

HypoCheck



Feb 2009

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Editors Doug & Jaci Finch, APSAs

Cimarron Haunts

Darrell McClanahan PPSA

Peggy McClanahan

You may or may not consider this to have relevance to photography. You can decide that for yourself. For Peggy and me, the entire area around Cimarron, New Mexico, has exceptional opportunities for scenic and wildlife photography. But this isn't about any of that. Rather, it's more about the history of the Cimarron area...and ghosts!

More than 15 years ago, a friend introduced me to New Mexico, including Cimarron, which lies about 50 miles SW of Raton at the eastern edge of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in northern New Mexico. Cimarron sprang up as a stop on the Santa Fe Trail and was truly lawless, "wild west" town, as was Las Vegas, NM, directly to the south. Both towns were very popular with some of the most colorful outlaws and other characters of that era of westward movement immediately after the Civil War.

A very big draw in Cimarron was the St. James Hotel, built by Henri Lambert, who had been Abraham Lincoln's chef until the assassination of the President. The two-story hotel also contained a restaurant and a very popular saloon that was the hub of activity in the town. It is said that there were 26 killings in the saloon, such as occurred the day Pancho Griego, who had many

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Grave Yard, Cimarron Valley

February 10, 2009:

Competition: No Competition

Program: Nature Program by Ron Day

Refreshments: Peggy McClanahan

February 24, 2009:

Competition: Make-up Dec & Jan Projected Image, Open A&B, Creative A&B, Nature & PJ

Judges: Ed Lamb, Carol McCreary PPSA, Tom McCreary PPSA

Competition: Make-up Feb 10, Prints-Color A&B, Monochrome A&B, *Assigned: Reflections*; Nature & PJ.

Judges: Dale & Lee Donlon, Lorraine Caddy.

Competition: Feb 24, Open A&B, Creative A&B, *Assigned Subject: Reflections*; Nature & PJ

Judges: Alan & Mary Burgess, Doug Finch APSA;

Refreshments: Tom & Carol McCreary

Board Meeting: 7:30 pm, January 20 Home of Carol McCreary, PPSA

425 SW 53rd St.

All club members are always welcome.

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killings to his credit went after the notorious "gentleman gunfighter" Clay Allison in the saloon. One version of the encounter states that Allison offered to have a drink with Griego before fighting him, after which Pancho went for his gun but was shot twice and killed by the quicker Allison.

The original saloon at the hotel is now a fine restaurant with cloth napkins and crystal goblets. The original pressed metal ceiling of the room reportedly had some 400 bullet holes in it. That ceiling was replaced by a second ceiling that still shows 22 bullet holes that you can count while dining. Peggy asked the hotel owner, Roger, if there were any rooms above the bullet-riddled ceiling. "Yes," he said, "Those rooms were the last to be let each evening." And he added, "Yes, some renters were killed in their sleep!" The original mirrored bar is still there, (upon which it is said that Clay Allison once danced naked). There is still a saloon in the hotel, across the hall from the original, and it's quite popular with locals. There's also a second less-classy cafe next to the saloon for all the times when the restaurant in the original saloon is not open just so you'll know if you stay there or just want to drop in to eat as you pass through town.



Photo of Cowboy Ghost, St. James Hotel
(Copied from Website)

But this hotel is haunted! It's been described as the hottest center of paranormal activity in the world! It's been featured on TV programs like *A Current Affair* and *Unsolved Mysteries*, hosted by Robert Stack, and you can watch replays of the latter on TV in a cabinet in the lobby.

It seems there are a number of spirits still found in the hotel, and the stories are many, but two ghosts have been the most frequently encountered.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Program - February 10

The club is having an outstanding program by **Ron Day**, a published photographer. **Ron** will be presenting a special Nature Program and will be available to answer your questions. We will not have competition or any other business that evening, we will have refreshments. Please invite your friends and photo buddies for a great evening of photography. We will start a little earlier at 7:15.

Makeup Competition

The club's digital competitions that we missed in December and January will be made up on February 24 along with all of the February competition with the assigned topic, **Reflections**. This is the last assigned topic for the club year. The purpose of assigned competition is to expand ones photographic world and challenge ones creativity. Assigned competition pictures must be taken during the current club year and applies to all divisions except Nature and PJ. Creative interpretation is permitted to promote originality but the picture must clearly convey the assigned subject. It is not enough to title a picture *An Old Fence* when the picture is a farm scene with a fence as just another object in the picture.

GSCCC - The Greater New Orleans Photographic Society invites all of you to Photo Gumbo 2009, the Gulf States Camera Club Council's (GSCCC) 55th annual convention. This year's convention will take place April 2-4, 2009, at the Homewood Suites by Hilton, 901 Poy-dras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70112. For more information contact **Tom or Carol McCreary (tcmccreary@cox.net)** or **Ed Lamb (edlamb25@att.net)**.

Club Website

If you have set up a personal photo/web page and would like to have it linked to the camera club website, please contact Jaci Finch APSA at jacf@cox.net. Jaci will be happy to help you.

Club Will Receive Commission from Red River Paper

Many of our club members currently order their printing paper from **Red River Paper**, now everyone has an incentive to do so. The club will receive a **6.5% commission** on orders placed. Place your order using the club code: members should go to <http://www.redriverpaper.com/myclub> and enter the code **OKC** when the request comes up. This will take you to the camera club landing page where you can begin shopping. Need help; contact **Tom McCreary at 634-1817**.

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Cimarron Haunts

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***Poker Table - St. James Hotel
Darrell and Peggy McClanahan***

The most notorious--and feared-- is the ghost of Thomas James Wright, whose signature can be seen on the old register in the lobby as T. J. Wright. His story is this: There is a small poker room on the hotel's second floor. Reportedly, TJ won the hotel in a poker game in that room one evening, and as he was returning to his room, he was shot in the back just outside his door. He crawled into the room and slowly bled to death that night. That's room #18. TJ's very angry ghost still inhabits that room, and he has made it clear that his room is off-limits to everyone! It's never rented to guests anymore, and for a number of years, that room has

a hasp and padlock on the door to keep everyone out. TJ does not take kindly to intruders. It is said that as many as twenty deaths occurred in that room during the time the room was being actively rented! It really upsets TJ for people to enter the room! What TJ does like, however, is for the hotel management to pour him his annual jigger of whiskey on Halloween. But, he now prefers that he himself leave a jigger OUTSIDE his door to be filled by the management, whereupon it disappears by morning!

All the rooms at the hotel are named after persons of notoriety who've stayed there. Wyatt Earp and one of his brothers, Morgan, stayed there with their wives a few days as they were traveling from Dodge City, Kansas, to Tombstone, Arizona. Wyatt stayed in what is now called the Wyatt Earp room. Rooms are also named for General Phil Sheridan, Buffalo Bill Cody, Annie Oakley, Frank and Jesse James (who stayed there several times), Clay Allison (who killed at least 19 men plus an unknown number during the civil war), Pancho Griego (who also killed several men), Kit Carson, Zane Grey, Tom Thumb and Thumbelina, and numerous others.

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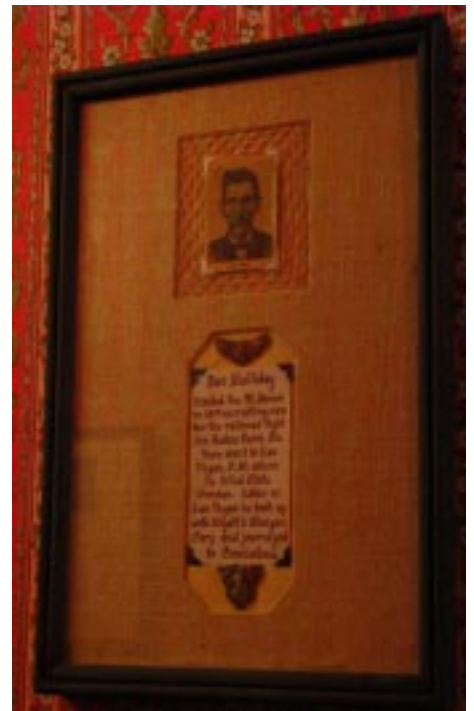
Cimarron Haunts



Pat Garrett



Annie Oakley



Doc Holiday

Photos by Darrell and Peggy McClanahan



St. James Hotel

Darrell & Peggy McClanahan



Historic View of St. Jame Hotel in the 1800's from vintage Postcard (Website address available for prints)

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Zane Grey wrote part of one of his novels there, and General (later Governor) Lew Wallace began work on his novel *Ben-Hur* there. It's also worth noting that Buffalo Bill Cody, who managed a goat ranch in the Cimarron area at that time, first met Annie Oakley at the St. James Hotel. It was there that they planned Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. When they departed for the east, they took an entire village of local Indians with them. Black Jack Ketchum also stayed at the hotel. Later, he was jailed for train robbery. He's famous for having gained quite a bit of weight on jail food and was beheaded when he was dropped through the trapdoor at his hanging!

Room #17 is the Mary Lambert room, which is just across the hall from TJ Wright's room #18. Mary was the widow of the hotel's builder Henri (or Henry) Lambert. Mary gave birth to her children in the hotel and died there at the young age of 35. We have visited the graves of Henri and Mary in the old cemetery just south of town on the hill to the right. Mary's rose-scented perfume has often been noticed whenever she enters a room, and she has occasionally touched guests. She has the reputation as protector of guests who stay in her room,



***Family Grave Site, Cimarron Valley
Darrell and Peggy McClanahan***

presumably from the hostile activities of TJ Wright or the pranks of others. Guests staying in her room thank her for her protection when leaving in the morning. By the way, she doesn't care for having the window opened in her room and will tap the window until it's closed.

I've visited the hotel three times, twice staying with Peggy in the Waite Phillips* suite just at the top of the stairs on the second floor. Both times, Peggy has had ghost experiences. I didn't, I went to sleep. The first time, Peggy, lying there in the dark wide awake and with the covers pulled up to her nose, heard the distinct sound of boots with jangling spurs

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coming up bare wooden stairs. That immediately seemed strange because the stairs are actually carpeted. At the top of the stairs, the person stopped at our door and rattled it as if trying to enter the room. After a bit, that stopped, and there was no more sound. Nothing! She heard no sound of footsteps walking away, neither across the creaky wooden-floored hallway nor back down the stairs. And the hotel doors are locked at night, so it's not as if someone walked into the

hotel off the street. During our second stay in the suite last fall, I again fell asleep and Peggy, who was at a desk writing, heard what she took to be someone tapping on something in our bathroom. She got up and walked through the lounge room to the dressing area just outside the bathroom whereupon the sound stopped. This is all very fascinating. We plan to return soon and stay perhaps in May Lambert's room #17 to explore all this further.



***Beautiful Stairs, St. James Hotel
Darrell and Peggy McClanahan***

There are a great many stories and tales of the St. James Hotel, the town of Cimarron, the Colfax County War and of the great many colorful characters of the pioneer era. We recommend it all to you, particularly a visit to the hotel, a stay at which is without frills like TV and telephone, unless you stay in the newer annex. Maybe you'll be lucky enough to photograph one of the spirits there. It's been done a few times apparently. Also, visit the wonderful countryside all around, particularly through Cimarron Canyon (awesome!) into the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the west including the *Magic Circle* towns of Eagle Nest, Red River, Questa, Taos and Santa Fe. Consider going in September to October when the foliage is so glorious!

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Touch the Sky

Prairie Photographs by **Jim Brandenburg**

**Sam Noble Museum of Natural History -
Norman,OK**

Feb. 14 through April 12

This exhibit features the breathtaking prairie photographs of National Geographic photographer Jim Brandenburg. The photos capture the beauty and drama of the prairie ecosystem – its landscape, plants, animals and weather. Brandenburg traveled the globe as a photographer with National Geographic Magazine for several decades. He has done assignment work and has been published in numerous national and international publications.

Brandenburg's photos have won a multitude of national and international awards. He was also the recipient of the World Achievement Award from the

United National Environmental Programme in Stockholm, Sweden in recognition of his using nature photography to raise public awareness for the environment.

Brandenburg and his wife, Judy, have established the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation, whose mission is to preserve and protect Northern Tallgrass Prairie ecosystems in the upper Midwest

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In the winter, skiing is great, and hiking/backpacking in the summer in the Pecos Wilderness and other areas is second to none! And the photography is great most everywhere.

Darrell McClanahan PPSA

Peggy McClanahan



Cimarron Haunts

**Waite Phillips is the ranch owner who gave the Boy Scouts of America the more than 200 square miles of beautiful mountainous land just south of Cimarron now known as Philmont Scout Ranch.*

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Competition Results - Prints January 13, 2009

Name	Entry No. 1	Place	Entry No. 2	Place
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Color Prints A

Wally	Lee	Bull Bison Showing Off	2	Potash Road Overlook	2
Jan	Lee	Along Little River	3	Desert Road Morning	3
Charles	Taylor	Then We Ran Out of Money	1	North Window Monument Valley	3
Tom	McCreary	Green & Red	HM	Old Tennessee Mill	3
Carol	McCreary	Colorado Tower Scenic	3	Boat Harbor Reflections	2
Ed	Lamb	Bailey	HM	Rocky Beach	2

Monochrome Prints A

Jan	Lee	Scooter at Play	3	Tiger Creative	3
Carol	McCreary	Rusty Gate	3	Harbor Reflection Solorization	2
Charles	Taylor	Ship of the Line	2	Round Knights of the Table	3
Tom	McCreary	3 Crosses	1	Tiger Portrait in B & W	1

Nature Prints

Charles	Taylor	Sea Lion Rock, Oregon	HM	Muncho Lake Alaska Highway	HM
Jan	Lee	Bull Frog	2	Barrel Cactus Bloom	3
Dennis	Corbin	White Tail Buck	2	Cardinal Feeds Baby	1
Wally	Lee	Dragonfly on Reed	3	Snake in the Grass	2

Photojournalism Prints

Carol	McCreary	Fire Fighter Water Spray	1	How Far Do We Carry This	HM
Charles	Taylor	Where's My Ice Go?	3	Close the Angle, Miss the Puck	2
Jan	Lee	Not Quie Yo Yo Ma	2	--	--

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Workshop Schedule

Photo 101 Workshop - The Photo 101 Workshop will meet at **10:00 am, Saturday, February 21 at Ed Lamb's house**. They will continue the discussion of cameras and computers and begin to explore other areas of interest you may have. Should be fun, don't miss it. For info call **Ed Lamb at 721-4714** or edlamb25@att.net.

Photoshop Workshop - The Photoshop Workshop will meet at **7:30 pm on Friday, February 20th at Tom and Carol McCreary's**, 425 SW 53rd. The subject this month is *Monochrome Pictures*. Please bring a digital monochrome photo and tell us the steps you used to create the final photo. Please contact **Carol or Tom at 634-1817** or tcmmcreeary@cox.net if you need information or directions. See you there.

Programs for February

February 10 - Nature Program by our special guest Ron Day. We will not have competition this evening but we will have refreshments. Invite your friends interested in photography and or nature to come enjoy the evening. **We will start at 7:15.**

February 24- No program this evening; we will be making up competitions that we missed in December and January plus both of February's competitions to make time for our special guest. Remember February's competition is assigned subject except for Nature & PJ.



Oklahoma Camera Club, Inc.
Meetings 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
Central Presbyterian Church
Charter Member:
The Photographic Society of America
Member:
Gulf States Camera Club Council

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For Club Information Contact: wallylee2@cox.net; 405.326.4324
