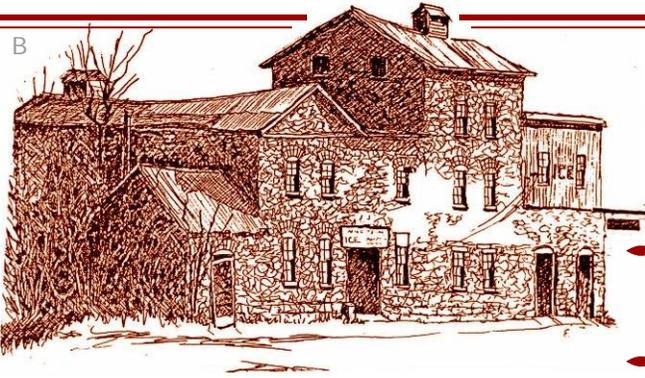


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Socorro County Historical Society

Post Office Box 921
Socorro, New Mexico 87801

Membership News • Spring 2017

Printed periodically

SCHS Annual Meeting set for Saturday, April 22, 5 p.m.

The 2017 Annual meeting of the Socorro County Historical Society will be held at the Cottonwood Charter School main commons room. The 5:00 p.m. start time was chosen to avoid a conflict for those attending the SEC annual meeting earlier that afternoon.

Business meeting will consist of a report on the Society, Treasurer's Report, and election of Board members.

Public Presentation will be *"Daughters of El Camino Real – the women who traveled the Royal Road and survived the Jornada del Muerto"* by noted Sierra County historians and authors, Sherry Fletcher and Cindy Carpenter. This is bound to be an interesting talk and presentation full of local history. No admission fee, so invite your friends and family.



Cindy Carpenter (left) and Sherry Fletcher will give this year's public talk.

For more information, see our homepage: www.socorro-history.org

Your SCHS Board of Directors:

President	Chuck Zimmerly
Vice President	Dr. Peggy Hardman
Treasurer	Prescilla Mauldin
Secretary	Paul Harden

Board Members:

Jon Spargo	Roy Heatwole
Kay Krehbiel	Don Wolberg
Bob Eveleth – Past President Ex-officio	

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SCHS Annual Membership for 2017

becomes due in April
Still just \$20/year (cheap)

Proceeds support the Society, Hammel Museum, maintenance, repairs and utilities, and for nifty newsletters like this one!

Renew at our Annual Meeting April 22
or mail dues to:

Socorro County Historical Society
P.O. Box 921
Socorro, NM 87801

Visit the SCHS Website:

www.Socorro-History.org

Growing with plenty of Socorro history, photos, maps, articles, etc.



or, like us on Facebook

Our new FB page: "Socorro County Historical Society" is updated with news & events, history tid-bits and photos to enjoy.



Cleanup Day at the Hammel. Note roof damage from Friday's 60 mph winds.



Roy H. with paint brush in hand, thinking, "This seems more than a touch-up job!"



Scraping off old paint before applying a fresh coat



Hanging some new historical photos.



Cutting down those "winter weeds."



New Mexico Tech students provided plenty of help



Peggy H. cleaning display cases and exhibits.



Prescilla M. doing industrial grade vacuuming.

Post Card from the Past

by Bob Eveleth

Recently, a copy of a ca. 1910 post card of Kelly, NM was obtained. While there are various views of Kelly, the post card view was unique and well shows a portion of the Kelly business district. Since the **J.P. Worrell Store** is so prominently featured – a little history seems appropriate.

Terre Haute and Philadelphia investors led by Judge Marion Balue and George W. Bement purchased the famed Graphic Mine at Kelly in June 1893 from the Patterson Brothers and dispatched Civil Engineer Asa B. Fitch to modernize the mine with state-of-the-art hoisting works.

The timing was dismal because the market price of lead and silver, the two principal products of the camp, were plummeting and would soon lead to the devastating "Silver Crash" of 1894. The investors went into panic mode and urged Fitch to remain to help pull their enterprise out of the looming "financial hole." Fitch accepted the challenge, eventually brought his entire family to Kelly and ended up staying for ten years.

Two years later one of Asa's sons, Albert J., entered into a co-partnership with George Hasty, rented the "old stand" previously operated by another Kelly mine man Jas. McGee, and establish a merchandise business that would operate under the name of "**The Kelly Store Company**."

By early 1897 Albert determined to follow his father's footsteps, go into the mining business on his own account, and sold the Kelly Store Company to Jonathan P. Worrell of Terre Haute. Worrell, along with Balue and Bement, was also

an official of the Graphic Mines Co. He is said to have purchased the business solely as an investment and was rarely on the premises. Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Babcock (later Kelly postmaster) successfully managed the "**J.P. Worrell**" store

for about 13 years when Worrell decided to sell out.

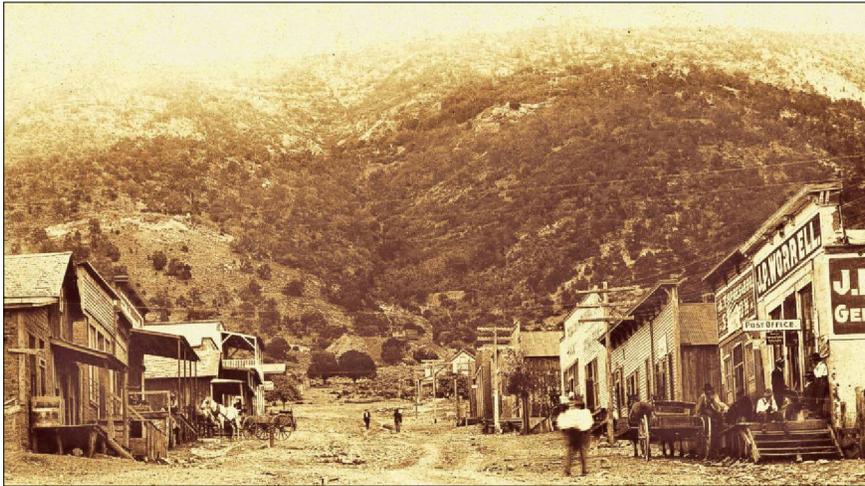
The last owner of record was F. L. Hammond who took over in February 1910 and re-opened as "**The Kelly Mercantile Company**."

Later that year a near-disaster occurred when the adjacent

Torres Saloon caught fire but the boys managed to douse the flames saving all but the saloon roof.

Everything in this postcard view, with the exception of the Juanita dump, have long since passed into the mists of time.

References: Engineering & Mining Journal, Socorro Chieftain, El Paso Herald, and Santa Fe Daily New Mexican. Thanks to Amy Trivitt-Kracke for tracking down a couple of obscure newspaper clippings.



View of Kelly, New Mexico, ca. 1910, looking up the main street past the J. P. Worrell General Merchandise store, the A. Torres & Bros. Saloon, and Post Office on the right, and the "Kelly House," on the far left beyond which are visible the dumps of the Juanita mine.



Archaeologists Search for Oldest American

Archaeology is a relatively new discipline with beginnings in the 1800s. One of the primary goals of archaeologists and anthropologists is to identify the origins of the first people living in North America. When did they first arrive? Where did they come from? And, where better to determine early life than the ancient sites in the American Southwest?

New Mexico has long been an archeological "hot bed" for finding evidence of the first Americans. An explosion of archaeological excavations began in New Mexico in the late 1800s. Chaco Canyon, Bandelier, and the Aztec ruins, to name a few, were excavated 1880–1920s, primarily by eastern universities.

The Anasazi

During this period, with tens of thousands of artifacts collected and tested, it became popular belief the earliest people in North America were the ancestors of the early pueblo dwellers. Their earliest artifacts from nomadic hunting sites dated their beginnings to about 1500 B.C. These puebloan ancestors were collectively called the **Anasazi**. History books were penned that the Anasazi, the "Old Ones," appeared around 3,000 to perhaps 5,000 years ago in the four-corners region of the arid Southwest deserts.

Folsom Man

This belief changed in 1908 when a rancher found some large bones in an arroyo near Folsom, NM. Not excavated until 1923, the bones were those of woolly mammoths, known to have been extinct for 10,000 years. What made



The skeleton of this woolly mammoth, found in Siberia – stood about 12 feet tall.

the find so spectacular were 26 stone spear points found imbedded in the skeletal remains – *unmistakable proof of human hunting* at least 10,000 years ago. The discovery of this "kill site" in New Mexico turned the world of archaeology on its head. Called the **Folsom Man**, it pushed the origins of human occupation in the Americas back at least 5,000 years.

The style of stone spears fashioned by these nomadic hunter gatherers were called **Folsom points**, and made the link to similar points found to also being 10,000 to 11,000 years old.

The search was now on to find evidence of man from even earlier, ideally back to the last ice age about 15,000 years ago.



Folsom point



Clovis point

Clovis Man

It didn't take long for that to happen – and again with another pile of bones found in the Blackwater Draw between Portales and Clovis, NM. The first excavation in 1932 revealed a different style of fluted stone points much different and often longer than the Folsom points. They, too, were found with the remains of bison, saber-tooth cats, sloths, and other extinct mammals. Blackwater Draw proved to be an extensive ancient hunting "kill site" with the older dated culture dubbed **Clovis Man**.

Radio carbon dating of the animal bones in the Blackwater Draw revealed an age of about 11,000–11,600 years old, indicating the stone points, now called **Clovis points**, to be of the same age. This moved the Clovis Man back 1,000 years before the Folsom Man.

Continued next page 

Again, the world of archaeology was completely altered with the discovery of the Clovis Man. Since then, Clovis culture sites have been found in numerous locations throughout North America.

This inspired archaeologists to search for cultural sites even older. The ultimate goal would be to date human artifacts to about 15,000 years ago, coinciding with their assumed arrival after the ice age. There have been a few claims, mostly discounted by peer reviews, and in a few cases, outright fraud. To date, the 13,000 year old Clovis Man remains recognized as the "oldest man" in North America.

Ake Site

Closer to home is one of the oldest Paleoindian sites in the Southwest. In 1975 a large lithic scatter site was discovered by the late Dr. Robert Weber of Socorro while surveying for the Very Large Array (VLA) radiotelescope. The site was found near the end of the VLA southwest arm on the Ake Ranch, and hence the name. Dr. Pat Beckett from NMSU excavated the site in 1979.

Artifacts recovered date periodic human occupation during both the Folsom and Clovis periods, about 11,000 to 13,000 years ago. This was a time when the Plains of San Augustin was a large inland lake surrounded by marshes and meadows for an ample supply of vegetation and fauna for survival. Bones recovered included a range of burrowing and larger animals. It's possible there are other similar prehistoric sites along the shoreline as the lake receded.

Abiquiu Site

A few years ago, two men went on a walk near Abiquiu when they found some very large ribs and some elephant-like teeth in a shallow arroyo. Of interest, is the only elephant-like toothed creature were the bison that roamed the eastern plains of New Mexico 13,000 years ago, such as those found in the Blackwater Draw. However, no such prehistoric bison have been found in the high country – until now.

The two men contacted an anthropologist at UNM, adding, "Oh, we also found an arrowhead." That got the UNM team to the site the next day. The arrowhead found amongst the

jumble of bones was the characteristic fluted Clovis point.

An ongoing excavation is being conducted by UNM anthropologists. Flakes of bone found may be the result of



Excavating the Abiquiu site.

animals gnawing on the bones, or just as likely, debris left by the Clovis man as they butchered the animal.

The Abiquiu site is now the second verified Clovis kill- and processing-site in New Mexico.

Water Canyon Site

A recent nearby find is located west of "M" Mountain on the Water Canyon basin. Discovered by Dr. Robert Dello-Russo in 2001, it has seen several excavations under his lead.

Buried under several feet of today's arid desert lies a layer of rich organic deposits. This layer are the remains of an ancient wet meadowland or marsh similar to the Ake Site that defined this part of New Mexico from about 8,300 to 11,000 years ago.



Bison bones from the Water Canyon site date to about 9,300 years old.

Paleoindian fragments indicate this was a kill or processing site also during the Folsom and Clovis periods. In fact, the Water Canyon site appears to be only the third known Clovis kill site in New Mexico.

Traditional thinking is man entered North America via the Bering Straits and the Aleutian Islands, where they were halted by the massive glacier covering Canada. As the ice age came to an end about 15,000 years ago, they continued their trek south into the Americas. However, the 13,500 year old barrier of man's appearance in North America has not been broken, with the Clovis Man still holding the title as the "Oldest American." And, they were our neighbors, living west of Socorro just 13,000 years ago.

Hammel Brewery and Museum

The Hammel Brewery is one of Socorro's landmark buildings, a reminder of the region's 1880s industrial boom years.

Jakob Hammel, and sons **Gustav** and **William**, arrived in Socorro in 1882. They established a warehouse on Manzanaras Street and bottled imported Anheuser beer, delivered bulk by the Santa Fe Railroad. The following year, **Hammel Bros. & Co.** began brewing their own beer locally.

Needing larger facilities, in 1884 they purchased property and an adobe building on 6th Street for their growing brewery. In 1886, a 3-story stone building was constructed, the familiar center section of today's Hammel Brewery. It was filled with the best brewing equipment money could buy, including an ammonia ice making plant.

The Hammel was in full production – the only brewery in New Mexico shipping beer packed in ice and delivered cold – a real novelty in 1886. They changed their name to the **Illinois Brewing Co.** in 1887.

Jakob Hammel died in 1903 with William now in control of the brewery. He expanded the facilities the following year by building the two-story addition on the north end of the complex, giving the Hammel Brewery the appearance it has today. In 1908, William also began bottling soft drinks in a building across the street.

The Hammel brewing enterprise came crashing to an end in 1918 when New Mexico passed a law prohibiting the manufacture or sale

of alcoholic beverages. The following year, the 18th Amendment was ratified. Prohibition was a huge financial loss to the Hammel family. William Hammel died virtually penniless in 1920. Son **Clarence Hammel** returned the family business to profitability by expanding the soft drink bottling franchise, bottling **Pepsi-Cola, 7-up, Nesbitt and Grapette**.

Clarence did not reopen the brewery when Prohibition was repealed in 1933. The equipment had been dismantled by order of the act, and the 40-year old equipment was now dilapidated and too costly to replace. Clarence survived well through the Great Depression years and World War II with his soft drink bottling and ice plant.

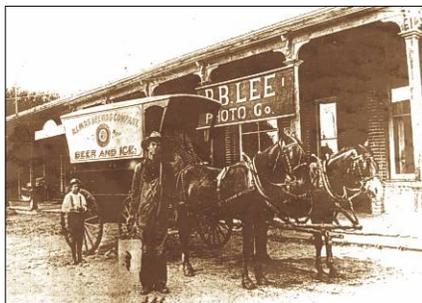
After WWII, business declined as electric refrigerators became a common household item, reducing the demand for home delivered ice. Huge soft drink bottlers began to overtake the smaller bottlers.

Clarence Hammel closed the soft drink and ice plant in 1956. Clarence died in

1986 after making arrangements with SCHS President **Spencer Wilson** to transfer the brewery to SCHS upon his death. The Historical Society restored the building, including a new roof, to the condition it is today.



An early photo of the brewery before the 3-story center building was added in 1886



Illinois Brewing Co. delivering cold beer and ice circa. 1886



Hammel Brewery shortly after building the 3-story center section was completed.



The Hammel Brewery & Museum today

THE GOLDEN CROWN MILL

The Crown Mill is another of Socorro's landmark buildings, standing as a monument to days gone by.

John Henry Greenwald and family arrived in the United States from Odessa, Russia in 1849. A year later, John operated a flour mill in Ohio along with his son, **John Greenwald, Jr.** Diagnosed with tuberculosis, **John Jr.** and wife, **Racine**, moved west where he worked as a miller at a grain mill in Pueblo, CO in 1880 and by 1886 for the Huning flour mill in Los Lunas.



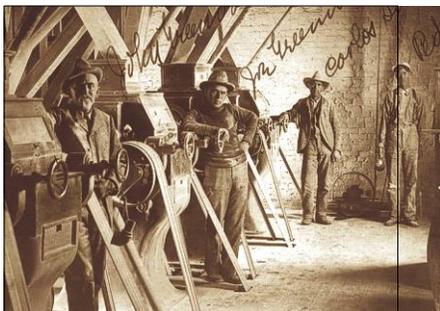
A wagon delivering grain at the newly built Crown Mill.

In 1892, John Jr. moved to Socorro to build his own mill. Unlike the water powered Zimmerly mill, Greenwald decided his mill stones would be powered by steam. He built his mill on south California Street next to the Santa Fe Railroad spur line to Magdalena to easily get his grains to markets by the railroad.



Early photo with the distinctive smoke stack – now gone.

The Crown Mill was completed in 1893. The steam powered mill quickly became a tactical advantage by allowing a much higher daily yield over the water powered mills. Operating around the clock, the Crown Mill was unable to keep up with demand. Greenwald decided to expand his mill. In 1898, the old single story mill was completely gutted and construction began on the



John Greenwald, Joe Greenwald, Carlos Salas, and Pedro Torres with the "Wolf" milling machines.

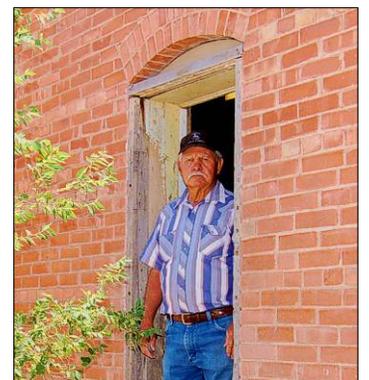
new 3-story mill – the mill that proudly stands on the south side of Socorro today. At great expense, Greenwald purchased the best motor-driven milling machinery available at the time. Raw grain was carried to the top floor where machinery removed the chaff and washed the meal. Grain fell to the 2nd floor by gravity where the new motorized grinders and bolters separated the grains into cereals, whole grains and flours, then to the bottom floor for drying, sacking and delivery. The gravity fed mill proved to be highly efficient, allowing 10,000 pounds of flour to be produced each day. In 1900, 160 rail-road carloads of fine flour were shipped to markets.



Some of the machinery that still resides in the old Crown Mill.

John retired in 1902. Two more generations of Greenwalds would operate the Crown Mill. In the 1920s, a lumber and coal business was added to the family enterprise. The business closed in 1965 upon the death of **John Osmond Greenwald**, bringing a 73 year era to an end.

The mill is now owned by local contractor Edward Savedra, who has invested plenty of funds and elbow grease to preserve the old mill for all to enjoy. He and his wife, Martha, want everyone to enjoy the old mill as they do.



Edward Savedrad at the Golden Crown Mill.

D&RGW Engine 496 Found!

Reprinted from the Salida, CO "News-Bulletin"

Historic Steam Engine Discovered in Barn

by Staff Writer Alison Ignacio

In what can only be described as a national treasure lost in the pages of time, a recent discovery has left many historians scratching their heads.

When 24-year old Samantha Hubbard and her husband Rick were told they inherited her grandfather's property in nearby Maysville, she had no idea exactly what she had been left. Upon searching the property, Hubbard's search lead her to the old barn to which her grandfather never let anyone enter. "I opened the door, and saw the mess of boxes, farm tools, and junk piled up. The usual stuff you would find in an old barn" Hubbard explained, "but then I turned to the right and that's when I saw it. I jumped and said Oh wow! That's a train!"



Photo by News Bulletin©Carl Carlson.

Old No. 496 as it appears in the barn located on the William Garfield farm. Samantha Hubbard inherited the farm, and everything on it. This included No. 496.

The train is in fact the Denver Rio Grande Western No. 496, built in 1902 by the Baldwin Locomotive Company in Pennsylvania. "What's interesting about this locomotive is according to the railroad records, No. 496 was scrapped in the mid 1950s," says Wilson Martin, a local railroad historian.

No. 496 operated all over Colorado on the narrow gauge rails of the old Rio Grande. The locomotive was the workhorse of the railroad, and many of the train crews loved operating the train. Unfortunately, Old 496's career ended when the narrow gauge lines were torn up. Engine 496 was, according to the D&RGW records, scrapped in January 1955. This is what leaves most railroad historians baffled. "The locomotive was at that point, written off, and

that was that." Martin explains. "How the locomotive ended up in the barn is anyone's guess."

"The locomotive is in unbelievably great condition. Almost all of the original parts; the bell, the whistle, and the throttle are still on it, and it looks like it is ready to go," Martin added. The only thing that appears to be missing from the engine is its headlight, which is currently on display at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden.

Hubbard told the *News Bulletin* that her grandfather, William C. Garfield, was an employee at the railroad in Salida. His career as an engineer began in 1939 and ended in 1955 when the diesel-electric locomotives replaced the steam engines and Garfield's job. "When I was a child, grandpa did not want us to go near his barn and if we got too close, he would let us know. After finding out what is inside, I now know why. He didn't want anybody to know the engine was in there."

Garfield protected his secret until his death in 2007 at the age of 92. Hubbard, one of three grandchildren, was the recipient of his property in Maysville according to his Will.

As far as the future of No. 496, Hubbard is uncertain on what to do with the engine. "This was my grandfather's secret, and he spent his whole life protecting it. I'm not sure what to do with it."

Several museums and narrow gauge excursion railroads have contacted Hubbard asking if she would be interested in donating No. 496 to them, however, she is not interested at this time.

The above article generated quite a stir with rail fans across the country as it appeared on various railroad websites. The newspaper was contacted by several railroads, including the Cumbres-Toltec and Durango-Silverton excursion railroads.

The article was published on March 31, 2011 – the day before "April Fool's Day." The young writer had just graduated with a degree in journalism and on her first job. Interested in local history, she quickly learned how Salida, CO was once a major hub for both narrow and standard gauge steam trains in days past. Talking to the old long-retired train engineers and crews, she saw the sparkle in their eyes when talking about the old steam locomotive days in Salida, or getting the trains over nearby Monarch Pass.

Armed with lots of genuine history, she decided to write a spoof April Fool's article to bring a little glimmer back into their eyes – if only for a few moments. Intended strictly as a local article, it went "viral" across the country. You have to give the young 24-year old woman a tip of the hat for writing one of the most believable railroad spoofs of all time. Complete with a photo. D&RGW No. 496 was, indeed, scrapped in Pueblo, CO in early 1955.