

seventh and eighth-graders, its student body is representative of California's diverse culture. But despite the various backgrounds represented, each student is expected to contribute to a learning environment which demands high expectation. As a result, over 500 students make the honor roll each semester.

The teachers and staff of this school are committed to giving "whatever it takes" to meet the needs of their students. This goal frequently requires involving the parents and community in school activities.

This combination of high expectations for students, committed teachers and staff, and parental involvement has made Carl H. Lorbeer Middle School one of America's Blue Ribbon Schools.

TRIBUTE TO MARY L. CARROLL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring a special person, Ms. Mary L. Carroll, on the occasion of her retirement from Bell Atlantic after 32½ years of loyal service.

Ms. Carroll began working for the Bell Telephone Company in New Jersey on December 9, 1967, as a telephone operator. In 1972, she was promoted to Service Assistant, a position she held until her retirement on September 17, 1999. Ms. Carroll became active in her union, the Communication Workers of America, where she held a number of key positions. She served as group leader for 9 years, secretary-treasurer for 6 years, and as president for three consecutive terms. She continues to hold that position for Local 1006. Ms. Carroll has earned an outstanding reputation for fairness, leadership, and concern for others.

Family has always been important to Ms. Carroll, who was the oldest of 12 children born to her parents John and Annie Mae of Henderson, NC. She takes pride in her own children, Raymond, Valencia, and Ray and her grandchildren Jovan, Andrea, Ray Sean, and Little Raymond. In addition, she treasures her extended family at Bell Atlantic and the Communications Workers of America.

On June 16, 2000, family and friends will gather in New Jersey for a retirement celebration in honor of Ms. Carroll. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Carroll on a job well done and in wishing her all the best as she begins a new phase of her life.

THE BACA RANCH

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention the beautiful Baca Ranch which lies in my third congressional district of New Mexico. I have worked very closely with the entire New Mexico congressional delegation: Senator PETE V. DOMENICI, Senator JEFF BINGAMAN, HEATHER

WILSON, the gentlelady from the 1st District, and Representative JOE SKEEN of the 2nd District, to ensure that the Baca Ranch can become part of our citizens' patrimony. It is my hope that very soon this chamber will favorably consider and approve the acquisition of the Baca Ranch that all of us in the delegation have worked so intently for. I believe that we must preserve this natural treasure for the future generations in New Mexico and throughout our country.

New Mexico Magazine is the oldest state magazine in the United States. Every month this periodical publishes articles and items of interest that touch persons who are interested in or feel affection for the Land of Enchantment. The June 2000 issue contains a beautiful layout that includes a description and photographs of the Valles Caldera by Douglas Preston and photographer Christine Preston. The editors of New Mexico Magazine have granted me the honor of inserting the text of this article into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that everyone can share in the wonder that is the Baca Ranch.

[From The New Mexico Magazine, June 2000]

BUYING THE BACA

(By Douglas Preston)

N.M. 4, the main road through the Jemez Mountains, climbs through steep canyons and ponderosa forests for many miles. As it reaches the heart of the mountains, a spectacular vista breaks out: a high meadow of incredible vastness, called the Valle Grande, ribboned with streams and ringed by 11,000-foot peaks. Those who stop to admire the view can't help but notice the barbed wire fence and "No Trespassing" signs that indicate this enticing valley and the mountains beyond lie on private property.

This is the Baca Location No. 1, a 100,000-acre ranch embedded within the Santa Fe National Forest. For more than half a century the federal government has tried to acquire this extraordinary piece of land. Last fall the Forest Service and the family that owns the property, the Dunigans, reached a tentative agreement to transfer the property to the American people for \$101 million. All that remains is for Congress to provide the funds. If the deal goes through it will be one of the largest and most important land acquisitions in the American West in decades.

The Baca Location No. 1—also known as the Baca Land and Cattle Company—encompasses one of the legendary geological landscapes in America, known as the Valles Caldera. The Valle Grande and the mountains and valleys beyond are the remnants of a gigantic crater, called a caldera, formed by an eruption more than a million years ago. Much of what we know about volcanic caldera formation comes from decades of exploration of the Valles Caldera. It is one of the world's most intensively studied geological landscapes.

An observer standing on the site of Santa Fe 1.2 million years ago, looking westward, would have witnessed the birth of the Valles Caldera in a cataclysm of breathtaking violence. Before the eruption, our observer would have seen a grouping of interlocking volcanic peaks not unlike the Jemez Mountains today, shaped by earlier volcanic activity. (Polvadera and Chicoma Peaks in the Jemez today are remnants of these earlier volcanoes.) Contrary to popular belief, there was never a mountain anywhere near as high as Mt. Everest at the site. The highest peaks in this earlier range were probably about 12,000 feet—the same as the Jemez today.

The big blowup started out small—some faint earth tremors, the distant sound of

thunder and a cauliflower of ash rising into the azure sky. Because the prevailing winds were blowing out of the southeast carrying the ash toward Utah, our Santa Fe observer would have had an excellent view. Over the days and weeks, a nascent volcano gradually built up through fresh eruptions, each bigger than the last. And then the climax came.

One or more furious explosions hurtled clouds of ash 100,000 feet into the atmosphere, where they formed a gigantic mushroom cloud. The sounds of the explosions were so thunderous that they bounced off the upper atmosphere and echoed around the curve of the Earth, to be heard thousands of miles away. Like a firestorm, the eruption sucked air inward, generating gale-force winds of 75 to 100 miles an hour. The cloud created its own weather system. As it rose in the sky, lightning ripped through it, and it began dropping great columns of rain and sooty hail.

As the magma emptied out from below the Earth's surface, the underground roof of the magma chamber began to collapse. The volcano slumped in, cracking in concentric circles and triggering earthquakes. A gigantic depression formed. The pumice and ash, instead of being shot upward out of a single pipe, now began squirting out of every crack and crevice in the roof of the magma chamber. The eruption became horizontal instead of vertical. Huge avalanches of ash, glowing orange at more than a thousand degrees, raced down the mountainsides at speeds greater than 150 miles an hour, flattening thousands of trees in their path. (The cylindrical holes left by these trees would be found much later by geologists.)

When these superheated avalanches hit the Rio Grande, they vaporized the river with a fantastic roar. The ash probably dammed the river, causing it to back up into a lake. When the water finally burst through, devastating flash floods swept downstream. The spreading clouds of ash created darkness so profound that at midday you could not see the hand in front of your face. When the dust finally settled, our observer in Santa Fe would have seen the outline of the Jemez Mountains much as they appear today, minus Redondo Peak. That mountain eerily rose up later, a blister in the earth pushed up by rising magma that never broke out to make a new volcano. The collapse of the magma chamber left a giant crater, or caldera, which soon filled with water to become a crater lake. Over the years, there were flurries of smaller eruptions, and gradually the lake bottom filled with sediments and lava flows to make a gentle floor. The lake eventually broke out and drained. Grass covered the fertile bottomlands, creating the Valle Grande and other vast grass valleys on the ranch, such as the Valle San Antonio and the Valle Toledo. Although the last eruption took place 60,000 years ago, the area remains volcanically active. Hot springs and sulfur vents scattered across the Baca attest to the presence of magma not far from the surface, seismic data indicates a large body of magma sits about 6 to 10 miles down. The Jemez will very likely erupt again.

The Valles Caldera, contrary to popular myth, is not the largest caldera in the world, or even in New Mexico. There is a larger caldera in the Mogollon Mountains, dating back 25 million years, and an even larger one in the San Juan Mountains. The Jemez eruption, for all its power, was only fair to middling in size. Geologists estimate the eruption spewed out some 300 cubic kilometers of pumice ash. This was big compared to Mount St. Helens (half a cubic kilometer) and Krakatoa (10 cubic kilometers), but smaller than the Mogollon eruption (1,000 cubic kilometers) or the San Juan (5,000 cubic kilometers.) Among geologists, however, the

Valles Caldera will always hold a special place.

Human beings probably first moved into the Jemez Mountains about 12 or 13 thousand years ago. It was richly settled by Pueblo Indians in the 13th and 14th centuries, and some of the largest pueblo ruins in the country can be found there. But by the time the Spanish arrived the Pueblo Indians had largely abandoned the mountains, except for seasonal hunting, to build their pueblos along the Rio Grande. The land passed from Mexican to American ownership through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848.

Baca Location No. 1 was carved out of public land in 1860, to settle a land claim by the Cabeza de Vaca family. Comanches had run the Cabeza de Vacas off their gigantic Las Vegas land grant, and the Mexican government subsequently regranted the land to others. But the American courts found the original grant legal, and to settle it the Baca heirs were given the right to choose an equivalent amount of land elsewhere in the Southwest. No fools, their first choice was the Valles Caldera, hence the name Baca Location No. 1. (There is a Baca Location No. 2 in eastern New Mexico and other Baca locations in Colorado and Arizona.) The first survey indicated the Baca Location No. 1 comprised 99,289 acres.

While the rest of the Jemez remained public, this vast in-holding changed hands several times in the late 19th and early 20th century. In 1962, a young Texas oilman and entrepreneur from Abilene, James P. ("Pat") Dunigan, heard about the ranch and snapped it up for \$2.5 million, out from under the nose of the federal government, which had been trying to buy it from the previous owner. Dunigan was primarily interested in the Baca's potential for geothermal energy extraction and cattle grazing.

The Dunigan family spent every summer thereafter on the ranch, riding, working cattle, camping and going on field trips with environmental and geological organizations. According to his son, Andrew, it was these summers that changed the way Dunigan thought about the land: "The longer he owned the property," Andrew said, "the more he came to realize just what a unique natural asset it was—that its value was enhanced through conservation rather than development or resource exploitation."

As a result, Dunigan made many changes that greatly improved the health of the land. He undertook a long and expensive lawsuit against the New Mexico Timber Company to terminate its logging of the Baca, which had scarred many hillsides with roads and clearcuts. He halted serious overgrazing by reducing the cattle load from 12,000 to 5,000 head. He also successfully fought the Public Service Company of New Mexico's ill-advised OLE plan to run high-tension transmission lines through the Jemez, which would have cut through the Cerro Toledo highlands, one of the most remote and beautiful parts of the ranch. A prescribed burn program helped maintain the balance between grasslands and forests.

Dunigan's efforts created, among other things, a superb habitat for elk. In mid-century, 107 elk from Jackson Hole and Yellowstone had been introduced in the Jemez Mountains. The elk population grew rapidly. It stands at 8,000 today, many of which summer on the Baca's 30,000 acres of grasslands.

According to his family, Dunigan often expressed his hope that the land would end up going to the American people. In late 1978 he began discussing the sale of the ranch to the federal government, but the negotiations ended when Dunigan unexpectedly died in 1980. The Dunigan family reopened discussions with the government in 1997, but they fell apart in early 1999 over issues of confidentiality.

"But there was a realization on everyone's part," says Andrew, "that we had come a long way and that this was such an important thing that it was worth putting aside our differences." This they did, and the Dunigan family and the government agreed on a price. Final negotiations are in progress, and Congress has made steps to appropriate the funding. The Baca acquisition enjoys strong support from almost every organization in the state concerned with land issues, from the Northern New Mexico Stockmen's Association to the Sierra Club. It has the backing of the New Mexico Congressional delegation from both parties, as well as the Clinton administration. Most importantly, it has the strong support of the people of northern New Mexico. This time around, it seems likely that the deal will go through.

The Baca is a magical place, one of the most extensive high-mountain grasslands in the United States. It is a land of deep fir forests shrouded in morning mists; of sweeping meadows dotted with elk and mule deer; of aspen groves that turn the hillsides gold in the fall; of high mountains echoing with the whistling cry of bald eagles; of clear streams alive with jostling trout. Mountain lions, bobcats, pine martens and black bears prowl its mountain slopes. It hosts a number of rare species, including one found only in the area, the Jemez Mountains salamander. It is also a land of hot springs, obsidian beds, Indian ruins and historic buildings—including several decaying movie sets.

The conversion of the Baca to public ownership will involve an experiment unique in the history of public land management. The Baca will become a trust wholly owned by the federal government, called the Valles Caldera Trust. It will remain a working cattle ranch, so far as that is consistent with the preservation of wildlife, scenery and recreation. Within 15 years it is supposed to become self-sufficient financially. The exact details will be worked out by a board of trustees drawn from groups that normally hate each other: ranchers, conservationists, National Park and Forest Service employees, financial experts, game and fish managers, archaeologists, biologists and commodity industry representatives.

Denise McCaig, the Baca acquisition coordinator for the Forest Service who was instrumental in seeing the deal through, called the arrangement unique and challenging. "Having representatives from these different interests could be helpful, but it could also create difficulties. If they can come to this working toward a common objective, it will be good. But if they come to the position working from their own self-interest, they will have problems." She laughed: "Oh yeah, it will be an interesting experiment."

It has the potential, if it works, of becoming a model for cooperation among normally antagonistic groups concerning other public lands.

Over the years, many people have looked longingly over the barbed wire fence that separates N.M. 4 from the Valle Grande and wondered when they would ever have a chance to explore this splendid country. Even after the land goes into public ownership, it will be two years at least before the details of access and use can be worked out by the trustees. When that happens, this magical landscape, born in fire and violence, will finally be opened to the American public.

HONORING THE AMERICAN JAZZ MUSEUM

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, today the Smithsonian Institute will honor the American Jazz Museum located in Missouri's Fifth District. The American Jazz Museum, previously known as the Kansas City Jazz Museum, is the first museum in the world devoted exclusively to jazz. The gallery showcases the often difficult plight and rare successes of one of America's first original art forms.

The museum, which opened in 1997, is housed in a modern 50,000 square foot complex at the historic 18th and Vine district in Kansas City. Once inside, visitors find interactive exhibits and song samples which tell the story of jazz and its musicians in words, pictures, and sounds. Last year, the complex was visited by more than 350,000 visitors who came from all parts of the city, county, and world to relive the golden age of Kansas City jazz in the 1920's and 1930's. In this era, legendary Kansas City musicians such as Charlie "Bird" Parker, Count Basie, and Jay McShann developed swing and spread the popularity of jazz across the land.

Not only does the museum educate those who come in from the street to learn about jazz, but it also offers 4 symposia each year to learn about a specific jazz musician or topic. These conferences are attended by musicologists and music lovers from around the world. Past symposia have studied Parker, Miles Davis, and the recent revival of swing music. I encourage my colleagues to take a cyber tour of the museum at <http://americanjazzmuseum.com>.

In addition to educating its visitors, the museum has led to a revitalization of the historic area once home to several jazz clubs. The museum itself operates the Gem Theater to showcase today's up and coming musicians. There are now several other clubs and restaurants in the area, with a new commercial and residential complex scheduled to open within the next year. A once deserted urban neighborhood has returned to the days of people streets and late night music as a result of the success of the American Jazz Museum.

A grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Doris Duke Foundation helped the Museum create JazzNet to establish an endowment and support organizations that preserve and present Jazz nationwide. The museum has applied for other grants for various projects including an academic analysis on the lives of jazz musicians. The study would determine working and living conditions of artists in four major cities, and the research team would identify areas in which support for jazz musicians will be most beneficial in furthering their work.

In three short years, the American Jazz Museum has become an impressive institution. It educates its visitors, entertains in its theater, analyzes the music and its musicians, and revitalized a deserted downtown area. Because of all these accomplishments, the American Jazz Museum is most deserving of special recognition from the Smithsonian Institute, and I congratulate them and wish them continuing success.