venture Group bought out the Sanchez Land Company, but Lorenzo and Mario retained the Woodland Lake part and bought Box S property along with property in Colorado.

First brochure from 1980. Lake had filled up to ranch house 1980. Wife Jeanie and sister-in-law Terry. Joty is his mother's brother. Moose head – brother Charley has it now. Belonged to Lorenzo's parents and they loaned it to put in the ranch. Picture is of them loading in front of parent's house. Parents bought house in older part of Albuquerque and moose head was there.



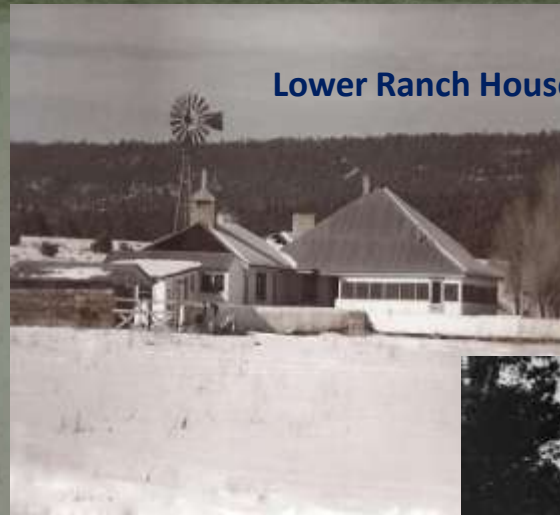
Lorenzo and Mario in 1980



Mario 80's



Upper Ranch House 1978



Lower Ranch House 1978



Lower Ranch House 1978



Lower Ranch House 1978. Tank used for heated water sits on top of sandstone structure.

Joty Baca with Kids



Joty was hired as a Ranch Manager for \$500/week in 1978. He would take potential buyers on horse rides and acted as sales person during the week.

Conversations with the Past

Ted Broderick, Developer/Investor



In December of 1977, Mario and Lorenzo Sanchez contacted Les Purdue, a banker in Orange County, California. Mario and Lorenzo had given earnest money to the Los Ricos Corporation, but knew they lacked the kind of money that was needed to buy and develop the area. Les Purdue contacted Ted Broderick, an investor with the Newport Group, asking if he would like to meet at the Santa Ana Country Club for lunch. The Sanchez brothers had a one page business plan to buy acreage for \$130/acre and sell at \$1500/acre.

The following morning a chartered Cessna 206 six passenger single engine flew out of the Orange Co. Airport. Passengers were Ernie Reynolds (land planner with the Coastal Commission), Dick Gerardi, Ted Broderick and female companion Mercedes Baker. Ted was not very impressed flying over high desert terrain until passing through the magnificent sandstone cliffs with Ramah Lake below. Making mental notes of the valley grid, they decided to stay over in Gallup.



The next day they rented a car but were limited in ability to see the entire 7000 acres on the ground - very few roads and mostly cattle trails. A one page partnership agreement was written up on the hood of the car among Lorenzo G. Sanchez, Mario Sanchez and Newport Group, a California general partnership – Ramah Lake Joint Venture Joint Agreement dated December 30, 1977. The parties later formed a New Mexico general partnership that operated as Ramah Lake Venture. Mario and Lorenzo Sanchez were put in charge of marketing.

Immediately prior to January 1, 1992 Mario and Lorenzo Sanchez transferred all their respective right, title and interest in Ramah Lake Venture to a California general partnership ("Timberlake"). On January 1, 1992 "Timberlake" general partnership and Newport Group merged to a Limited Partnership of Season Associates, LTD. referred to as SAL.



Aerial view of upper and lower Ranch House taken from plane that would fly prospective landowners from Flagstaff to airstrip near lake. Early 1980's.



Upper Ranch House 1980's



Ted Broderick Upper Ranch House 1980's Sale Office



Dinner Party in Upper Ranch House October 1998

Upper Ranch House 80's



Upper Ranch House 2008



Timberlake in the 80's



Fishing in Ramah Lake



Landowners at the Upper Falls



**Adobe wall
around Lower
Ranch House**

1983



1982



1982



1982



1982



1999



1999



american archaeology

WINTER 2009-10
a quarterly publication of The Archaeological Conservancy
Vol. 53 No. 4

Prehistoric Life

ON THE Mountaintops



Archaeologists have used remote sensing to guide their excavations at Porthaven Place Mound.

Therefore, acquiring important sites on private property, the Conservancy's mission, remains critical.

The Conservancy's preserves range from Paleo-Indian sites to pre-Columbian mounds and villages to historical missions and forts. They're open to the public for tours and other educational opportunities, to Native Americans for traditional purposes, and to qualified professionals for research under controlled conditions. Many of the Conservancy's preserves have been acquired through years of negotiations with landowners and developers.

"We've been able to help a number of developers with their archaeological problems through the creation of permanent preserves," says the Conservancy's Southwest regional director Jim Walker. "Usually the developer is faced with either very costly excavation or preservation in place, which not only saves money, but saves time and the archaeological site. This is really the preferred mitigation alternative, and tomorrow's excavations will yield higher quality data through the application of new theories and excavation techniques."

Partnerships with landowners, developers, archaeologists, organizations, agencies, and tribes have been critical to the Conservancy's success. The Cedarscape site in northeast Mississippi, inhabited until 1735 and reoccupied after 1772, is one of the few historical Chickasaw villages to escape destruction by development. In 2005, the Chickasaw Nation gave the Conservancy a grant to purchase the 55-acre site, which contains a rare Chickasaw fort. In order to preserve it, the landowners John Ray and Lottie Betts Heasley sold 50 acres containing the site and donated an additional five acres to the Conservancy. A cooperative agreement was signed with the Chickasaw Nation whereby they will lease and manage Cedarscape as an educational preserve.

"It's one of the projects I'm most proud of because it

brought together so many people who felt preserving the site was extremely important," says Jessica Crawford, the Conservancy's Southeast regional director. "It has been a pleasure to work with representatives of the nation. We share the same vision in which Cedarscape will educate and enlighten both present and future generations."

In 1999 Zuni Governor Robert Lewis asked the Conservancy to help protect the late 15th-century ancestral Zuni site of Box S, known to the Zuni as Heshodan In'oskwa's, or Emerging Village. The 1,100-room masonry village site in western New Mexico had suffered repeated looting. In 1999, after 10 years of negotiations with the site's landowners, the Conservancy acquired Box S. Two years later, after mapping, stabilizing, and backfilling the exposed rooms, the Conservancy sold the property to the Zuni Tribe, who received a Lannan Foundation grant to buy the 160-acre site. At a celebration of the transfer, Zuni Governor Malcolm Bowckary addressed the attendees: "For you, this place represents the past. But for us, it is still living. Many important people are buried here, and we still turn to them when we need them." The Zuni Tribe maintains the



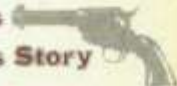
Jessica Crawford (second from right), Chickasaw Nation officials, and the former landowners at the Cedarscape site.

site for tribal and spiritual purposes, allowing the public to visit in hopes that they will appreciate the importance of preserving ancestral sites.

A management committee of community members, government representatives, Native Americans, and archaeologists is assembled to design a long-term plan for each site's preservation and interpretation. Area residents can serve as site stewards and docents, and they also participate in fieldwork, such as the mapping and stabilization undertaken at Galisteo Pueblo, a Conservancy preserve in the Galisteo Basin in north-central New Mexico. Working in collaboration with like-minded agencies and individuals, the Conservancy succeeded in getting Congress to pass the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act in 2004 to protect other important sites in the basin.

THE BOX S CANYON FIGHT

Not Your Usual
Cowboys
& Indians Story



By Dody Fugate

In the 1990s, while cleaning up a collection of early poetry from a site near Zuni Pueblo, I came across a bag of artifacts collected by archaeologist Bertha Dutton and her "Dusty Diggers"—Civil War archaeologists at evening. The bag contained a number of brass cartridge cases. Curious about this evidence of war, I asked Ed Ladd, the Laboratory of Anthropology's curator of ethnography. Ed was one of the most knowledgeable people I knew and a Zuni elder.

"Where were these collected?" he asked.

"The Box S Site."

Ed laughed and told me a wonderful cowboy-and-Indian story from the late nineteenth century that should be better known in New Mexico history.

Opposite: Breeding cattle at the Box S Ranch, San Wilcox, ca. 1900-05. Courtesy: Photo of the Government Photo Archives (PAAHSGA), Neg. No. 111020.

Right: Chinle Indian man on horseback, Zuni Pueblo, by Cecil H. Herrold, ca. 1907. Courtesy: Photo of the Government Photo Archives (PAAHSGA), Neg. No. 110760.



ST. PAULIN 40



Box S Ranch

BOX 5 CANYON FIGHT

In 1889 three cowboys came up the Outlaw Trail, in western New Mexico, from the south. We all know about the Old Santa Fe Trail, the Old Spanish Trail, and the Camino Real, and some of us know the old trails to Tucson and Galisteo, the Butterfield stage route, and other trails. But few know about the Outlaw Trail. It is said to have run from Montana to the southern part of New Mexico. Both Cassidy and the Sundance Kid used it. Cassidy was a foreman at the W5 ranch at Alona, New Mexico, and ran a bar there while he was hiding out from the Pinkertons. As one might expect, no one stole horses or cattle from the ranch while Cassidy was there.

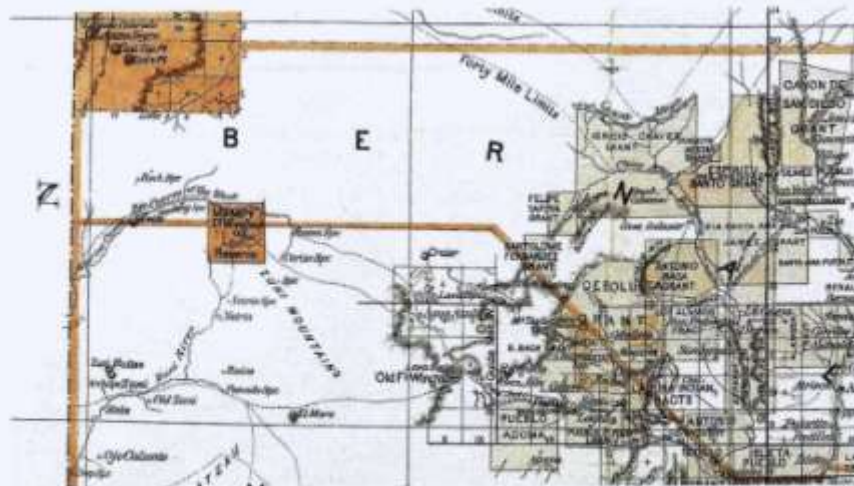
The cowboys' horses were tired, so they rode over to the Pueblo of Zuni in search of fresh mounts. They had no intention of buying them.

The Zuni horse herd was there for the taking. The cowboys had no compunction about catching the best horses they could find and taking a good number of the rest, as well. Their first mistake was stealing horses. Their second was stealing horses from Zuni Pueblo—a serious misjudgment, as they were soon to realize. If they thought that stealing Pueblo Indian horses would be easy, they were wrong. They may have held the unwise opinion that Indians in general and "village Indians"

in particular were a pushover, unlike the "wild" Plains Indians or the wilder Apaches. Stealing horses to the Gila Mountains seems to have been a common way to make money, but Zunis were even less forgiving than the ranchers in Grant and Catron Counties, and they were better trackers.

The cowboys' third mistake was not stealing all the horses at the pueblo while they were at it. The outraged Zunis mounted up and followed their trail in hot pursuit. A running fight ensued, with both sides shooting wildly. The cowboys managed to kill four of their pursuers—Calcapitva, Coonah, Upootch, and Captain Lochi—thereby guaranteeing that the Zunis were not going to give up any time in that millennium. The chase headed north along a trail that would take the cowboys east, near Albuquerque, or north toward the wild lands of the Chaco Canyon area and the Navajo lands beyond.

If you look at a map now, you can guess what they were thinking. The cowboys took their ill-gotten herd up the Zuni River and the open land beyond it, almost due east along what is now State Highway 53. They then cut off at the junction of the Nueces River and began to follow it northeast toward a gap in the hogback called the Stonewall, now filled by Nueces Reservoir. If they could get through that gap, they could follow



Zuni Pueblo, the Zuni River, Nueces, and Fort Wingate are marked on this 1879 map; the Outlaw Trail is not. Territory of New Mexico (dated) by Charles F. Smith, General Land Office; photo lithography and print by Julius Ben. 1879. Fray Angelico Chavez History Library, NMHM, Map Collection #78.9-1879. Photograph by Blair Clark.



Unidentified Zuni on a Zuni horse. Photo by Charles F. Smith, ca. 1877. Courtesy of the Fray Angelico Chavez History Library, NMHM, Map Collection #78.9-1879.



Around the time of the Box 5 Canyon fight, photographer Ben W. Wick traveled to Zuni and took this picture of the Zunis' summer agricultural village and the Stewarts, a geological formation with a gap, to which three horse-killing cowboys were headed when trapped by the Zunis. A sign to Zuni, N.M., the Summer Pueblo on the Nubia and the Stewarts, by Ben W. Wick, ca. 1880-85. Courtesy Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (PMPMOCA), Neg. No. 95624.

the river almost to the Continental Divide and then north to the wild lands beyond. They would be east of Fort Wingate and in the clear all the way to the Colorado border.

The Zunis were not impressed. They knew the land far better than the cowboys did, and they were not going to let these guys get to that gap. This was not only their ancestral land, but also the site of their summer farms, where people lived all summer while tending some of the pueblo's gardens. It appears that the Zunis "headed them off at the pass," for the stolen horses and their herders were stopped just short of the gap.

The Zunis had spent the last 200 years chasing Apache and Navajo raiders, and they knew exactly what they were doing. The cowboys were outnumbered and outmaneuvered. At the junction of two small canyons, they took refuge within the walls of a ruined Pueblo village and a small cabin nearby. The place had long since been abandoned, but the walls still

were intact, and there was a place to run in the horses. The walls were high enough to protect the three if they were careful, but it would be very tricky getting out again. While there was open land all around the ruin, making it difficult for the Zunis to make a frontal assault, there were several promontories close at hand, allowing them to take shots at the cowboys from above.

To backtrack thirty years, in 1868 the US military had finally allowed the Navajo people to leave the disastrous experiment of the Apache-Navajo reservation at Bosque Redondo, out on the plains of eastern New Mexico. The Navajos were finally able to return to the red rock country of eastern Arizona and western New Mexico. A number of these Navajo families settled down near the newly reconstructed Fort Wingate, at Bear Springs between Gallup and a new railroad town, Thoreau. A number of Navajos from there and the Ramah area heard the gunfire and hurried over to investigate.



BOX 5 CANYON FIGHT

Group of Navajo Women at Fort Wingate, by Henry T. Hooten, ca. 1875-76. Courtesy Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (PMPMOCA), Neg. No. 63790.

The story gets a bit muddled at this point. The Zunis said that the Navajos upped the scale of the attack, while the Navajos accused the Zunis of instigating heavier fire. Both versions are reasonable: the Zunis were in a righteous fury over the death of four of their men, and the Navajos, newly out of their enormous captivity, would have welcomed a legitimate reason to shoot at any cowboy they found.

While all this was going on, James Wilson, the school-teacher at Zuni, notified the Indian agent in Gallup that some rustlers had stolen the Zunis' horse herd and killed some people along the way. In turn the agent notified General Eugene Carr, the recently assigned commander at Fort Wingate, about the trouble and warned him that more people were about to get seriously hurt.

A few years earlier, officers from Fort Wingate, including the commanding officer, Luther P. Bradley, recognizing the potential of the forests and grasslands between the fort and the Zuni reservation, had purchased land along the northeast edge of the reservation and named the home ranch the Box S. Carr had taken over this ranch when he was assigned to the fort.

At once, Carr called out his newest lieutenant, John Pershing, recently transferred from Fort Stanton, and instructed him to take ten troopers and find out what all the noise was about. Pershing mustered his men, probably mounted infantry, and headed for the Nutria Gap. The cavalry literally came over the hill as the daylight reached its peak. Pershing later wrote in his report that the cowboys had reached the small log cabin near the ruins, but they were pinned down by at least a hundred well-armed Indians.

It took him a while to find out who was at least nominally in charge of the siege. At his request, several Zuni elders called for a ceasefire until the military could be brought up to speed on the case. They said the fight wasn't their fault. These guys had stolen their horses and killed their people, and they were not going to let them get away with it. At this point there was a lot of finger-pointing and a lot of shouting. The Zunis accused the Navajos of exacerbating the battle. The Navajos said they were just helping the Zunis get their horses back. After all, what are neighbors for? Besides, these guys clearly needed killing.

Pershing had no doubt that unless he talked the rustlers into coming out under armed guard, they were going to end up as mincemeat. The consequences of that would not be good for anyone. He told the Zuni elders that his orders were to rescue the cowboys and take them to the fort under arrest.

The Zunis were not very happy with the idea that these guys might get out of this whole. They had seen what happened when Indians and Anglos went to court. Generally, the Indians lost, big time. Arrest and a civil trial was not the way the Anglos would have treated Navajo or Apache horse thieves. Nevertheless, the Zunis reluctantly called a ceasefire.

For Pershing, the next trick was to wrinkle out the cowboys. There he was with at least a hundred Indians, ten troopers, and three cowboys. What the Navajos thought about all of this is hard to imagine, but I am of the opinion they were probably amused. The Zunis were furious, believing that Pershing's plan was just another scam. It didn't matter that they had been supplying the fort with food for years. The railroad was doing that now, so what did the soldiers need them for anymore?

Somehow, Pershing got the attention of the three mincemeats, and they let him into their cabin. He ordered his men to keep their rifles at the ready for the situation was extremely tense. The cowboys said they were totally innocent: the Zunis were trying to kill them and steal their horses. Pershing found their claim dubious but assured them they would get a fair trial. He was very young, then. He convinced the cowboys that he could protect them, but they had to give up their firearms. By this time the cowboys, who could see a lot more Indians than troopers out there, were scared to death. Pershing suggested that if they didn't give up their weapons, he could always go home and leave them to the Zunis. The cowboys came without a fight. The scary part was getting the prisoners out without anyone getting hurt, but Pershing kept his cool. Putting the three into a buckboard, he surrounded it with his troops and drove slowly and carefully back to Fort Wingate.

Back at the fort, the three cowboys were escorted to the guardhouse, as much to keep them safe as to incarcerate them. The Navajos went home, probably feeling pleased to have had a good, legal excuse for shooting at the enemy. The Zunis took their horses home and buried their dead, hoping the events would discourage similar raids in the future. The fort had jurisdiction but preferred to let the courts decide, so the military eventually turned the prisoners over to the civil authorities. As it turned out, one of the cowboys knew one of the soldiers assigned to guard them. One night, this cowboy vanished from Fort Wingate. It appears that he "lit a shuck," as they used to say, rode north as far as he could, and was never seen again.

The other two cowboys carried their bluff to its full extent and continued to insist that they were innocent and that the



Above: John J. Pershing at Fort Stanton. Pershing was nicknamed "Black Jack" because he commanded African American soldiers at Fort Wingate. Those "Buffalo Soldiers" likely fought at Box S Canyon. Photo by Charles Harvey, ca. 1900-10, courtesy Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NMNH/DCA), Reg. No. 811673. **Inset:** Buffalo Soldiers from the 8th Cavalry in Camp, by Henry A. Schmitt, 1891. Courtesy Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NMNH/DCA), Reg. No. 58805.

horses were theirs. The local Indian agent was not able to supply paperwork to prove otherwise. In typical fashion, the local courts acquitted the men, to the disgust of the military, and they rode back to Zuni with a court order for their horses. How many they were able to steal a second time is not recorded, but General Carr had already advised the Zunis not to give up even one horse, saying the fort would back them up. The cowboys were probably able to get back the ones they rode in on.

I wonder if Pershing was surprised by it all; lamentably the court's decision was typical of the times.

The Box S Ranch was known as a hideout for thieves and outlaws as long as it continued. The officers from the fort who had founded it called it the Cibola Cattle Company. Even before 1889, they had started clear-cutting the upper watersheds of the Zuni and Nutria Rivers, as well as putting a dam on the Nutria River to divert Zuni Pueblo water to their farms instead. The Cibola Cattle Company continued to dam the

Nutria River and divert water from Zuni. The Carr family and their partners continued to clear-cut the Zuni River watershed and overgraze the whole region until the Zunis secured clear ownership of their land in the 1890s. The Nutria Reservoir is now a source of water for the Zuni Reservation. The Box S ruins still stand nearby, a reminder of a time when "Cowboys and Indians" was not a game with cap pistols, and unlike in the Saturday matinees, the cowboys and the cavalry were not always the good guys.

As for the brass cartridge cases, whose type, age, and condition, all suggest that they were used by the Zunis during the fight, they are still in the collections of the Museum of New Mexico, in testimony to a little-known showdown at Box S Canyon. ■

Daily Fugate is the curator of the H. P. Marx Collection at the Laboratory of Anthropology. The New Mexico Association of Museums recognized her with its 2012 Cathedral Award for leadership and service to New Mexico museums.

Timberlake Community Center Historical Room

