

La Crónica de Nuevo México

University of New Mexico

ZIM CSWR
Ovs
F
791
C7x
no. 61

April 2004

Issue Number 61

Buck Ramsey Heritage Award Presented to I. V. "Vince" Crisp



Nara Visa Cowboy Poetry and Song Gathering, September 20, 2003.
Jesse Swagerty III, I.V. "Vince" Crisp, recipient of the Buck Ramsey
Heritage Award, and Harry Hopson

Vince Crisp, well-known Union County cowboy, was presented the Buck Ramsey Heritage Award during the 2003 Nara Visa Cowboy Poetry and Song Gathering held in Nara Visa, New Mexico, September 19-21.

The late Buck Ramsey, Phil Martin and Andy Wilkinson founded the Gathering in 1993 at Nara Visa, a small ranch town about 60 miles south of Clayton. Barely inside the New Mexico state line, Nara Visa is just west of what was the western border of the legendary XIT Ranch. The Gathering stresses fellowship and congeniality and is conducted according to the old-time Chautauqua format. It is one of the best-staged, pure cowboy shows in America. In 2002, a new feature was added to the program, the Buck Ramsey Heritage Award, to be presented to an individual, family or ranch, which reflects the "Spirit of the West."

Criteria and guidelines for choosing the recipient include: someone from northeast New Mexico or northwest Texas; family homesteaded in the area; long-term commitment or active participation in ranching and the livestock industry; has retained many "cowboy" or "western" traditions and culture; helps promote tradition to upcoming generations; multi-generational involvement in ranching; community involvement; neighborly; agricultural producer; responsible in part for rangeland management.

Jesse Swagerty III, formerly of Clayton, long acquainted with the gregarious cowboy, nominated Vince for the prestigious award, as did Harry Hopson of the Triangle Ranch near Mosquero and Joe Flores, a rancher from Union County. Renee Rinstine presented the award to Vince, with these remarks:

"In about 1908, Ira Nain Crisp left Chandler, Oklahoma, and journeyed to Union County, New Mexico, where he looked for a homestead. He decided on the Thomas community, south of Clayton, and in 1910 brought his wife Minnie and their two oldest children by way of train to Texline, Texas, with all their household goods in a boxcar. At first, the family lived in a dugout, improved their homestead and also acquired an additional 160 acres nearby.

"They planted field crops and a truck garden. Over the years they sold their garden produce, milk and butter to families in Clayton. One of the main crops in the Thomas area was broomcorn. Vincent and his siblings often recall those days of hard work in the fields, especially pulling broomcorn.

"Ultimately, there were a total of 11 children in the Crisp family. They attended one-room schools in Thomas and Mansker. The family lived there until the mid-thirties, at which time they relocated to the Otto community west of Clayton.

"At the age of 13, Vincent Crisp left home without telling his parents. He joined up with a group of cowboys who were going to drive a herd of horses to the famous 101 Ranch in northern Oklahoma. While there, he went to Chandler, Oklahoma, to see his grandparents. A local resident asked if he could help the youngster, and Vince said, 'I'm looking for my grandfather, Abe Cardwell, who is sheriff here.' The Good Samaritan took him to his grandparents, whereby they notified his parents as to his whereabouts. Vincent had been gone two weeks before his parents knew where he had been.

"People who lived through the Dust Bowl and Depression of the 1930s have interesting memories. Union County, as part of the five-state area encompassing Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico, happened to be one of the hardest hit by the Dust Bowl, which included roller black clouds which blocked out the sun. When dust clouds were the most severe, people soaked sheets and towels in water and hung them at the doors and windows in an attempt to keep the dirt from coming through the cracks.

"Vincent tells of working for 50 cents a day at various jobs. At one time, he was hired by the local bank to travel throughout the Union County area to gather up abandoned stray livestock, especially cattle. One incident involved being so thirsty that he drank brackish water from a lake where a large flock of sheep had just drunk. He was so dehydrated that drinking after the sheep did not concern him in the least.

"Vincent met Irene Christian, whose family had homesteaded in the Otto community around 1911. They married in 1939, worked the Leon Ranch for a few years, moved to a dugout for a brief period and later bought 160 acres south of the Perico Creek. In the early fifties, they moved to their place on the Springer highway, where they started their current 'Echoing Hoof Ranch.' When the old elementary school in Clayton was demolished (now the site of Ranch Market), Vincent recycled the scrap lumber and brick to fashion a museum/home. Inside and out, the house is a testimony to the history of ranch life. According Swagerty, 'What you

see here is the real thing, not for show, and a good deal of it Vincent found while driving cattle or just traveling to work or home by horseback.'

"In the early forties, Vincent and Irene began driving a school bus route for the Clayton Public School District, an occupation they continued for 30 years. He subsidized his small ranch by driving to town as a bus driver, working all day as a carpenter or body shop man, then returning to home in the country to milk, garden and care for his herd of Herford cows. In the summer, he would do day work the neighbors. Vincent made being a cowboy possible for himself and his family with his off-the-ranch work.

"In the mid-fifties, Jim Jordan of the Oklahoma Panhandle decided to relocate to Clayton. He had a herd of about 20 buffalo and a large antique collection, which he wanted to display to a larger audience. He hired B.F. Froman to build Fort Jordan on the Raton highway north of Clayton. Because there was no other feasible way to move the buffalo herd, Jordan engaged several cowboys to drive them for a distance of about 100 miles. His top drovers were Vincent Crisp, Wallace Bebb and Bill Sutton, a black cowboy who, incidentally, for awhile lived seven miles west of Nara Visa on the Lockney Road. Bill Emery was the camp cook for the buffalo drive.

"The trail drive included a chuck wagon and campfires at night with songs, stories and tall tales. Amarillo television broadcast segments of the trail drive and its progress was regularly reported on the 'Cotton John' program. Photographer Bill Rhew extensively documented the event and several articles were published in newspapers and magazines. The day the buffalo arrived in Clayton was cause for a festive celebration, as the drovers herded the buffalo, along with two lead Brahma steers, down Main Street. Fort Jordan operated for several years and was an important tourist attraction for the town.

"Vincent worked for years penning cattle at Five States Livestock Auction and was also a brand inspector. He knew the small ranchers of the area needed a good market for their cattle and he helped in any way he could. In addition, Vince helped many families find a good gentle pony for their young children.

"At any opportunity, Vincent can be counted on to tell the story of an old-timer, or an old-time way of doing something. Considered by a friend as 'the best educated engineer I ever met; he knows lots of ways to engineer projects from fencing, windmilling, working cattle, range management or whatever around a ranch. He just learned from the older folks he

worked with, as they shared their heritage with him, and he continued to do the same.'

"Does anyone know how many years in a row Vincent Crisp has ridden in the Fourth of July parade? (He has ridden in the Clayton parade every year since he was a teenager). Vincent and Wallace Bebb made a pact when they were young men to ride a bronc on their 60th birthday. Vincent has ridden well past his 60th and 70th birthdays. Now in his 80s, he is still active with his Herford cattle and continues to ride his horses on the ranch.

"Stories about Vincent's exploits would fill a library. One is about the time Vincent called some trail ride/dude ranch outfit out of Chama wanting to go on a cattle drive through the high country. He was willing to pay, but not the \$1,500 they asked. One day at a rodeo in Cimarron, Vincent was visiting with a group of men, some he knew and some he didn't. He told the story of the overpriced cattle drive. When he finished, one of the men spoke up, 'Vincent, that's my cattle drive and you can come go with us anytime you want - free of charge.'

"Vincent has been active as a working cowboy, chuckwagon cook and poetry entertainer. He is very kind, conservative in his lifestyle, and loves to visit'. [During the Saturday night program at Nara Visa, Vincent sang Zebra Dunn and Punchin' the Dough and recalled that in 1937 he helped gather about 1500 head of cattle, in pouring down rain, loading them on train cars at Nara Visa to be shipped to wheat fields in Kansas.]

Vincent Crisp exemplifies the image of the honest, stalwart, story-telling cowboy and is very deserving of the honor he was given during the Nara Visa Cowboy Poetry and Song Gathering. (Above information from Union County Leader, Clayton, New Mexico, September 23, 2003). In 1987, Vince and his wife Irene were named Old Timers of the Year during the Fourth of July celebration in Clayton. Clayton and Union County, New Mexico, are proud to claim him as one of their own.

A portrait of Vincent, painted by New Mexican artist Mona Tanzola, on loan from Dr. Hal and Flossie Hopson, is on display at the Gila Regional Medical Center in Silver City, New Mexico.

(Editorial note: I.V. "Vince" Crisp passed away on February 13, 2004. While working on his ranch, he suffered a stroke. Born on May 2, 1917, Vincent would have been 87 years old on May 2, 2004. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.)

Nominations for the Buck Ramsey Heritage Award can be submitted to Nara Visa Cowboy Music & Poetry Gathering, 541 Railroad Avenue, Nara Visa, NM 88450.

Historical Society of New Mexico Annual Conference Los Alamos, New Mexico April 22-25, 2004

The Annual Conference of the Historical Society of New Mexico is co-sponsored by University of New Mexico - Los Alamos and the Los Alamos Historical Society. The Opening Reception will be at the historic Fuller Lodge in Los Alamos from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 22. Historical Society of New Mexico members are invited to a memorial dinner that evening at Las Colores Restaurant honoring the 100th birthday of J. Robert Oppenheimer.

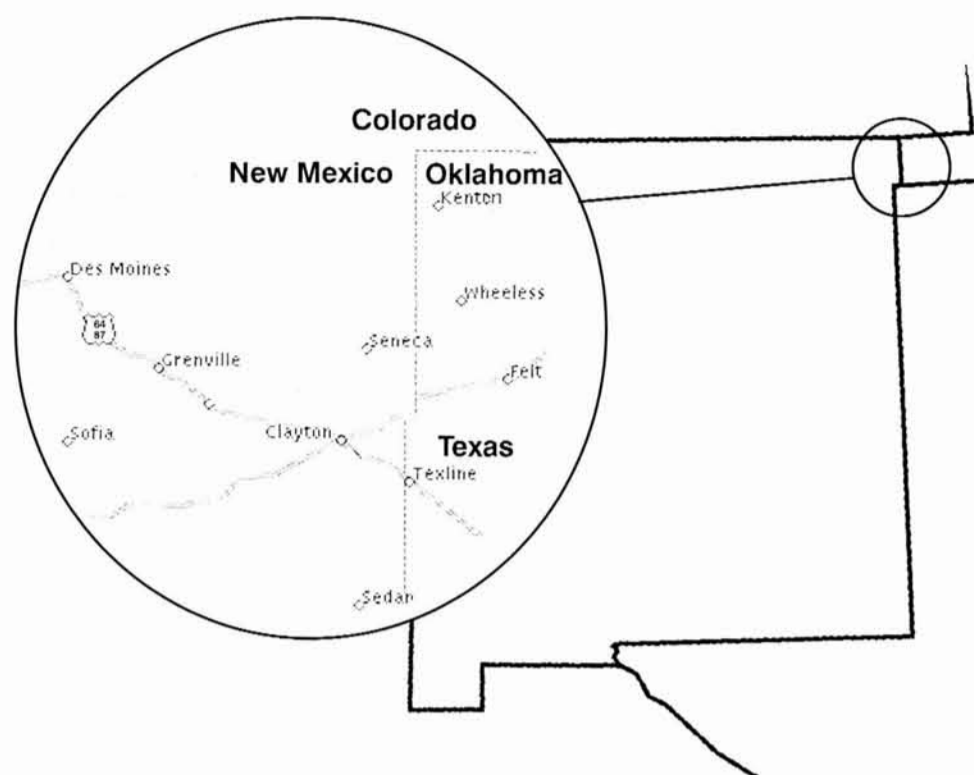
In addition to the sessions on Friday and Saturday, there will be several tours of Los Alamos and the surrounding area on Saturday afternoon. Longtime resident and Los Alamos Historical Society Docent Helene Suydam will lead a tour of

the central historic district of Los Alamos. The tour will begin at the Los Alamos Historical Museum where participants may see exhibits representing life on the Pajarito Plateau through the centuries, from early Indian civilizations to homesteading days and through the Ranch School and Manhattan Project periods. The tour continues with Fuller Lodge; Romero Cabin, from the homesteading era; Pajarito ruins; the Memorial Rose Garden and the houses of Bathtub Row. Other tours will include the Bradbury Science Museum, Atomic City Driving Tour, Banderlier Canyon and the historic Banderlier CCC Works.

For further information about the Conference in Los Alamos, please view our website: www.hsnm.org

The East Boundary Line of New Mexico - The Confluence of the Land Claims of Settlers from the American East and from the Mexican West and South

By Kendyl K. Monroe



East Boundary Line of New Mexico

The history of the east boundary line of New Mexico is an outstanding example of how political boundaries are more the product of practical political and social forces than abstract theories of ideal government jurisdictions or of map-making. As we will see, the line theoretically lies on the 103rd meridian, but the Texas part of the line is in fact about 2-1/2 to 3 miles west of that meridian due to a number of surveyor's errors. By all evidence, they were honest errors, but nevertheless errors that had important practical consequences, which were recognized and protected when the line with Texas was finally and officially established in 1913. To understand and appreciate fully why the 103rd meridian became the east boundary of New Mexico, and then was moved 2-1/2 to 3 miles west to accommodate Texas but not Oklahoma, it is necessary to go back to the earliest days of the Spanish, French, and later American exploration and settlement of the area west of the Mississippi River.

The 103rd Meridian Boundary

The Spanish settlements in New Mexico were confined largely to the Rio Grande valley, beginning with Onate's pioneering colony in 1598, and beginning again with the Spanish reconquest in 1693 after the 1680 Pueblo Revolt had expelled the Spanish. (That, incidentally, was the only successful expulsion by Native Americans of European settlers in the history of the European settlement of the United States.) Spain's territorial claims to the wider areas that it explored both east and west of the Rio Grande, starting with Coronado's exploration of the eastern plains as early as 1540, were not clearly defined before the French began infiltrating from the east via the Mississippi River and its western tributaries.

La Salle discovered the Ohio River in 1669, but there is no evidence that he went down the Mississippi at that time as he later claimed. Joliet traveled down most but not all of the Mississippi in 1672, and Marquette founded Kaskaskia at the confluence of the Illinois and the Mississippi Rivers in 1673. Most important, in 1682 La Salle made it to the mouth of the Mississippi, and ceremoniously proclaimed all the lands drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries as the "country of Louisiana" in the name of the French King Louis XIV. A subsequent French charter to colonizers described the west boundary of Louisiana as "New Mexico" without defining that boundary, and described the south boundary as the "Rio Grande del Norte." New Orleans was founded as the capital of Louisiana in about 1720.

Spain, which had settled Florida as well as New Mexico, of course disputed France's claims. In 1762, at the end of the war that was called the French and Indian War in North America and the Seven Years War in Europe, and which some historians consider to be the first truly world-wide war, France

ceded to England its claims to all of Canada and all the area in the present United States east of the Mississippi, and France ceded to Spain its claims to all the area west of the Mississippi, which became known as the Louisiana Territory. In 1800, Spain ceded the Louisiana Territory back to France in order to provide a buffer between the newly independent and expansionist United States and Spain's claims to the area southwest of Louisiana. The United States had acquired in the Revolutionary War all of England's claims to the area east of the Mississippi, because west of the Appalachian Mountains the Revolutionary War had actually been a war of conquest by the American Colonists against England which the Americans won. In a classic diplomatic double-cross, two years after Spain ceded Louisiana to France to protect Spain's southwest claims from the United States, France, needing money for another war, sold Louisiana to the United States.

The Louisiana Purchase treaty didn't establish boundaries, but Jefferson claimed that the western boundary extended to the Rio Grande, which clearly conflicted with Spain's claims and its long occupation of the Rio Grande valley. Some unofficial maps show the southern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase as following a line just south of the Red River (which presumably included the areas drained by that river's tributaries) all the way to that river's headwaters in the area of present-day Amarillo, Texas, thence to the Rocky Mountains and northward from there. That boundary question was settled, at least temporarily, in the 1819 Adams-Onis Treaty where, in exchange for Spain ceding to the United States all of Spain's claims to Florida, the United States ceded to Spain all of the United States' claims southwest of a line which followed the Sabine River north to the 94th meridian, thence north on that meridian to the Red River, thence west on that river (the present north boundary of east Texas) to the 100th meridian, thence north on that meridian (the present east boundary of the Texas panhandle) to the Arkansas River, thence west on that river to the 105th meridian, thence north on that meridian to the 42nd parallel, thence west on that parallel to the Pacific Ocean along what later became the north boundaries of Utah, Nevada, and California.

In 1821 Mexico became independent from Spain and opened commerce with the United States, which Spain had previously forbidden. That led immediately and directly to the development of the Santa Fe Trail as a trade route.

In 1835-1837, the Republic of Texas became independent from Mexico. Although the territory of the Republic which was recognized by the United States was the area in east Texas that had been settled (at the invitation of Mexico) by Austin and other American colonizers, the Republic itself claimed that it was the successor to the

land claims of Mexico and formerly Spain all the way west to the Rio Grande for the entire length of that river from the Gulf of Mexico to its headwaters in present Colorado, thence north on the 106th meridian to the Adams-Onis line on the 42nd meridian, thence east following the Adams-Onis line to the 94th meridian. A treaty that was signed in 1836 by the Mexican dictator Santa Anna, while he was a captive of the Texans, provided only that the border, which was to be established later, would not extend beyond the Rio Grande. That treaty was immediately repudiated by Mexico, and later by Santa Anna after he was freed in 1837, and it never became effective, but Texas ever thereafter claimed that the treaty was a formal recognition of its claim to the Rio Grande.

In 1841 Texas sent a trade caravan, which may also have been a disguised military expedition (that is disputed), to Santa Fe to support its claims, but the expedition was thwarted by ignorance and disagreements about the route to be taken, Indian raids, and the ultimate arrest of the few Texans who managed to reach New Mexico and their ignominious exile to Mexico City.

In 1846 the United States annexed Texas and initially supported Texas's territorial claims to the Rio Grande in the ensuing war with Mexico. That war was initially precipitated by the United States providing military support for Texas's claim that its southern boundary was the Rio Grande, not the Nueces River further north. The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo made Texas's claim to the Rio Grande as its western boundary moot vis-à-vis Mexico because Mexico ceded to the United States all of New Mexico (which then included Arizona), as well as California and Utah.

In 1848 Texas passed legislation creating the "County of Santa Fe" out of what is now most of eastern New Mexico, and sent commissioners to Santa Fe in that year and again in 1850 to organize a government of the county, but the commissioners were refused recognition by two successive U.S. military governors of New Mexico.

The Compromise of 1850 defined the boundaries of Texas, which had not been specifically defined when Texas was admitted to the Union in 1846 as a slave state, and those definitions had a number of very interesting consequences. First, the north border of the Texas panhandle was limited to the 36 degree 30 minute North latitude, which was the historic Mason-Dixon line of the 1820 Missouri Compromise north of which slavery was not permitted in the Louisiana Territory other than in Missouri. The territory north and east of the Texas panhandle as thus defined belonged to the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase, but it had no territorial government because it had been reserved as "Indian Territory" for Native Americans from both the east and west side of the Mississippi River, and white settlement was forbidden but was actually beginning to occur by 1850. I'll have more to say about that shortly.

Second, and now at last I'm getting to the specific topic of this talk but you'll readily see why the foregoing history is highly relevant, the Compromise of 1850 created the Territory of New Mexico (which included Arizona until 1863) and established the 103rd meridian as the boundary between New Mexico and Texas. That was the first and final official designation of the boundary between the land claims of the two quite different sources of European settlement of the southwest - the Americans from the east and the Mexicans and Spanish from the west and south. It was a pure political compromise. New Mexico had claimed in a statehood constitution adopted by a convention in the summer of 1850 that the boundary should be the 100th meridian, but New Mexico was not well represented in the negotiations of the 1850 Compromise because it had a military government and didn't have a representative in Congress. For agreeing to the 103rd meridian, Texas was paid \$10 million by the United States to enable Texas to pay the debts it had incurred as an independent Republic in the Texas Revolution and the Mexican-American War. New Mexico (which included Arizona), as its

part of the compromise, was formally organized as a territory (but not a state, as California was), ending the military government that had been in effect since the Mexican-American War.

Third, the east boundary of New Mexico extended north on the 103rd meridian beyond the north end of the Texas panhandle to the 38th parallel, just south of the Arkansas River (which had been the Adams-Onis treaty line), thence west on the 38th parallel to the Continental Divide, thence south along the Divide to the 37th parallel, thence west on that parallel. That had two very interesting consequences when the Kansas-Nebraska Act was enacted just four years later.

By 1854 the pressures for allowing white settlement and the building of railroads to California in the unorganized "Indian Territory" led to the enactment of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which created the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas and reduced the Indian Territory to the area south of what was designated as the south border of the Kansas, north of Texas, west of Arkansas and Missouri, and east of the 100th meridian - in short, what is presently Oklahoma without the panhandle. The south border of Kansas was initially proposed to be 36 degrees 30 minutes to conform with the north border of the Texas panhandle and the boundary between Missouri and Arkansas, but it was changed in the final legislation to the 37th parallel for reasons that are obscure but are thought to relate to an erroneous understanding of where the boundary between the Osage and Cherokee reservations was at the eastern end of that line. In any event, designating the 37th parallel as the south border of the Territory of Kansas (which included the part of present Colorado east of the Rocky Mountains that had not been included in New Mexico in the 1850 Compromise) created a corner in that border at the 103rd meridian. That corner existed from 1854 until the Territory of Colorado was created in 1861 in part out of the portion of Kansas that was west of the 102nd meridian and the portion of New Mexico that was north of the 37th parallel.

Designating the 37th parallel as the south border of Kansas also created a 30-degree wide area between the north end of the Texas panhandle and the south end of Kansas east of the New Mexico border and west of the 100th meridian - the area that is now the Oklahoma panhandle. That area was not part of any organized territorial government before the Territory of Oklahoma was organized in 1890 by combining the area with what remained of the Indian Territory to the east, which initially was not contiguous. That's why after 1854 and before 1890 the area was popularly called "No-Man's Land," although the official name was the Public Land Strip. Its west boundary was the 103rd meridian - the New Mexico border - and its east boundary was the 100th meridian north of the Texas panhandle and south of the Kansas border.

Why the Texas-New Mexico Boundary is 2-1/2 to 3 Miles West of the 103rd Meridian

Now the surveyors start to play their role in this history. In 1857 Lt. Col. Joseph E. Johnson of the First Cavalry of the U.S. Army surveyed the southern border of the Kansas Territory, and located and monumented the corner at the intersection of the 37th parallel with the 103rd meridian. Meridians were especially difficult (in comparison with parallels) to identify precisely with the technology that was available at that time, which consisted primarily of observing sun, moon, and star elevations at precise times of precise dates and using charts of predicted positions. The earliest surveyors also had vast unpopulated and uninviting areas to cover, so it is not surprising that Johnson's monument was later determined to be about 2-1/2 miles west of the 103rd meridian. Due to a similar surveyor's error, the boundary between Colorado and Kansas is about three miles west of the 102nd meridian, which was stated to be the boundary in the 1861 legislation creating the Territory of Colorado.

continued on page 3

In 1858 the United States appointed John H. Clark and Texas appointed William R. Scurry as Commissioners to survey the Texas-New Mexico border. They started at the intersection of the Rio Grande with the 32nd parallel, and surveyed and marked the 32nd parallel to a point that they determined was the 103rd meridian, which point was later determined to be about 3 miles in error, also to the west like Johnson's error. At about that time Scurry withdrew from the survey, and Clark alone surveyed and marked a line north from that point to about the 33rd parallel, where he abandoned the survey "for lack of water." In 1859 Clark and a newly-appointed Texas Commissioner proceeded to the northwest corner of Texas, which Clark sited on the 103rd meridian at its intersection with 36 degrees 30 minutes by extending a line 30 minutes south from the Johnson monument on the 37th parallel with its built-in 2-1/2 mile westward error. Clark may have been familiar with that monument because an astronomer with the Johnson survey was named "J.H. Clark," who may have been the same Clark. Clark and the Texas Commissioner then surveyed south from that corner to the 34th parallel, where the survey was abandoned due again to lack of water, and also to impassable sand hills and "troublesome" Indians.

In 1862, with the Civil War in full sway, Clark's work was terminated after he had filed several partial reports but no complete report, and the Texas Commissioner filed no report at all - the Clark survey was therefore not officially accepted by the United States and Texas governments as the legislation authorizing the survey had provided for. But portions of the Clark line were referred to in Congressional legislation in 1891 defining the boundaries of the Public Land Strip which was included in the Territory of Oklahoma, and in surveys made by various surveyors other than Clark in 1872, 1881, 1883, and 1892-99.

Now the XIT Ranch enters the history of the boundary line. The Texas Constitution of 1876 provided for reserving 3,050,000 acres of land to pay for constructing a State Capitol building (50,000 acres were included to pay the architects' fees). The land was to be granted to a group of Chicago investors who organized the Capitol Company and agreed to pay the cost of constructing the Capitol and to look for the return of their investment and any profit to come from developing and selling the land as ranches. Texas legislation in 1879 designated 5 million acres, starting at the northwest corner of the panhandle and extending south for 200 miles adjacent to the New Mexico border, as the land from which the 3,050,000 acres were to be selected by the Capitol Company. The land that was selected included all or parts of eleven counties in Texas, which is recognized in the name XIT - XI for eleven and T for Texas. It was surveyed in 1880 by J.T. Munson using Clark's northwest corner as the starting point.

In 1881, Richard O. Chaney and William W. Smith surveyed the Public Land Strip (No Man's Land) and determined that Clark's northwest corner of Texas was about 2-1/2 miles west and slightly north of the correct site, and that Johnson's monument on the former Kansas border (which by then had become the Colorado border and did not have any corner at the 103rd meridian, but continued west on the 37th parallel) contained a comparable error. They placed the Public Land Strip boundary with New Mexico correctly at the 103rd meridian. In 1902-03, A.D. Kidder resurveyed the north border of the Texas panhandle and confirmed the error of Clark's corner.

So in 1910, when it had at last become politically feasible for New Mexico to be admitted as a state of the United States, a constitutional convention proposed to the New Mexican voters a constitution that provided that New Mexico's eastern boundary was the 103rd meridian. That got the Texans excited, and especially the XIT Ranch which had sold land in the area that New Mexico disputed, and they persuaded - today we would say lobbied - President William Howard Taft to get Congress to pass a Joint Resolution, which was enacted on February 16, 1911, declaring in a masterpiece of legislative double-talk that the boundary would begin at the intersection of the 103rd meridian and 36 degrees 30 minutes "as determined and fixed by John H. Clark," thence would run south "with the line run by said Clark for the said one hundred and third degree of

longitude to the thirty-second parallel ... to the point marked by said Clark as the southeast corner of New Mexico; and thence west with the thirty-second degree of north latitude as determined by said Clark to the Rio Grande." That Resolution also authorized the appointment of Commissioners to remark the boundary, and where no survey had been made by Clark (which the Commissioners determined was between the 33rd and 34th parallels) directed the Commissioners to run a straight line between the nearest points that had been determined by Clark. The Joint Resolution adopted by Congress on August 21, 1911, to admit New Mexico and Arizona as states specifically conditioned the admission of New Mexico on its acceptance of the terms and conditions of the February Joint Resolution. The August Resolution is reproduced in a book titled *New Mexico Historic Documents* (1975), edited by Richard N. Ellis, which is in the Monroe Collection at the Thompson Public Library in Clayton, New Mexico.

The resurvey of the Texas-New Mexico boundary was made by Francis M. Cockrell, Commissioner on the part of the United States, and Sam R. Scott, Commissioner on the part of Texas, commencing on April 11, 1911, and completed on September 26, 1911, and their report was prepared in triplicate: the original was for the U.S. General Land Office in Washington D.C., and the duplicate and triplicate copies were for the Governors of Texas and New Mexico. The Report states that the surveyors were "frequently under conditions and circumstances unpleasant and disagreeable." Many of the Clark monuments were difficult to find because they were not at regular intervals and were made of stone or earth. The diagonal line between the points on the 33rd and 34th parallels that Clark hadn't surveyed - those points would not have intersected in any event because the north line had a 2-1/2 mile error and the south line had a 3 mile error - is so slight that it is not visible on most maps of the present Texas-New Mexico border, but it is plainly visible on large scale maps. On July 25, 1913, President Taft wrote the final chapter in the history of the Texas-New Mexico boundary by issuing an Executive Order approving and establishing the findings, conclusions, and acts of the 1911 Commissioners "for the establishment anew and further demarcation of the boundary line between New Mexico and Texas."

The New Mexico Archivist wasn't able to locate New Mexico's copy of the 1911 Commissioners Report. After tenacious effort, a research assistant in the Washington office of my former law firm located the U.S. original of the Report in the dead storage records of the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, MD, had a microfilm of the Report made at considerable expense to me, and painstakingly made two paper copies of all 807 pages of the Report. I have donated to the Herzstein Memorial Museum of the Union County Historical Society in Clayton, New Mexico, one paper copy of the Report, a written copy of this talk, and copies of a number of the sources and references that are listed at the end of the written copy of this talk, with the clear understanding that they will be carefully protected, preserved, and made appropriately accessible. I have donated the microfilm and the second paper copy of the 1911 Report to the New Mexico State Archives. I have also donated a written copy of this talk to the Cimarron County (Oklahoma) Historical Society.

Sources and References

Note: UCHS denotes that the document is available at the Herzstein Memorial Museum of the Union County Historical Society in Clayton, New Mexico, and MC denotes that the document is available in the D.D. and Helen K. Monroe Collection at the Albert W. Thompson Memorial Library in Clayton, New Mexico.

Index to the U.S. General Land Office "Old Case 'F' File" Records in the U.S. National Archives (1952). UCHS

Records of the United States and Texas Boundary as Surveyed by John H. Clark, United States Commissioner, Under the Provisions of the Act of Congress Approved June 5, 1858 (5 vols.), U.S. General Land Office "Old Case 'F' File" Records, Item 108.

Ehud N. Darling, Field Notes of the Survey of the 37th Parallel of North Latitude, So Far as it Constitutes the North Boundary of New Mexico, Commencing at the 103 Degree and Terminating at the 109 Degree of West Longitude from Greenwich (1868). U.S. General Land Office "Old Case 'F' File" Records, Item 74.

Ehud N. Darling, Field Notes, Computations, and Final Results of Astronomical Work Made for the Establishment of the 37th Parallel of North Latitude So far as It Constitutes the North Boundary of New Mexico from the 103 Degree to 109 Degree of West Longitude from Greenwich (1868). U.S. General Land Office "Old Case 'F' File" Records, Item 75.

John J. Major, Astronomical Observations and Computations and Field Notes of the Survey of That Portion of the Southern Boundary of Colorado Territory Included Between the 25th Meridian West from Washington and the 103rd Meridian West from Greenwich, Also of that Portion of the Eastern Boundary of the Territory of New Mexico lying between the 36 Degree 30 Minute and 37 Degree Parallel of North Latitude (1873). U.S. General Land Office "Old Case 'F' File" Records, Item 19.

Richard O. Chaney and William W. Smith, Field Notes of the Survey of the Public Lands Lying Between 36 Degrees 30 Minutes and 37 Degrees North Latitude and 100 Degrees and 103 Degrees West Longitude, Known as the "Public Land Strip" (1881-2) (14 vols.), U.S. General Land Office "Old Case 'F' File" Records, Item 104.

EP Levenworth, Astronomical Observations and Calculations for the Determination of the 103 Degrees West Longitude from Greenwich, made near Las Animas, Bent County, Colorado (1881). UCHS

Howard B. Carpenter, Original Field Notes of the Re-survey of the Boundary Line Between the State of Colorado and the Territories of New Mexico and Oklahoma (1902). U.S. General Land Office "Old Case 'F' File" Records, Item 23.

Howard B. Carpenter, Examination of the Re-survey of the South Boundary of Colorado...Also Notes of Observations and Computations of Astronomical Examination (1902-3) (two sets of notes in one vol.), U.S. General Land Office "Old Case 'F' File" Records, Item 24.

A.D. Kidder, Records Relating to the Northwest Boundaries of Texas (1902-3) (5 records in one vol.), U.S. General Land Office "Old Case 'F' File" Records, Item 109.

A.D. Kidder, Report of the Astronomical Investigation of the Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma Boundary Lines (1903). UCHS

A.D. Kidder, Diagrams Showing Relative Positions of True Corner Monuments and Meridians and Parallel Lines as Compared with Those Established in Previous Surveys of the Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma Boundary Line (1902-3). UCHS

A.D. Kidder, Diagram Attached to Field Notes (1903). UCHS

Francis M. Cockrell and Sam R. Scott, Report Upon the Resurvey and Location of the Boundary Line Between the State of Texas and New Mexico (1911). U.S. General Land Office "Old Case 'F' File" Records, Item 110. UCHS

Lee S. Miller, Field Notes of the Re-establishment of Monument No. 1 on Clark's Thirty-second Parallel of North Latitude, Forming the Boundary Between Texas and New Mexico (1911). U.S. General Land Office "Old Case 'F' File" Records, Item 111. UCHS

New Mexico Boundary Line, Senate Report 940, 61st Cong., 3d Sess. (December 19, 1910). UCHS

Message from the President of the United States to the Senate and House of Representatives Transmitting a Communication Relating to the Boundary Between New Mexico and Texas, H.R. Doc. 1076, 61st Cong., 3d Sess. (December 21, 1910). UCHS

Boundary Line Between Texas and New

Mexico, House Report 1883, 61st Cong., 3d Sess. (January 11, 1911). UCHS

Joint Resolution of Congress Reaffirming the Boundary Line Between Texas and the Territory of New Mexico, 61st Cong., 3d Sess. (enacted February 16, 1911). UCHS

Joint Resolution of Congress to Admit the Territories of New Mexico and Arizona as States into the Union upon an Equal Footing with the Original States, 61st Cong., 3d Sess. (August 21, 1911). Reproduced in Richard N. Ellis, ed., *New Mexico Historical Documents* (1975), p. 87. MC

Estimate of Appropriations, Texas-New Mexico Boundary Line, House Document 726, 62nd Cong., 2d Sess. (May 2, 1912). UCHS

J. Evetts Haley, *The XIT Ranch of Texas* (1921, new edition 1953). MC

PM. Baldwin, "A Historical Note on the Boundaries of New Mexico," *New Mexico Historical Review* 117 (April 1930). MC

Geo. W. Martin, "The Boundary Lines of Kansas," XI. Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society 53 (1910). UCHS

Nyle H. Miller, "Surveying the Southern Boundary Line of Kansas: From the Private Journal of Col. Joseph E. Johnson," 1. The Kansas Historical Quarterly 104 (1932). UCHS

Fred Floyd, "Boundaries of the Panhandle of Oklahoma," in John W. Morris, ed., *Boundaries of Oklahoma* (1980). UCHS

Francis Parkman, *France and England in North America* (2 vols., Literary Classics of the United States reprint 1983). MC

Theodore Roosevelt, *The Winning of the West* (4 vols., 1889-96). MC

Ray Allen Billington and Martin Ridge, *A History of the American Frontier* (5th edition, 1982). MC

Noel M. Loomis, *The Texan-Santa Fe Pioneers* (1958). MC

David J. Weber, *The Spanish Frontier in North America* (1992).

Richard White, *Its Your Misfortune and None of My Own: A New History of the American West* (1991).

Martin Ridge, *Atlas of American Frontiers* (1993).

Alan Wexler, *Atlas of Westward Expansion* (1995).

Robert M. Utley, *The Indian Frontier of the American West 1846-1890* (1984).

Ted Morgan, *A Shovel of Stars: The Making of the American West 1800 to the Present* (1995).

Kendyl K. Monroe, *Small Worlds* (1994). MC

KKM

Kendyl K. Monroe was born and raised in Clayton, New Mexico. He received his bachelor and law degrees from Stanford University, then lived and worked in New York City for 34 years where he practiced Wall Street law. During this time, he restored an 1866 single-family brownstone house in Greenwich Village. In addition, Monroe chaired the Board of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation for many years. He also chaired a group that preserved 5,000 acres of wilderness in the Adirondack Mountains. After retiring from his law practice in 1994, he and his wife, the former Barbara Sayre, built a Santa Fe style home on the historic Sayre family ranch 37 miles north of Clayton. They acquired and restored the nearby historic El Valle Escondido Ranch, once the country home of Raymond Huff, Superintendent of the Clayton Schools from June 1920 through December 1950. Monroe currently serves as a member of the board of directors of the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance and is on the board of many other organizations.

This Newspaper is published by

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF
NEW MEXICO**
P.O. Box 1912
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

EDITOR
John P. Conron

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Carleen Lazzell

OFFICERS
Rick Hendricks - President
Richard Melzer - 1st Vice President
Nancy Dimit Lopez - 2nd Vice President
John Porter Bloom - Secretary
Michael Stevenson - Treasurer

DIRECTORS
John P. Conron
Austin Hoover
Carleen Lazzell
Estévan Rael-Gálvez
Agnese Reeve
Andres J. Segura
Maggie Espinosa McDonald - Past President

The opinions expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the Historical Society of New Mexico. Mention of a product, service or professional in these columns is not to be considered an endorsement of that product, service or profession by the Historical Society of New Mexico.

www.hsnm.org

La Crónica de Nuevo México

Number 61

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

Post Office Box 1912
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87501
Permit No. 95

TO:

BOOK REVIEW:

Cowboy Days: Stories of the New Mexico Range

By Stephen Zimmer

Illustrated by Justin Wells

(Santa Fe: Zon International Publishing Co., 2003) 144 pp., 40 illustrations.

To order: (\$11.95 plus \$3. s/h)

Double Z Bar Ranch

Rt. 1, Box 51

Cimarron, NM 87714

(505) 483-5054

Stephen Zimmer's latest book, *Cowboy Days*, is reminiscent of stories told by the late Col. Jack Potter aka "Lead Steer" Potter. Using colorful language to describe everyday events and real people, Zimmer's depictions of New Mexico ranch life are vivid. Col' Potter wrote in the first person, as does Zimmer, which lends authenticity to

their cowboy tales.

Zimmer recently retired as Director of Philmont Museum, a position he had held since 1975. In addition to his newest book, he co-wrote *Philmont: An Illustrated History* (1988) and compiled and edited *For Good or Bad: People of the Cimarron Country* (1999). His short stories have also been published in popular magazines such as *Western Horseman* and *Cowboy Magazine*.

Illustrator Justin Wells, a well known western artist is a member of the Texas Cowboy Artist Association. His drawings can be found in numerous publications including the cookbook *Chuckwagon Recipes* (1994) and *Western Horseman*. Wells lives in Amarillo, Texas, where he raises and trains Quarter Horses.

Cowboy Days is a book that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and all walks of life, not just fans of the "cowboy way of life". CL

BOOK REVIEW:

Captain Joseph C. Lea, From Confederate Guerilla to New Mexico Patriarch
By Elvis E. Fleming.

(Las Cruces: Yucca Tree Press, 2002), 260 pp., photos, bibliography, index, \$25.00 cloth.
Reviewed by Robert J. Torrez

Seventeen of New Mexico's thirty-three counties are named in honor of the famous and infamous. Several of these, such as Lincoln and Grant, are named for presidents and other widely admired national figures. Nine are named for local New Mexico political or business leaders. Elvis E. Fleming's eighth book on the history of southeast New Mexico and west Texas, is about the life and times of one of these select group of men - Joseph E. Lea (1841-1905), the "Father of Roswell" and namesake of Lea County, established in 1917.

The subtitle of this book, "From Confederate Guerilla to New Mexico Patriarch", describes only a portion of the material presented here. Fleming begins Joseph C. Lea's story, with a substantial amount of background on Lea's direct ancestors and the families of his three wives. The book traces Lea's early life in Tennessee and their move West to Missouri in 1849. This move and the subsequent Sectional Strife of the period shaped J. C. Lea's life for the following two decades. During the Civil War, Lea fought vigorously on the side of the Confederacy, riding with William Clarke Cantrell and Joseph O. Sibley's Brigade. Towards the war's end, Lea served with the Louisiana State Troops, conducting raids on Union forces while dressed in federal uniforms. Among the individuals he rode with during his "guerilla" phase, was Thomas "Cole" Younger, who may have been a distant relative.

Lea moved to Colfax County in New Mexico territory in 1875 and tried his hand at ranching there before making his fortuitous move to southeast New Mexico. By this time, Roswell had been founded nearly a decade earlier by Van C. Smith. A significant portion of this book is devoted to reviewing this apparent inconsistency in the Roswell story. J.C. Lea may have come to be considered the "Father of Roswell," but he was not the "founder" of the town. Fleming does an admirable job of describing Smith's (as well as other individuals) contribution to the early history of the Roswell area. Lea's fame and contributions derive from the subsequent development of Roswell from a stop along the Goodnight-Loving Trail into

southeast New Mexico's most important commercial and residential center.

The second half of this book concentrates on Captain Lea's role in the Lincoln County War, his efforts at cattle ranching, and the travails of the famous Lea Cattle Company. Of interest to this reader is the apparent fact that either Lea was not very good at ranching or met with more than his share of ranching misfortune. The vastness of his enterprises may have given the appearance of success, but his Lea Cattle Company went through an enormous amount of money, and few of his financial backers saw any return on their investments.

However, Lea's life was much greater than his cattle enterprise. Fleming reviews his more lasting contributions, such as his role in the establishment of Chaves County in 1889 and the naming of Roswell as the seat of the new county. His family's role in the establishment of the Goss Military Institute in 1891 and its subsequent development as today's New Mexico Military Institute is fascinating reading.

Some portions of the book may prove confusing to readers as he wades through the background on many individuals who touched the life of Captain Joseph C. Lea. However, this background often proves important to understanding the often complicated personal and financial aspects of Lea's life. There are also no footnotes. Instead, the author refers to his sources within the text (and lists them in the bibliography), often utilizing the terms, "according to" and "...[so and so] claims that..." It took this reader some time to get used to this form of story telling, but others may find it a refreshing change from the more formal footnoting.

Captain Joseph C. Lea touched the lives of many individuals who played a role in the history of territorial New Mexico. In one chapter alone, Lea's relationship with men such as J. J. Hagerman, George Curry, Patrick Garrett, and Charles B. Eddy are mentioned in the opening paragraphs. Two of these men were subsequent governors of New Mexico. Three of them had towns or counties names after them, and of course, we all know the fame that Garrett achieved. Captain Lea certainly walked among many of the giants of that time and place in our history. Elvis Fleming provides us with a comprehensive, although probably not definitive, look at this Civil War guerilla, rancher, entrepreneur, empire builder, husband and father. This is an important addition to our knowledge and understanding of the history of southeast New Mexico. RJT



Letters from Vietnam Sought

New Mexicans who served in the Vietnam War can play a role in an exciting public project coming to the University of New Mexico campus in October 2004. *Vietnam: Voices and Visions Unfiltered* is a multi-component symposium that will provide a public history of the Vietnam War, thirty years after the American withdrawal.

Organized by veterans and funded in part by the New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities and private contributions, this project is designed to provide insights into the personal experiences of this war - insights that most people have never encountered or have forgotten.

One of the major components of the symposium will be an exhibit of letters written home by New Mexicans serving in Vietnam. Now being collected, these letters will provide first-person accounts of the fears, dangers and drudgeries of war, giving today's readers a sense of what it must have

been like in a time and place that now seem long ago and far away - except for those who served.

Veterans and their families are encouraged to look for these written memories and to send copies to project director Brian McKinsey in Albuquerque. McKinsey feels the written words from decades ago will be embraced by new generations.

McKinsey is hoping to collect the letters by July 1. If you have questions or want to know more about the project, contact him at (505) 344-7383 or e-mail to echomac@aol.com.

Vietnam: Voices and Visions Unfiltered is scheduled in several venues at the University of New Mexico and in other Albuquerque locations from October 15, 2004 through January 16, 2005. Other components of the project include art and photography exhibits, and much more.

