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CHAPARRAL GUIDE

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SEPTEMBER
8, 9 AND 10, 2017



HILLSBORO/KINGSTON
CELEBRATION • SEPTEMBER 2, 2017

2017 Elephant Days Set for September 8, 9 and 10

The annual celebration of incorporation for the City of Elephant Butte is slated to get underway Sept. 8, 9 and 10.

Highlights of the City’s “Elephant Days” include the annual parade, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. The parade line up will start at 9 a.m. with the parade starting at 10 a.m. sharp. The parade will begin at Marina Suites and travel down Hwy 195 to Hodges Restaurant. Applications for participation in the parade must be received by Sept. 1 at Elephant Butte City Hall, 103 Water Street.

This year’s theme “Space” will be carried out throughout the celebration and this year’s organizers are urging residents and guests to wear Star Trek, Star Wars and alien costumes for the Parade.

Another highlight of this year’s festivities includes a carnival, which will be set up for three days beginning Friday, Sept. 8. Vendors will also begin setting up Friday, Sept. 8. During the set up, no one will be allowed into the vendors’ area with vehicles until 4 p.m. There will be DJ music throughout the afternoon Friday during setup.

Saturday night, Tudy & the Silver Bullet Band will be performing for a free music/dance.

And Sunday, the Singing Sheriff and his band “On-Call” is slated to perform.

A big give-away will be held Sunday when some lucky ticket holder wins a weekend trip to Crosspoint in Ruidoso.

CITY INCORPORATED

In July 1998, the City of Elephant Butte became New Mexico’s 101st incorporated community. For over a year preceding the incorporation, a group of enthusiastic, community-minded citizens completed population census and financial



ELEPHANT DAYS PARADE FAVORITES

analysis, as well as surveyed citizens’ attitudes toward incorporation before the actual vote was held. After incorporation, a solid mayor and council form of government was established.

For more information, contact Mel Tepper at (224) 402-2044.

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“Flint Hill Tradition” To Perform At Elephant Days

This Bluegrass band hails from the New Mexico/Arizona region.

Their performances at many of the Arizona and California Bluegrass Festivals have earned them a faithful following of Bluegrass fanatics. Under normal circumstances, they make up three fifths of the Arizona-based Bluegrass band, “Flint Hill Special”, however, when band leader Glenn Wilborne and Banjo player, Johnny Miller are home resting, they become, “Flint Hill Tradition”. Many have reported that the joining of these three vocals has been the most highly anticipated union on the Arizona and California Bluegrass scene in decades. These enthusiasts are among some of the finest Bluegrass musicians in the southwest and have spent many years honing their skills in this genre. On the mandolin and vocals is Sierra County New Mexico’s very own Singing Sheriff, Glenn Hamilton. He and wife Monika reside in Truth or Consequences and can be seen playing and singing at many of the area’s local events. His influences range from the Stanley Brothers to Larry Sparks with an emphasis on the more traditional sound. On the up-right bass is Bullhead City’s own Pete Lorentz. His award winning skills on the bass provide for the low-end drive and his smooth harmonies complete the sound commonly referred to as “High Lonesome”. On guitar and vocals is Terry “Buzz” Sawyer, a Wyoming native and part time Yucca, Arizona resident. Like his band-mates, Buzz began playing professionally in country music and has now incorporated his lightening fast licks into his newfound love of Bluegrass. If that weren’t enough, he then joins the vocal duties to make up the third part in a harmony line that can only be described as “Heart-melting”. On the five-string Banjo is Las Cruces resident and retired Lockheed-Martin “Rocket Scientist” Kent Nelson. (Who said you have to be “Cross-eyed and toothless” to play a banjo?) He is one of the finest banjo players in southern New Mexico and can play the styles of Ralph Stanley, Earl Scruggs and JD Crowe, all within the same song sometimes just to keep it interesting. He can often be seen playing in Las Cruces with many of the local Bluegrass musicians that the area holds. If you are a fan of the bluegrass and old country music sound, then don’t miss this opportunity to hear “Flint Hill Tradition” perform in the time-honored style that Bill Monroe began almost a century ago. Their intricate musicianship and tight harmonies will take you back to a more simple time when a hard day’s work was finished off with the family gathering on the front porch to play the tunes Grandpa taught ‘em.



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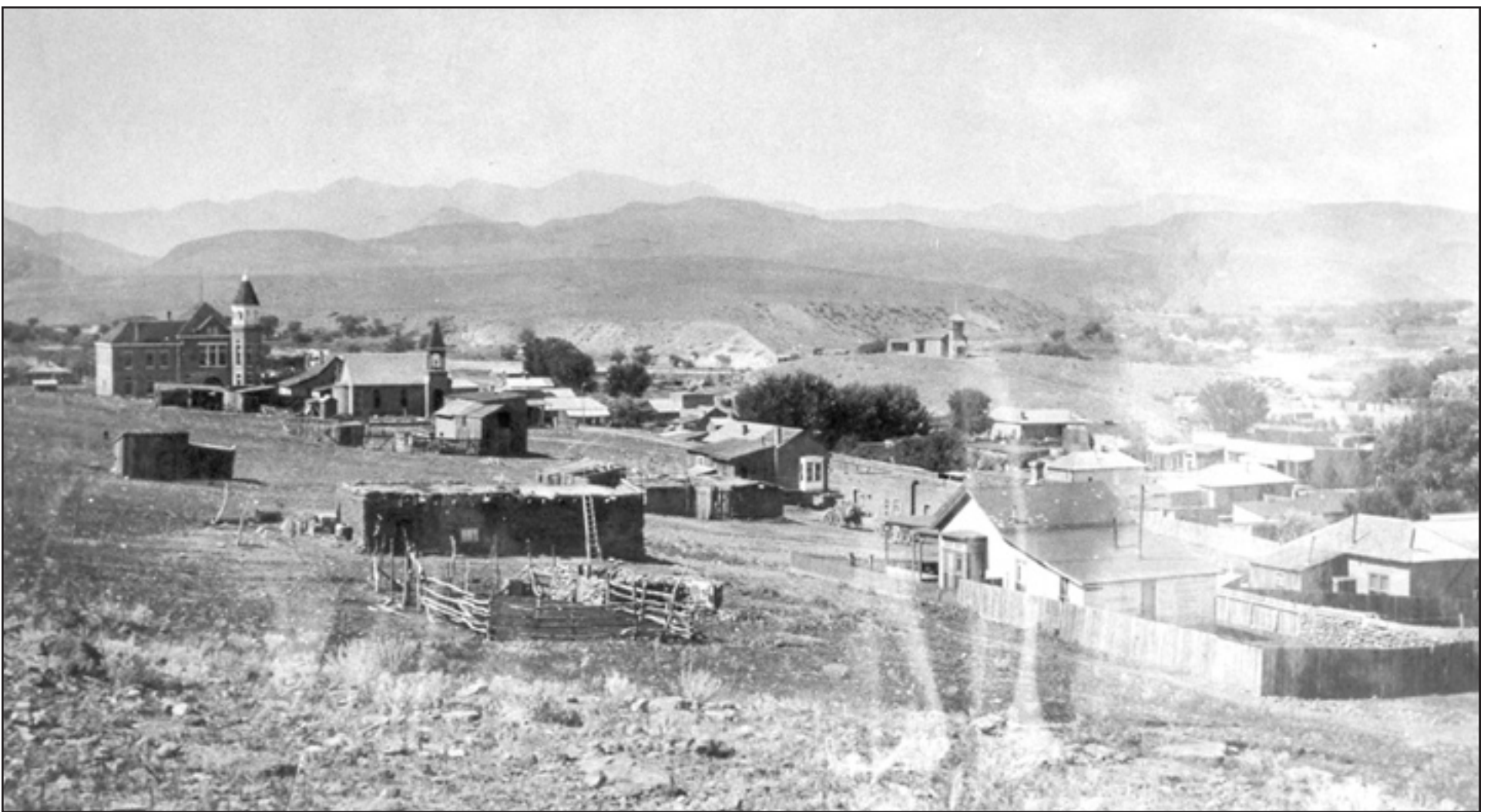
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HILLSBORO IN THE 1900s

Hillsboro/Kingston Celebration Set September 2

By **Linda Seebach • HCC President**

The old mining towns of Hillsboro and Kingston come alive with the best of the 1880s on Saturday, Sept. 2, 2017 with “Celebrating 1,000 years in Hillsboro/Kingston: From Mimbres to Miners”.

Beginning at 9 a.m., events include an Arts and Crafts Fair featuring community artists, craftsmen and hobbyists; A Silent Auction; Community wide yard sales; Library book and bake sale; Tom Ying’s Restaurant; Black Range Museum tours; Kingston School House and Percha Bank Museum, Kingston street and graveyard walking tours. Event sponsored by Hillsboro Community Center, Hillsboro Historical Society, Hillsboro Library Society and Kingston Spit and Whittle Club. Join us for a fun filled blast of the past!

Hillsboro Most Historical Village of the Black Range

Written by **Bill Rakocy** in his book
From Ghosts of
Kingston/Hillsboro, 1983.

Hillsboro is one of the most historic villages in the Black Range and was the source of supply for most of the miners in the rich area surrounding the town. Many of the old buildings have been remodeled and given new facings, but old timers recall when it was not as sedate along the main street.

On the hill above the town runs another street with an empty school, and the ruins of a stone jail and what was once the Sierra County Courthouse in which was held the famous murder trial of Oliver Lee accused of slaying Col. Fountain and his young son on the wastes of the White Sands.

Hillsboro was a rich village. Geographically it was the center of a huge wheel and gold and silver mines formed “spokes” to all points of the compass. The best known of the early mines was the “Bonanza”, which paid out more than \$1 million and old settlers still recall one lone miner enriched the stores and saloons during the winter of 1877-1888 with \$90,000 in gold nuggets taken from “Wick’s Gulch.”

Soldiers and the militia were stationed at

Hillsboro. Geronimo and Victorio continually harassed the miners and settlers. Lawless men, gamblers and gunmen were drawn to Hillsboro including the infamous Kinney Gang which ranged from below the Mexican border through Lake Valley, Kingston and Hillsboro, hiding out from lawmen and protected by friends to raid again after the lawmen were defeated. Jesse James supposedly hid out at Hillsboro with members of the Cassidy Gang, “The Wild Bunch”, who ranged the area while posing as honest ranch hands at Alma. The most beautiful woman monte dealer, Lottie Deno and her paramour, Cherokee Hall, parted miners from their money in a gambling hall and saloon.

One of the town’s landmarks is the imposing two-story home near the architecturally beautiful Catholic Church. It was built by Sir Victor Sasoon, member of a prominent English banking firm who came to Hillsboro to live quietly for several years. Another old home is that owned by Anne Bucher, prominent business woman with a winter home at El Paso.

While Hillsboro was a rip snorting mining town, it was noted also for many famous people known throughout the nation.

Its newspapers were leaders of thought in the bitter political squabbles of New Mexico. One of its outstanding lawyers, Edward Tittman, was the first to bring a grand piano into the area by wagon train. The ancient piano is a treasured relic at the Black Range Museum together with many items and photographs once owned by Madame Sadie of Virtue Lane.

Permanent residents, many of whom have retired from business and professional careers, will point out the sites of the famous mines which made Hillsboro rich until the price of gold and silver dropped ... including the “Opportunity”, “Ready Pay,” “Snake”, and from the highway to Caballo Lake, the famous “Wick’s Gulch”. These mines, in their heyday, produced riches estimated at \$100 million dollars.

The history of this semi-ghost-town is on display in the Black Range Museum for all to see. The museum is in a rambling old adobe hotel that preserves mementoes of the region’s history.

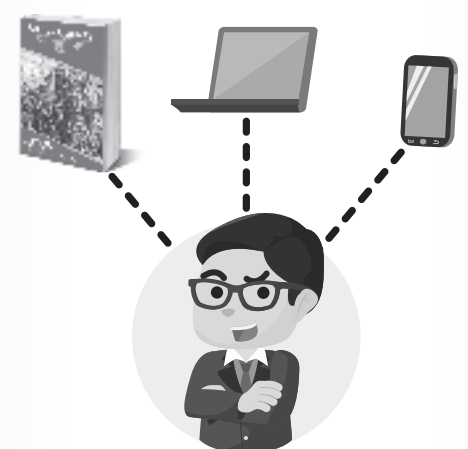
Like all good boom towns, Hillsboro had its madam...Sadie Orchard and it is her old Ocean Grove Hotel that is now the museum spreading western lore.

The fellows who brought Hillsboro into existence were a couple of prospectors by the name of Dan Dugan and Dave Stitzler. Sometime in April, 1877, they found some ore samples in Percha Creek that runs through the town. Dugan didn’t think much of the find but Stitzler put a few of the samples in his pack and a few weeks later had it assayed. It showed \$160 in gold to the ton and the Hillsboro gold strike was on.

Dugan and another friend made a second strike and this began a stampede that lasted for five years and brought prospectors and capitalists to the Black Range.

The first house in Hillsboro was a log cabin
See **HILLSBORO** on Page C4

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Continued from Page C3

built in August, 1877. Within a few years the settlement had four stores, four saloons and four companies of soldiers, not to mention a militia of 300 miners to protect it from roaming Apaches. There was a drawing from a hat to select a name for the settlement and the winning name as “Hillsborough.” The name was shortened and legally changed in 1884 with the creation of Sierra County with Hillsboro the county seat. Hillsboro survives today despite the fact that floods on Percha Creek have just about washed the business district away...and the loss of the gold lode...depressions...and the loss of the county seat to Hot Springs, now Truth or Consequences in 1938. Today a hard-core of about 200 citizens maintain Hillsboro as a remote quiet hideaway from the hassles of modern civilization.

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HILLSBORO, NEW MEXICO 1900s

Shadows of the Black Range

Excerpts from the book

By Bill Rakocy

Ghosts of Kingston, Hillsboro 1983

The town of Kinsgton was named for the Iron King Mine. It is nestled in the shadows of the Black Range Mountains just 9 miles northeast of Hillsboro.

Kingston , however, was the larger and more romantic city. Indeed it was said to have “magic qualities.” Jack Sheddon found silver ore on north Percha Creek and it was Rich, Rich, Rich.

During 1882, a piece of that magic rock was shown in Denver, Co., and the crush of a boom town was upon Jack Shedden and prospector side kicks in a matter of weeks. In a few months

a casual, tented, rough hewn and whipsaw rough board city was busting out along the banks of Percha Creek.

The “Shoot-em up” hellbent for wealth silver camp was first dubbed “Percha City” named for the creek nearby where three branches converged, a name whose derivation remains a quasi-mystery. One modern resident claims it hails from the wild turkeys that would perch upon its banks.

The town of 1885 shared no relationship with that of 1983 Kingston, none at all. In fact were it not for the Percha Bank Building, standing adobe-like and proud and the twin orange kiln fired clay brick shacks across Main Street, few could imagine that a great western mining camp flourished there. Nature in time reclaims what

was once wrested from her bosom.

As news spread of the rich silver find on the Percha, by October of 1882 nearly 2000 souls hurried and hustled about expanding the canvas and board camp, replacing hovels with shacks and stores and opening a dozen new mines.

Irish flocked in from North Carolina and Tennessee running newly founded shops, stores and saloons. All were engaged in wresting a life and living from the rock and pine covered Black Range Hills. With silver gold-dust and the dollar in ample supply, saloons grew to near twenty. Boarding houses peppered the Percha banks. Prospectors and miners being inquisitive golds, scoured the hills about, and some other strikes were found. Some fair sized gold nuggets were

See **SHADOWS** on Page C7

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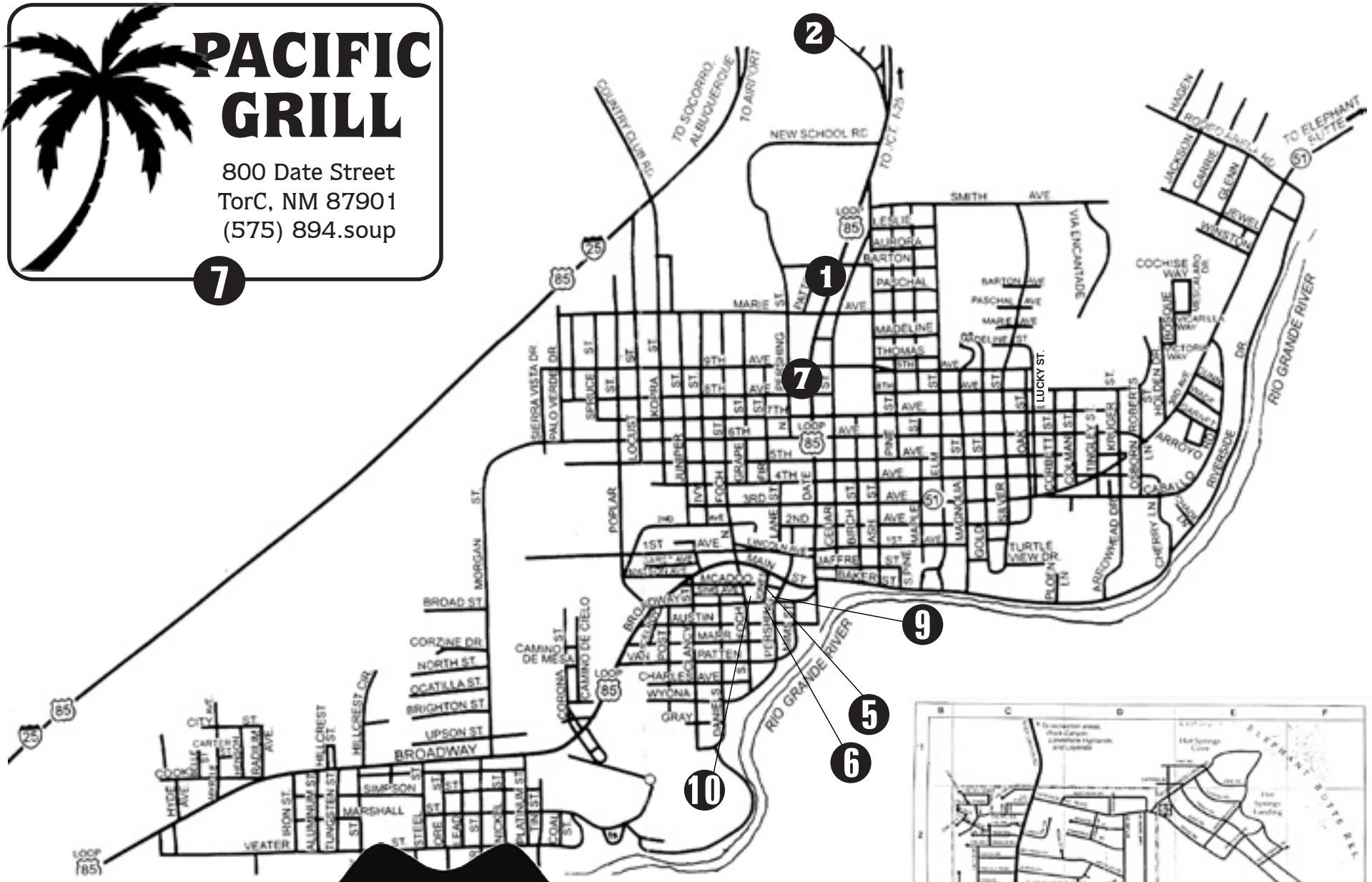
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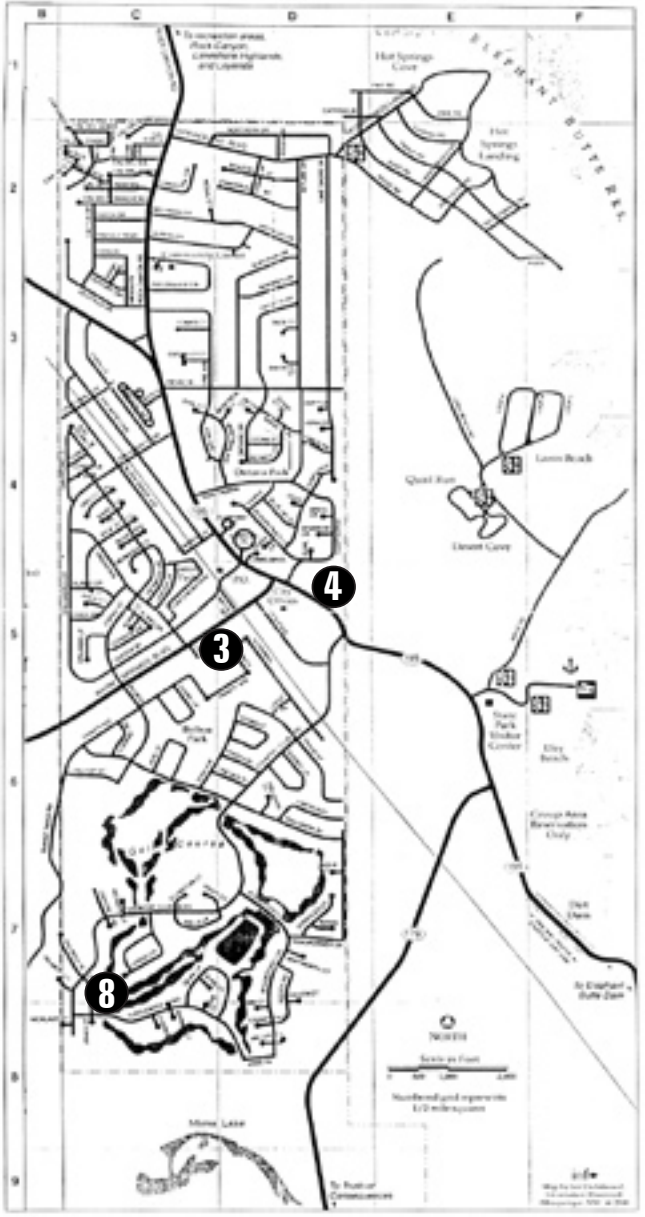
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KINGSTON MINER SHACK 1890

SHADOWS

Continued from Page C5

discovered down stream on the Hillsboro site.

Mine after mine was located and worked. About 30 paying sites were surveyed and opened, the Iron King being the best known and most rewarding. They were: Calamity Jane, Black Colt, Little Jimmy, Mountain Chief, Lady Franklin, Gypsy, Brush Heap, Grey Eagle and 20 others of paying quality.

A trading post was established and a townsite platted. It consisted of 300 lots, of which 120 were sold for about fifteen dollars apiece.

Upon learning of the strike, J. M. McCulston, a merchant from Chloride, packed his stock on burros and crossed the mountains. His merchandise was reputed to have consisted of 300 cigars, five gallons of whiskey, six bottles of champagne and 18 bottles of beer. Other merchants who dealt in “wet groceries” were not long in following.

The Black Range

Located on the eastern edge of the Gila National Forest, the Black Range Mountains stand as a prominent land feature with high, rugged mountains, deep canyons, rincons (narrow valleys), scenic view points, and grassland areas.

Astride the Range’s crest, the Aldo Leopold Wilderness offers solitude as well as challenging wilderness trips. In addition, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail runs south along the ridge line of Reed’s Peak before heading west along the Divide.

For scenic drives upon paved roads, State Highway 90 from San Lorenzo to Truth or Consequences, and highways 52 and 59 between Beaverhead and Winston pass through areas which are extremely green and offer a profusion of wildflowers. And take the time to visit the Emory Pass Scenic Vista; the view is breathtaking!

For picnics and overnight camping, developed campsites are available at the Iron Creek and Kingston campgrounds. At Iron Creek Campground in particular, visitors are treated to the added bonus of being entertained by the area’s many chipmunks.

Primitive camp sites amidst beautiful scenery are found in the Turkey Run and Seventy-Four Draw areas, both located southwest of Lookout Mountain and north of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness boundary.



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The Scenic Gila

Visitors to Sierra County have the opportunity to take a tour of the scenic and beautiful Black Range, located in the Gila National Forest approximately 47 miles west of Truth or Consequences.

To reach the mountains from Truth or Consequences, drive south on Interstate 25 for approximately 15 miles, take the Hillsboro exit and turn west onto state road NM 152 (old NM 90). The road will take you through Hillsboro and Kingston, centers of mining activity during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Southwestern New Mexico’s Gila National Forest contains 2.7 million acres of timber, forage for wildlife and livestock, rich history, natural beauty, and wilderness. In short, the Gila has everything that draws Americans outdoors and away from the crowded cities in large quantities.

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110 Black Range: 4 Bedroom, 3.5 bath 3086 sq ft home on large lot. Beautiful views of Turtleback Mountain. \$165,000. MLS 20172563.

MLS 20160721 - 605 Sierra Vista Drive TorC Great Deal 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 1978 SF 2031 sq ft 2 gar garage .28 acre lot \$132,900.

908 Yucca. A fantastic family home. Offering over 2300 sq ft, 4BR, 3BA, remodeled/updated kitchen, huge living room, formal dining room, travertine tile in high traffic areas, ref. air, roof is under 10 yrs old. SW landscape,fenced back yard. MUST SEE. \$179,000. Call Cathy. MLS 20172625.

205 Kiowa Loop: 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath 1568 Sq. Ft. Manufactured home on 0.32 acre lot. \$59,500. MLS 20173118.

408 Van Patten, TorC, 5 Space MH Park. Includes 2 – 16'x80' MHs. Fenced lots with storage sheds. \$190,000. Call Jeanette 575-740-0339. MLS 20171991.

102 Canadian Circle. 40 X 30 RV GARAGE with 1/2 bath. Great family home with 3 BR's, 2 BA, living room, dining room, spacious kitchen, refrig. air. Over 1/2 ac lot with fenced area for garden or pets. Priced at \$210,000. Call Cathy. MLS 20172157

523 Catfish: Lake Views. 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath 980 sq ft Manufactured home. Large 0.49 acre lot. 2 car garage. Priced to sell \$119,000. MLS 20170212.

709 N Magnolia TorC Completely Remodeled 2 bdrm, 2 bath 1982 MH 1426 sq ft 1 car carport .19 acre lot \$74,500. MLS 20171416.

511 N. Riverside, TorC. Looking for a beautiful riverfront property? This 120 X 350 lot with a 2006 Mfg home is available! 2BR, 2BA, approx. 1280 sq ft of living area. All city utilities. Priced at \$200,000. Call Cathy. MLS 20173024.