

Letter from Dick Boyd to Homer Pickens
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L. history

9308 Woodland - NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico
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Dear Homer:

I was glad to get the Atom and read the article on White Rock Canyon.

My folks bought the hotel in Frijoles from Judge Abbot and I operated an auto stage from Santa Fe for some years.

When I brought my registered Morgan horses down from Wallowa County, Oregon I leased pasture from Bonds on the Ramon Vigil Grant and summered in the Valle Grande. I got to be familiar with all of the Jemez Mountains and especially the Pajarito Plateau.

Bond brothers had just liquidated the Quemado Sheep Company that Colonel Corlett, who married Amy Bond, had been operating as manager.

I first saw Buckman in the fall of 1916, we crossed the old Buckman bridge over the Rio Grande. The bridge was then in terrible condition and definitely not safe.

Orville Cox was driving us over to visit the Frijoles Canyon in a Willys Overland car belonging to Comers who had the agency in Santa Fe and was then a partner in the Rocky Mountain Camp Company that a cousin of mine, E. J. Ward, was trying to get organized.

We went up the old Buckman hill which was in terrible condition, crossed Water Canyon by way of Pajarito, then Ancho Canyon and back up the mesa and to the top of the hill at the beginning of the trail the U. S. Forest Service had just built in and out of Frijoles Canyon and over by way of the Stone Lions and Painted Cave, on to La Canada on Cochiti Creek where Old Jim Young is trying to make his apples and cider notorious or something!

If you will note from the top of Buckman hill you can see the old road made by the Army when the Missouri Volunteers were stationed at Ft Marcy.

They had a hay camp at the Loma Soldada on the head of the creek in the Valle Grande. You can see the soldiers road was a good deal steeper than the Buckman road and was built up Pajarito Canon and graded out on the Mesa below the Llano Largo and on up along side of Water Canyon on the mesa top and on over the mountain from the Water Canyon site. Where the road topped out on the rim of the Valle Grande was a warpus cat, equal to the Buckman hill stretch.

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They soon found that with four mules on an army escort wagon/ate most of their load of hay on the trip to Santa Fe.

From the Ceremonial Cave it is clearly visible. From here the Apache Trail continues on up the mesa west of the Rito de Los Frijoles past the old Grant farm inside the Baca Location.

To get back to the Pino house in the bottom of the Rito de los Frijoles valley. They of course were at La Cienega for years and summered in the Jemez Mountains up to the time Walter Mayer bought them out. Originally the Pinos had the Rito de los Frijoles Grant that began at the boundary of the Ramon Vigil Grant whose west boundary was the rim of the Frijoles Canyon on the east side, it extended north and south from the Rio Grande to the rim of the crater of the Valle Grande and extended west to the Stone Lions, that were in turn the east boundary of the Canada de Cochiti Grant that began at the Rio Grande and extended to the top of the mountains, that is until they found gold at Bland it was accepted as the east boundary of Canada de Cochiti grant.

At that time the Cochiti Mining and Milling Company, through some very dirty finageling, had the Canada de Cochiti cut down to its present boundary which gives it a strip of territory ~~xxxxxx~~ one and three quarters of a mile wide and seventeen miles long; one of the most ridiculously shaped grants in the state.

Well Homer you are probably ready for a nap after all of this preamble.

I have some pictures of the old Ashley Pond club that was in the Pajarito Canyon that was used in establishing the Los Alamos Boys School in the beginning. Also have some of Buckman I would like you to see.

Best regards