

**EXHIBITS AT BLACK RANGE
MUSEUM IN HILLSBORO
RECALL MANY MEMORIES**

By Eve Simmons

Written Especially for Sundial
EPT 1/30/66

Hillsboro, N.M.—The Black Range Museum at Hillsboro was steeped in history before the exhibits outgrew the small two-room dwelling in which it was formerly housed beside the village fire station.

The village was created the seat of Sierra County by an Act of the Territorial Legislature when Dona Ana, Grant and Socorro counties were sliced up to make the new county. Established as Hillsborough, the original spelling given by the English and Cornish hard-rock miners who founded the town when they led the gold rush in the area, the spelling was changed to the present-day Hillsboro by the Act.

The mining village was not the first settlement, however. A prehistoric Indian village was discovered on the bluff adjacent to the town which was originally located at the placer mines six miles northeast of the present site. Many artifacts from the ancient Indian village are shown in the museum.

Hillsboro was the scene of many legal battles for the county seat which the Legislature attempted to move to Cutter (near Engle on the Santa Fe Railroad) in 1909.

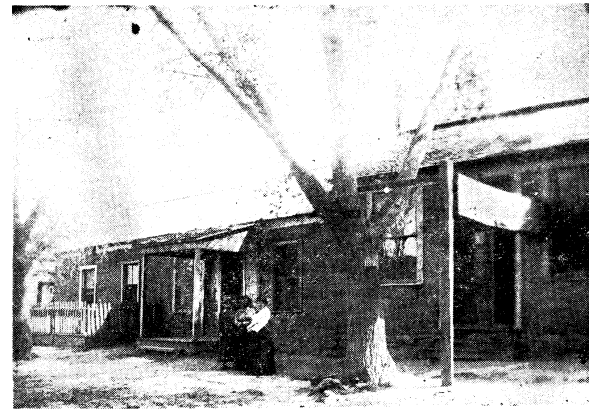
Irate Hillsboro residents sent Edward D. Tiltman, a controversial young lawyer, to Washington to fight the removal. He succeeded in having Congress annul the act directing removal.

The county seat was later moved to Hot Springs (now Truth or Consequences) but not before the village had its share of na-

tional legal limelight in the Fountain Murder Trial of May, 1899.

WOMAN DRIVER

The Ocean Grove Hotel, now occupied by the Black Range Museum, was operated by Sadie Orchard, a Londoner who came to this country in 1886 to become the first and only known woman stagecoach driver in the Southwest. Sadie's hotel was known the width of New Mexico for its good food and clean beds. Drummers scheduled their routes so they could spend the night at Sadie's whose cook, Tom Ying (generally referred to as The Chinaman) became a culinary legend.

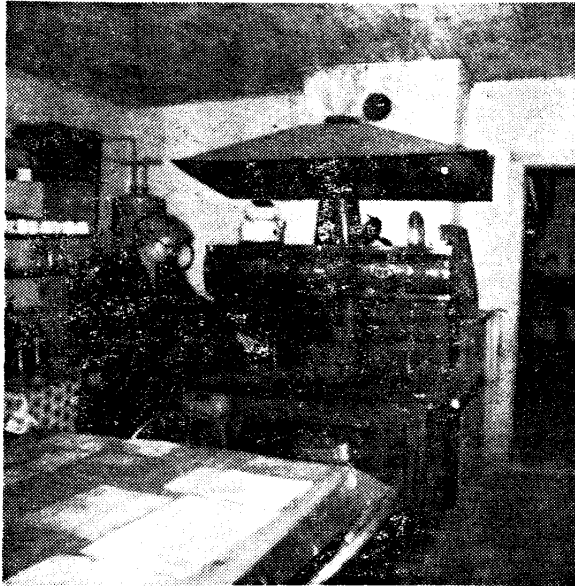


FAMED HOTEL—Sadie Orchard, right, woman stagecoach driver and hostelry proprietor, is shown in front of the famed Ocean Grove Hotel, Hillsboro, N.M., with two of her waitresses. This photo was taken in 1899.

During the Fountain trial, which brought the first telegraph line to the Black Range village for national coverage of the spectacular event, Sadie housed and fed lawyers whose names were to make history. Albert Bacon Fall and Thomas Benton Catron, controversial figures even then as legal and political opponents, shared table with Harry M. Dougherty, Harvey Butler Fergusson, and Frank Wilson Parker, the trial judge.

Edward L. Doheny, later to become involved in the Teapot Dome Scandal, and Eugene Manlove Rhodes, poet-author who was to make Hillsboro the locale of his "Stepsons of Light," were frequent guests at the Ocean Grove Hotel.

Not all of Sadie's guests were in the lawman category. Some were lawless and carefully checked the hit-or-miss hotel register before sharing the hostelry with their hunters.



OLD STOVE—Mrs. Lydia Key is shown with the old-fashioned iron kitchen range in the Black Range Museum.

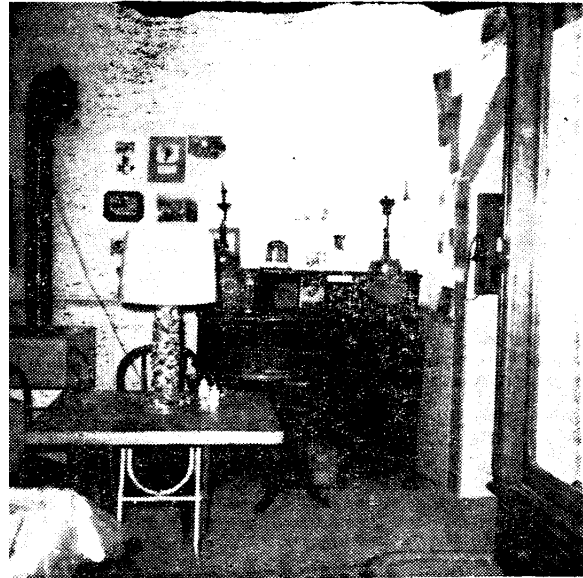
Sadie not only fed the Fountain trial lawyers, judge and jury, but also prepared and delivered meals to the defendants, Oliver M. Lee and James Gilliland housed in the Hillsboro jail. The celebration at the Ocean Grove, following their acquittal, is still remembered.

RANGE REMAINS

The large, old-fashioned cast iron kitchen range used by the Ocean Grove Hotel remains among the exhibits shown in the museum along with the heavy English ironstone restaurant china and purpling glassware. Many items once owned by Sadie Orchard, including a mother-of-pearl handled riding

crop, and a handsome portrait of "Madame Sadie" mounted on her favorite spirited horse, also are exhibited.

The ivory-keyed grand piano which was a part of Lawyer Tittman's home is also on loan to the museum with other remnants of early elegance including a parlor organ on which visitors invariably play nostalgic tunes of their childhood.



PARLOR ORGAN—Visitors to the museum on Hillsboro often sit down at the keyboard, pump the pedals and play nostalgic tunes at the old parlor organ that is one of the exhibits.

The rambling adobe hotel rooms are filled with ghosts of the past when it was crowded by the great and near-great of Southwestern history. If the crockery in the kitchen rattles at night without reason, or the flour bin in the dough box cabinet is found open in the morning .who knows but what Sadie or Tom Ying have returned to view the many changes in what was once New Mexico's best-known hostelry.

* * *