



Hondo Valley Snapshots

Tinnie

Credits for Snapshot Publications:

The Federal Highway Administration and the New Mexico Department of Transportation funded this publication series to preserve a record of the culture of the Hondo Valley. Contributors to the publications include Daniel Wells, Rick Wessel, and Samantha Ruscavage-Barz (SWCA), Kirsten Campbell (Parson's Brinkerhoff), and Karen Van Citters (VanCitters Historic Preservation). Billy Crews (SWCA) designed the publications and contributed to the photography, and Jean Ballagh (SWCA) edited the text. Cameron Saffell (New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum) served as the peer reviewer. New Mexico State University Library Archives and Special Collections generously contributed numerous historic photographs. The following individuals provided oral histories for the publications: Lee Bonnell, Paul and Nellie Ruth Jones, Lupe Kelly, Andreas Salas, Gladys Nosker, Patsy Sanchez, Mary Sedillo, Marjorie Titsworth Slayton, John Thomas, Joe Torrez, Amanda and Ignacio Torrez.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
A General History of the Hondo Valley.....	4
Community Settlement.....	12
Making A Living: Farming, Ranching, and Mercantile.....	14
Education and Religion.....	24
Why History is Important.....	30
Further Reading.....	32



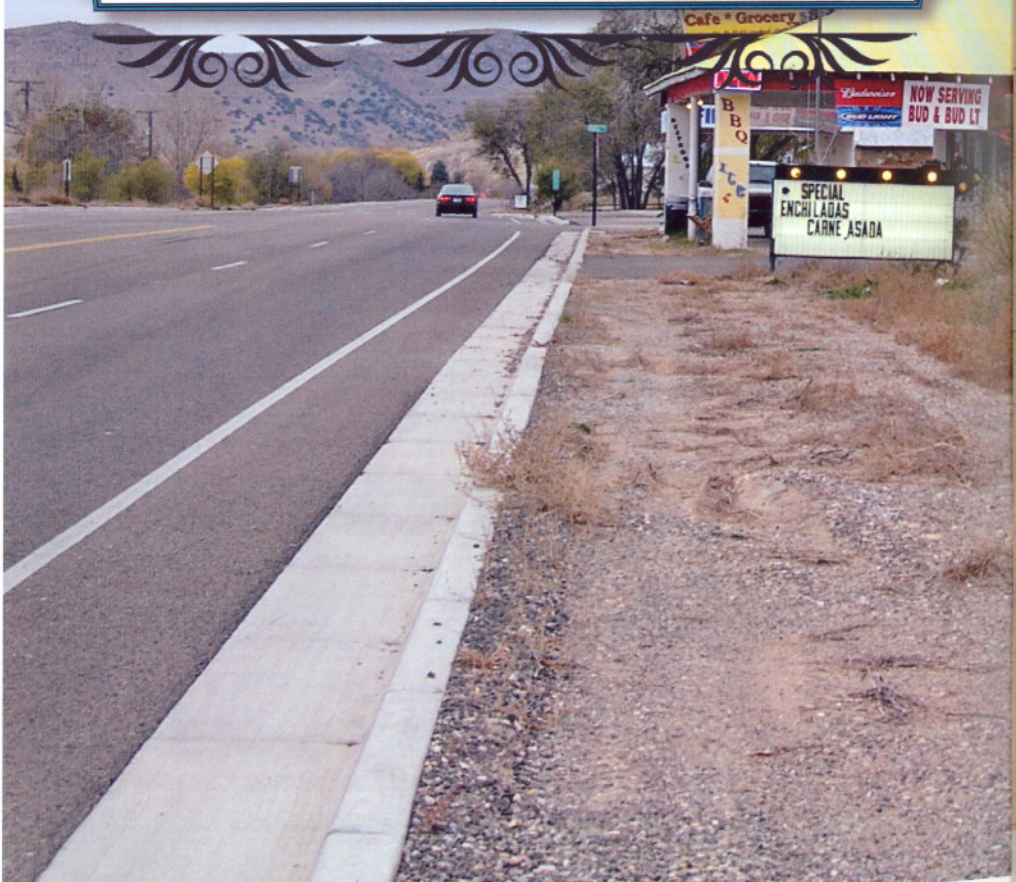
TINNIE

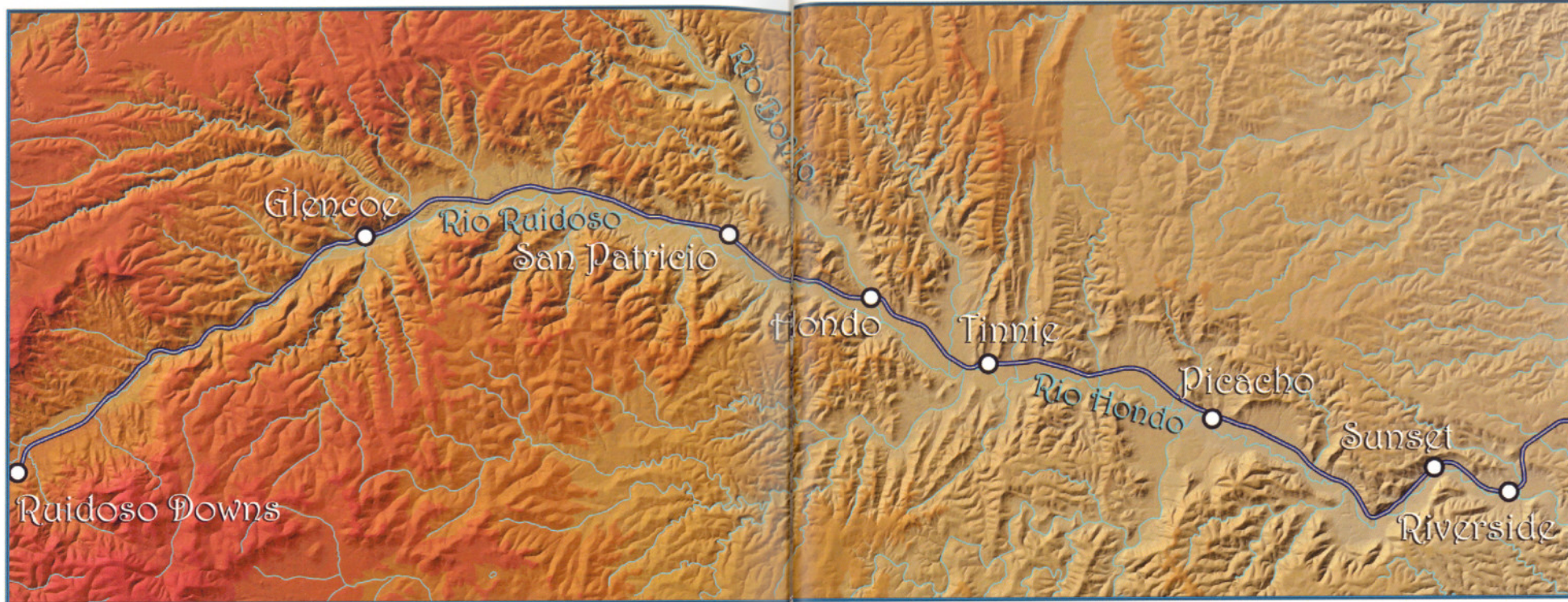
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the community of Tinnie, located in the central part of the Hondo Valley in southeastern New Mexico, along both sides of U.S. Highway 70. Commercial buildings and the Tinnie Baptist Church are on the north side of the highway, while fields and residences lie south of the road. According to Robert Julyan in his book *The Place Names of New Mexico*, Tinnie was at different times called “Las Cuevas” for some large caves in which early settlers lived, “Cuba,” “Analla” after early settler Jose Analla, and finally “Tinnie,” after the daughter of Steve and Oney Raymond.

This booklet uses both archival and oral historical accounts to tell the story of life in Tinnie from the beginning of the community up to recent times. Stories of community lifeways are important, given that much of the history of the Hondo Valley communities is being lost as a result of changes in land use and land tenure, episodes of highway construction, and movement of the descendants of the original families out of the area. The narrative is organized around three general themes that capture various aspects of historic lifeways through time. The first theme is community settlement and population, which includes community beginnings in the middle to late nineteenth century, the pattern of settlement in the community as well as key places of interest, and changes in the settlement pattern over time and the causes of those changes. The second theme deals with how families made a living by farming and ranching, and includes stories about the challenges they faced. The third theme is education, religion, and social life—the community school system and school-related activities, community churches and church-related activities, and activities such as rodeos and dances and the places where these activities were held.

The story of Tinnie is one of a series of six community histories for the Hondo Valley. The other communities covered are Glencoe, San Patricio, Hondo, and Picacho/Sunset/Riverside. The sixth publication will relate our current understanding of the prehistory of the valley. This series is produced by the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) for the dual purpose of recording information that would otherwise be lost because of the U.S. Highway 70 reconstruction project and providing a public benefit from the project. US 70 is the major transportation route through the Hondo Valley, and changes to this route also change the historic character of the communities that have existed along the road since the late 1800s. This series of local histories can help preserve the story of the original character and lifestyle of these communities for future generations.





A General History of the Hondo Valley

The area referred to as “the Hondo Valley” in this publication series includes both the Rio Ruidoso and Rio Hondo valleys, as the Rio Ruidoso becomes the Rio Hondo after its confluence with the Rio Bonito at the community of Hondo. There are several distinct communities in the Valley, including Glencoe, San Patricio, Hondo, Tinnie, Picacho, and Sunset. While these communities share some similarities in their settlement history and natural environments, they also have unique histories. Most of the communities in the Hondo Valley were occupied for a number of years before they were given formal names, and many changed names several times before they came to have the names we know them by today.

The Hondo Valley has a long history of human use. The first documented settlements were built by the Jornada Mogollon people, who lived in round semi-subterranean pit houses. They built their villages between about A.D. 900 and 1450 on terraces overlooking the Rio Bonito and Rio Hondo and farmed in the valley bottoms. In historic times, parts of the Valley were occupied by Apache groups well into the nineteenth century. Apache people lived and farmed on a small scale in the valleys and hunted in the surrounding mountains. As Apaches acquired horses from Spanish and Mexican explorers and settlers in the 1600s and 1700s, they also staged raids on Mexican and Hispanic trade routes and farms in the surrounding lowlands. Hispanic farmers and traders fought back when attacked, but were unable to muster the military force necessary to pursue the attackers into the mountains. Thus, Apaches exercised military control over the surrounding lowlands throughout the 1700s and early 1800s, until the area became part of the United States through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo with Mexico in 1848.

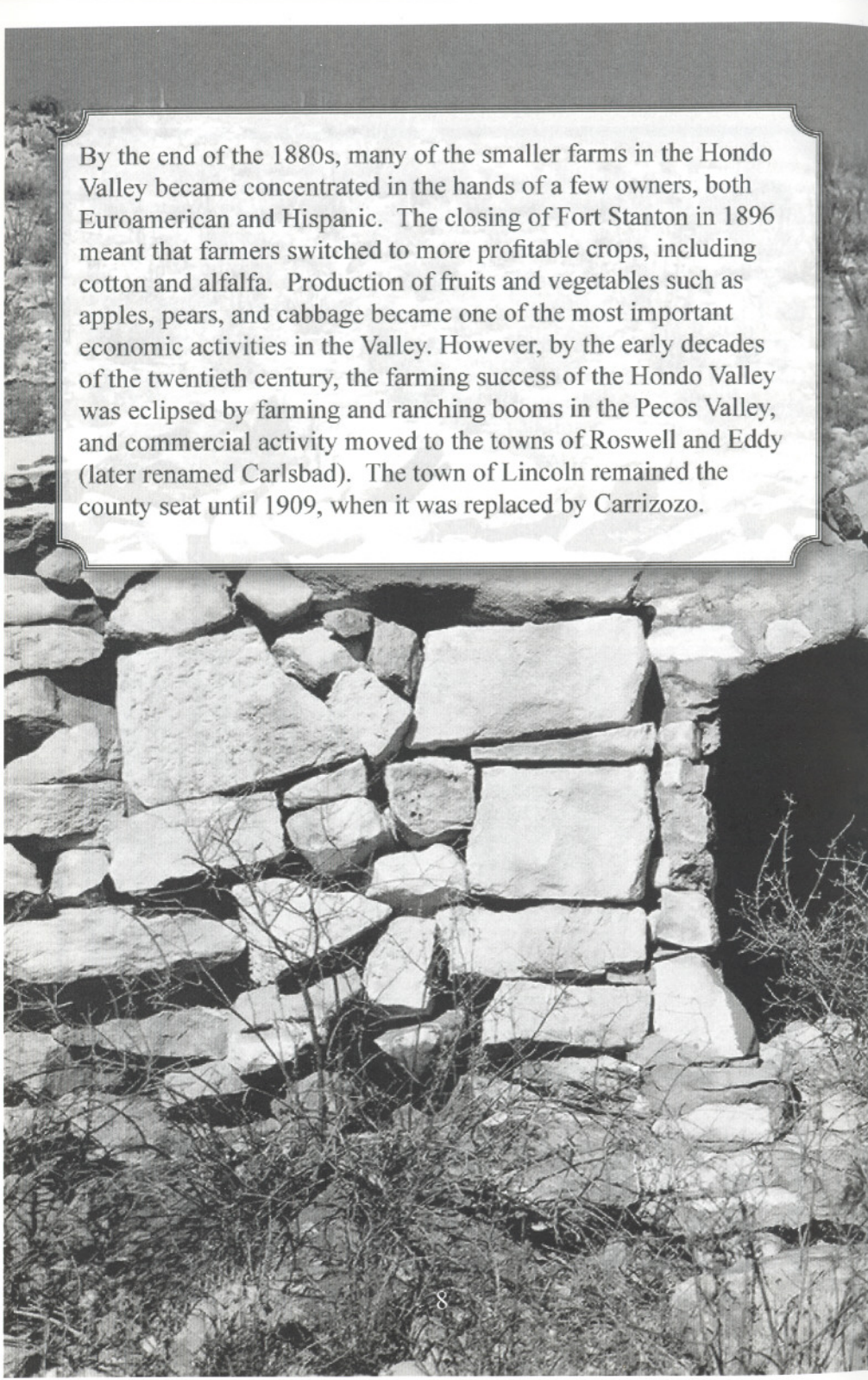
One of the first priorities of the Americans in the newly formed Territory of New Mexico was to build a series of forts to establish a military presence in the area. Fort Stanton was built adjacent to the Rio Bonito in 1855. One of the primary orders of the troops at Fort Stanton was to make the area safe for settlement. Not only did the fort provide protection against Apache raids, but it also served as the major market for agricultural goods for early settlers. With the protection of Fort Stanton, Hispanic and subsequent Euroamerican immigrants to the Hondo Valley prospered by farming and herding sheep, goats, and cattle.

During the late 1850s and early 1860s, small Hispanic farming and ranching communities were established along the Rio Bonito and Rio Hondo. These early settlers most likely came from Rio Grande valley communities and Manzano Mountain villages. They constructed *acequias* (irrigation ditches), grew corn, wheat, and beans, and herded sheep and goats in the surrounding hills. Land was held in common, and property was held by right of possession. The United States passed the Homestead Act in 1862, which allowed settlers to have 160-acre lots of land as long as they improved the land by living on and farming it for five years. Many of the Hispanic farmers who had already settled there claimed their land as homesteads. Euroamerican occupation of the southern Pecos Valley, to the east, began in earnest in the Hondo Valley during the 1860s, as ranchers from Texas such as John Chisum moved in to utilize the area's rich grasslands. Lincoln County was established in 1869 and at that time included almost all of southeastern New Mexico.

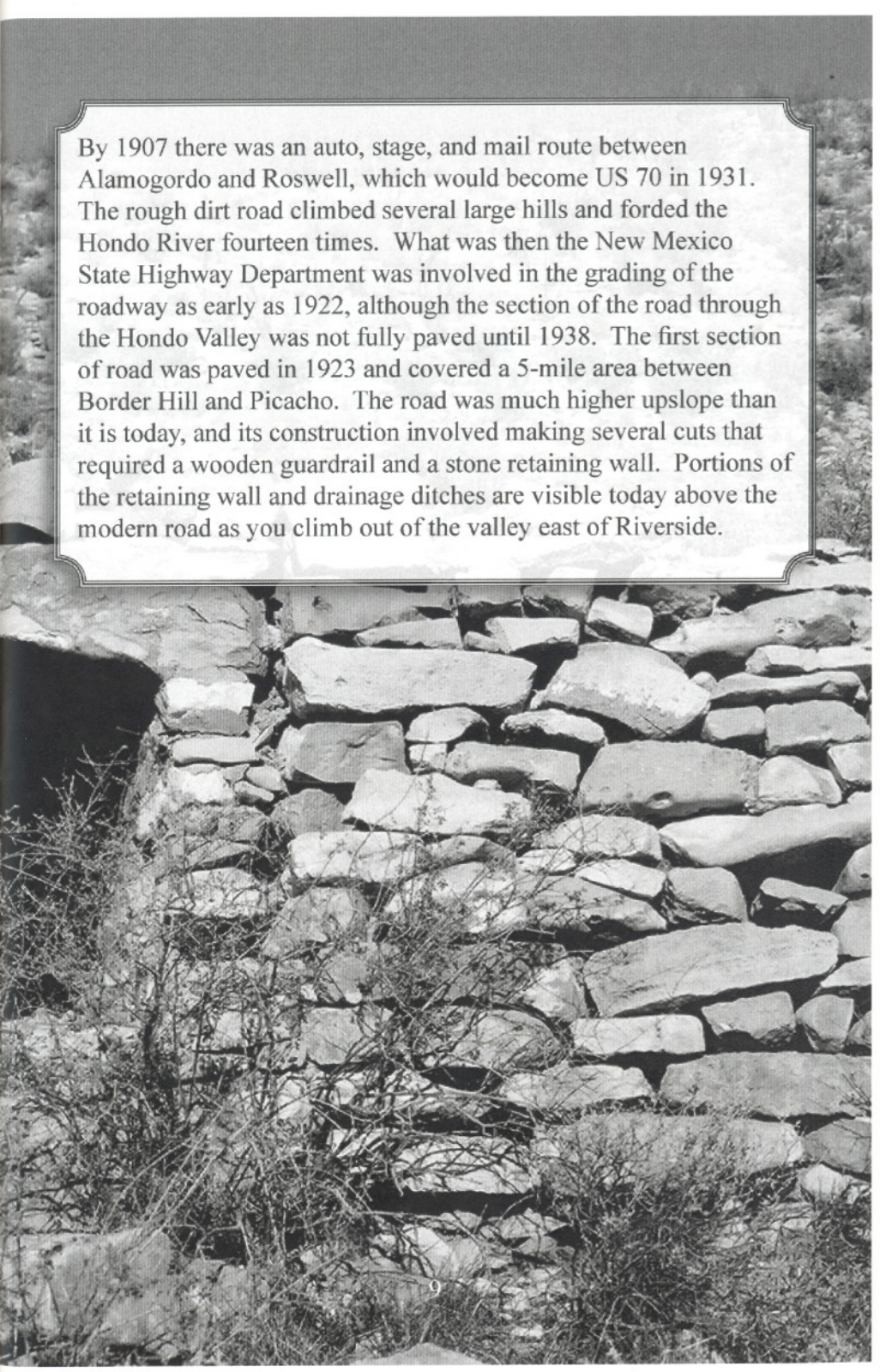
Ranching became more prevalent during the 1870s, as Texas cattlemen discovered the lush valley grasslands and the high demand for beef at Fort Stanton. While most of the large cattle operations were located farther east of the Hondo Valley along the Pecos River, there were a few ranches in the Valley itself. Robert Casey sold his ranch in Texas between 1868 and 1870 and relocated his family to a ranch in the Hondo Valley 6 miles east of Hondo. He also purchased a grist mill in the Valley and became something of a commercial and political leader. Dave Warner, another Texan, established a ranch at the present-day site of Tinnie in 1876. In 1885, John and Mahlon Thatcher and Frank Bloom established the Circle Diamond Ranch at Picacho; their property was eventually purchased by the Diamond A Ranch.



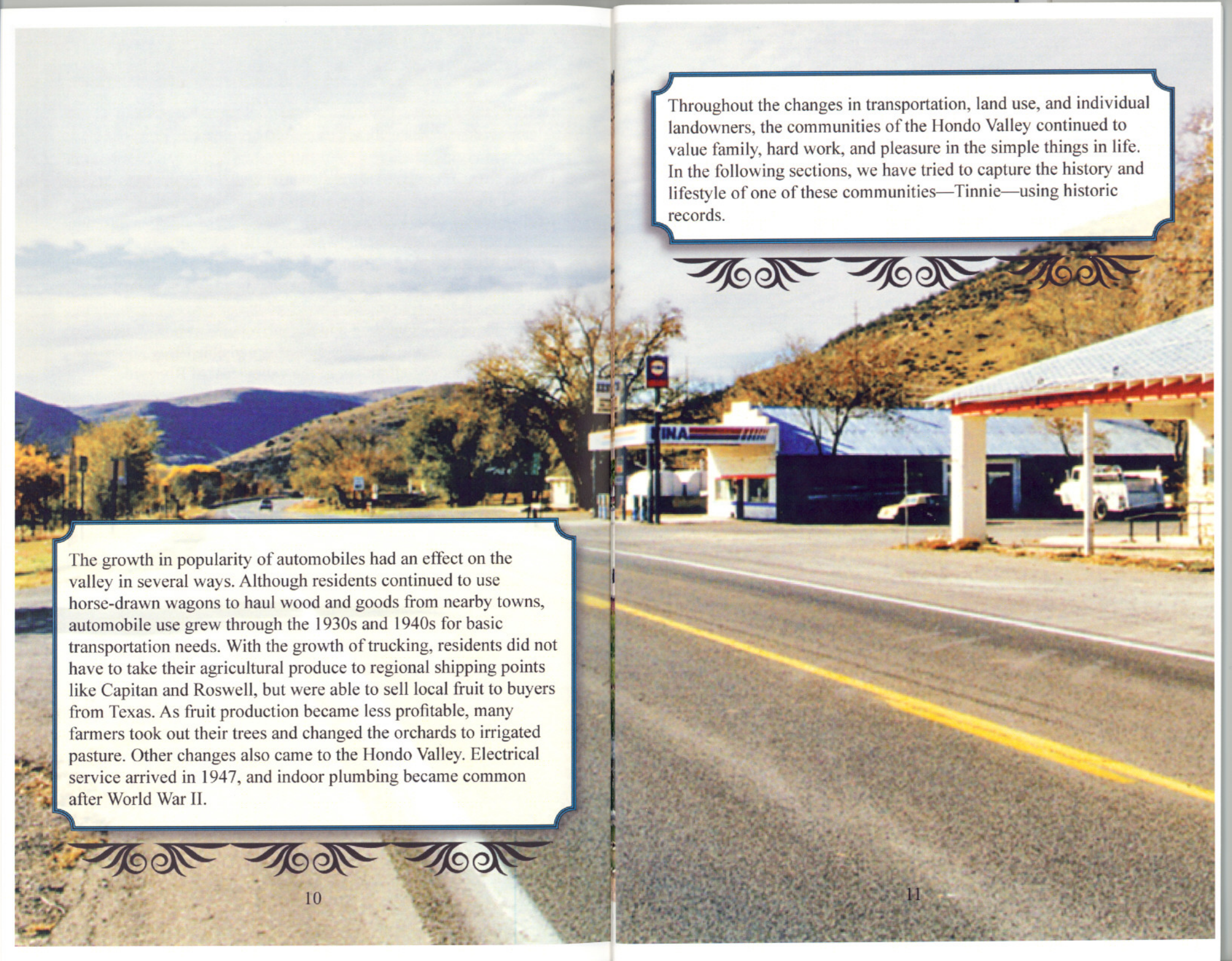
Acequias were constructed in the Hondo Valley beginning in the 1850s



By the end of the 1880s, many of the smaller farms in the Hondo Valley became concentrated in the hands of a few owners, both Euroamerican and Hispanic. The closing of Fort Stanton in 1896 meant that farmers switched to more profitable crops, including cotton and alfalfa. Production of fruits and vegetables such as apples, pears, and cabbage became one of the most important economic activities in the Valley. However, by the early decades of the twentieth century, the farming success of the Hondo Valley was eclipsed by farming and ranching booms in the Pecos Valley, and commercial activity moved to the towns of Roswell and Eddy (later renamed Carlsbad). The town of Lincoln remained the county seat until 1909, when it was replaced by Carrizozo.



By 1907 there was an auto, stage, and mail route between Alamogordo and Roswell, which would become US 70 in 1931. The rough dirt road climbed several large hills and forded the Hondo River fourteen times. What was then the New Mexico State Highway Department was involved in the grading of the roadway as early as 1922, although the section of the road through the Hondo Valley was not fully paved until 1938. The first section of road was paved in 1923 and covered a 5-mile area between Border Hill and Picacho. The road was much higher upslope than it is today, and its construction involved making several cuts that required a wooden guardrail and a stone retaining wall. Portions of the retaining wall and drainage ditches are visible today above the modern road as you climb out of the valley east of Riverside.



Throughout the changes in transportation, land use, and individual landowners, the communities of the Hondo Valley continued to value family, hard work, and pleasure in the simple things in life. In the following sections, we have tried to capture the history and lifestyle of one of these communities—Tinnie—using historic records.

The growth in popularity of automobiles had an effect on the valley in several ways. Although residents continued to use horse-drawn wagons to haul wood and goods from nearby towns, automobile use grew through the 1930s and 1940s for basic transportation needs. With the growth of trucking, residents did not have to take their agricultural produce to regional shipping points like Capitan and Roswell, but were able to sell local fruit to buyers from Texas. As fruit production became less profitable, many farmers took out their trees and changed the orchards to irrigated pasture. Other changes also came to the Hondo Valley. Electrical service arrived in 1947, and indoor plumbing became common after World War II.

COMMUNITY SETTLEMENT

An earlier name of the village of Tinnie was Analla, for early settler Jose Analla, who was part of a wave of Spanish settlers from Manzano, Socorro, and El Paso moving into the Hondo Valley in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Historical records tell us that Jose Analla moved to the area in 1876. In 1907, Stephen and Oney Raymond moved to Analla with their baby daughter, Tinnie. The citizens of Analla were so enchanted with the Raymonds' baby girl that they suggested the town's name be changed to Tinnie. Published interviews with Oney Raymond quote her as saying "[o]ur little girl was the only Anglo child in Analla and [the townspeople] wanted to change the name in her honor." A petition was sent to the nation's capital, and Tinnie became the town's official name in 1909.

Oney Raymond recalled that there were about fifty families in the Tinnie area during 1907. In 1915, the New Mexico State Business Directory listed a population of 100. The Raymonds grew to a family of six with the addition of children Virginia, Jane, and John. Tinnie Raymond became a local schoolteacher in 1926. She married and moved to Roswell some time later. The Raymonds established the Tinnie Mercantile Company and ran it until 1960, when the property was purchased by Robert O. Anderson.

The Titsworths are another prominent family in Tinnie's history. The Titsworth family first settled in Capitan in the 1800s, where they ran a grocery business that supplied Lincoln County mercantile stores with food and supplies. In 1912, the Titsworths purchased property in Tinnie from Pedro Analla and established a ranch with extensive apple orchards. The Titsworth Ranch became one of the most prominent ranches in the Hondo Valley, specializing in apples and sheep.

The 1923 highway plans for US 70 show Tinnie as a few houses and a school on the south side of the road. Prior to the 1923 improvements, US 70 turned north up Tinnie Canyon following the present-day NM 368. The road crossed Tinnie Canyon at some distance north of current US 70, and then turned south again. By the time of the 1936 US 70 improvements, the school was shown on the north side of US 70.

MAKING A LIVING: FARMING, RANCHING, AND MERCANTILE

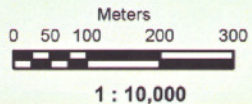
Like other communities in the Hondo Valley, Tinnie's economy was based on farming and ranching; another important economic component was the Tinnie Mercantile Company. Water was a key factor in the success of the early settlements in Tinnie. Crop production would have been impossible without a reliable water supply, so one of the first activities of the earliest settlers would have been building an acequia. This early system would have been small and capable of watering only small parcels of land. Priority dates from the Office of the State Engineer indicate that most of the irrigation ditches along the Hondo River were built between 1864 and 1874.

Apple orchards became a mainstay of the Hondo Valley economy from the 1910s through the 1940s. The Titsworth Company built an apple packing plant in Tinnie between 1912 and 1914. This building still stands in Tinnie and, since few modifications have been made to the original structure, the original layout of the plant is preserved. The eastern end of the plant is an open shed structure where apples were cleaned and packed. The western end of the building served as storage for the filled crates before they were loaded onto trucks from the wooden loading dock on the west.

The apples from the Titsworth plant were transported from Tinnie to Capitan, where they were shipped out by railroad. The apple packing plant was in use until the death of George Titsworth in the 1940s. When Will Ed Harris stepped in to settle the Titsworth estate, the ranch was divided into smaller parcels. Subsequently the orchards that were originally part of the land were removed, and the associated apple business structures were razed, except for the packing plant. One of the Titsworth orchards was in the field on the north side of the packing plant, adjacent to US 70, but this orchard was removed in 1958.



Tinnie Community



Further east in Sunset, Will Titsworth purchased the Sunset Ranch in 1913 for the Titsworth Company and renamed the orchard operation there the Hondo Valley Fruit Company, which continued to produce apples, while adding lettuce, cabbage, and alfalfa. The Sunset Ranch under the Titsworths also raised horses, cows, and pigs. The Hondo Valley Fruit Company likely transported the apples from the Sunset Ranch to the Titsworth Company's apple packing plant in Tinnie. The Titsworths' large land holdings between Tinnie and Sunset saw the expansion of their mercantile business as their ranching and agricultural ventures prospered. According to a 1965 written account by George Coe, George A. Titsworth "supplied the majority of ranchers and farmers and county stores in all of Lincoln County. He sold everything from a hairpin to a threshing machine." Coe described the Titsworth Company as a "tremendous business."



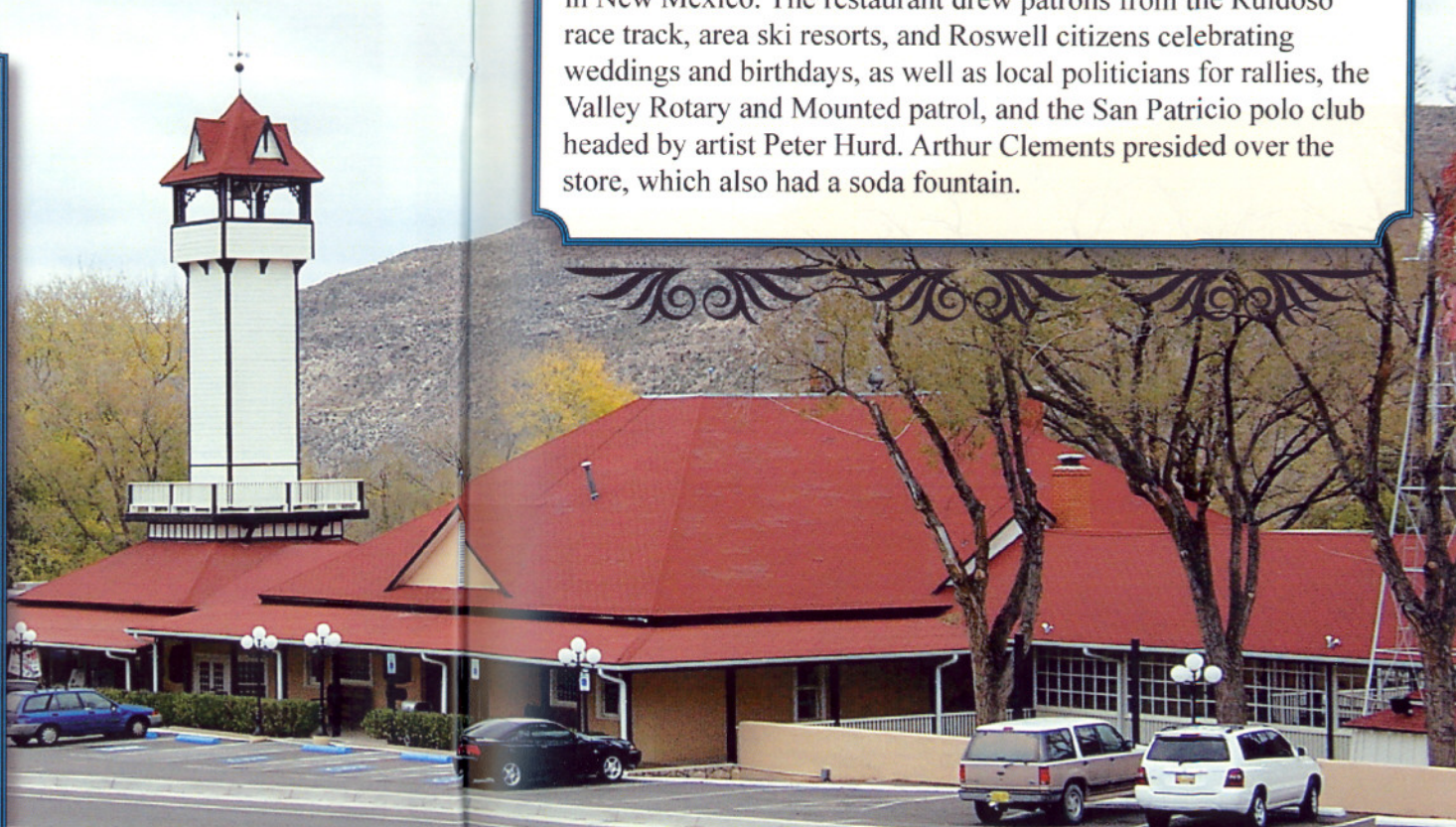
Photo from a farming techniques demo at the H. P. Joyce Farm, 1940.



Sample of corn hybrids tested on the Titsworth Farm, 1940.

Another important business in Tinnie was the Tinnie Mercantile Company, built in 1909 by the Raymonds. Historic photographs of the Tinnie Mercantile from the early 1900s show a large main building with a windmill; a gas pump was added some time later. By the middle of the 1920s, there were two buildings on the Tinnie Mercantile property. The company sold everything to satisfy the local farming community, from Arbuckle's Coffee, wheat flour from Texas, and salt pork and bacon, to Bull Durham Tobacco, horse and wagon essentials, corsets and high button shoes, and work shirts priced from 89 cents to a dollar. Interviewed for the *El Paso Sunday Times Magazine* in 1965, Tinnie postmaster Arthur Clements stated that Oney Raymond at one time had up to \$45,000 of merchandise at the mercantile, which was "a lot of merchandise for those days, and probably included wagons, buggies, harnesses and windmills, items that could be stored outside."

In a 1984 *New Mexico Magazine* story, John Sinclair wrote about the Tinnie Mercantile as he knew it in the 1930s, stating that it was “the beating heart of Tinnie,” drawing local cowboys among others. Sinclair recounted that “[t]he sheepmen and their riders who tended the hill pastures came to the Raymond store sometimes on horseback, or aboard the rattly automobiles of the day—complete in cowboy attire. They had cowboy complexions, the sun-squinted eyes, and spoke in a Texas drawl.” Under the Raymonds, the Tinnie Mercantile Company remained a mainstay of the local community until 1960, when entrepreneur Robert O. Anderson bought the property from Oney Raymond.



Anderson, who lived on the Rio Hondo near Picacho, hired John Meigs, a local author and painter, to fix up the place. The store buildings were renovated, and a restaurant was created in the original building. The restaurant, known as the Tinnie Silver Dollar, specialized in steaks and reportedly had the first salad bar in New Mexico. The restaurant drew patrons from the Ruidoso race track, area ski resorts, and Roswell citizens celebrating weddings and birthdays, as well as local politicians for rallies, the Valley Rotary and Mounted patrol, and the San Patricio polo club headed by artist Peter Hurd. Arthur Clements presided over the store, which also had a soda fountain.

EDUCATION AND RELIGION

Every community has its gathering places, where people come together to talk, learn, and worship, where they can share in the experience of living in a place and feel a common bond with their neighbors. In the Hondo Valley, these places tended to be centered around the school, the church, and the general stores that dot the communities.



The original Tinnie Schoolhouse.

School

The first schools in the Hondo Valley were established after the Territorial Legislature created Lincoln County in 1869. At first classes were held at local meeting halls and in family homes, but by the mid 1880s they were formalized in dedicated school buildings. It was at this time that school districts were established, with superintendents and school boards. The Hondo School District ultimately included the communities of Arabella, Blue Water, Picacho, Tinnie, Hondo, and San Patricio. The Tinnie School is a good example of this kind of building, and many local children received their formal education here. Education beyond the eighth grade was not available until the Hondo high school program was established in 1925. Most children attended first through sixth grades, but boys tended to begin working on family farms and ranches before they completed seventh or eighth grade. Girls usually completed the eighth grade. Class sizes varied, and different grades were combined in the same rooms in the two-room school. Overall, there were typically 30 to 40 children in the school at one time.

School also provided a social environment for children, where they were exposed to children they might not meet otherwise and forged friendships that would last for a lifetime. The schoolhouse also served other functions and became a community center for pageants and performances where adults met socially. Thus, the school was an element that helped bind the community together for many years.

The first formal school instruction in Tinnie probably occurred before 1880, since the earliest available school census records for Lincoln County start at 1880. The census records indicate that there were 46 students in the Tinnie School District in 1880 and 51 students in 1920. The earliest school in Tinnie no longer exists. According to the 1923 plans for improvements to US 70, this school was located south of the highway. Tinnie Raymond started teaching at the Tinnie School in 1926, which means she would have taught at this earlier school building.



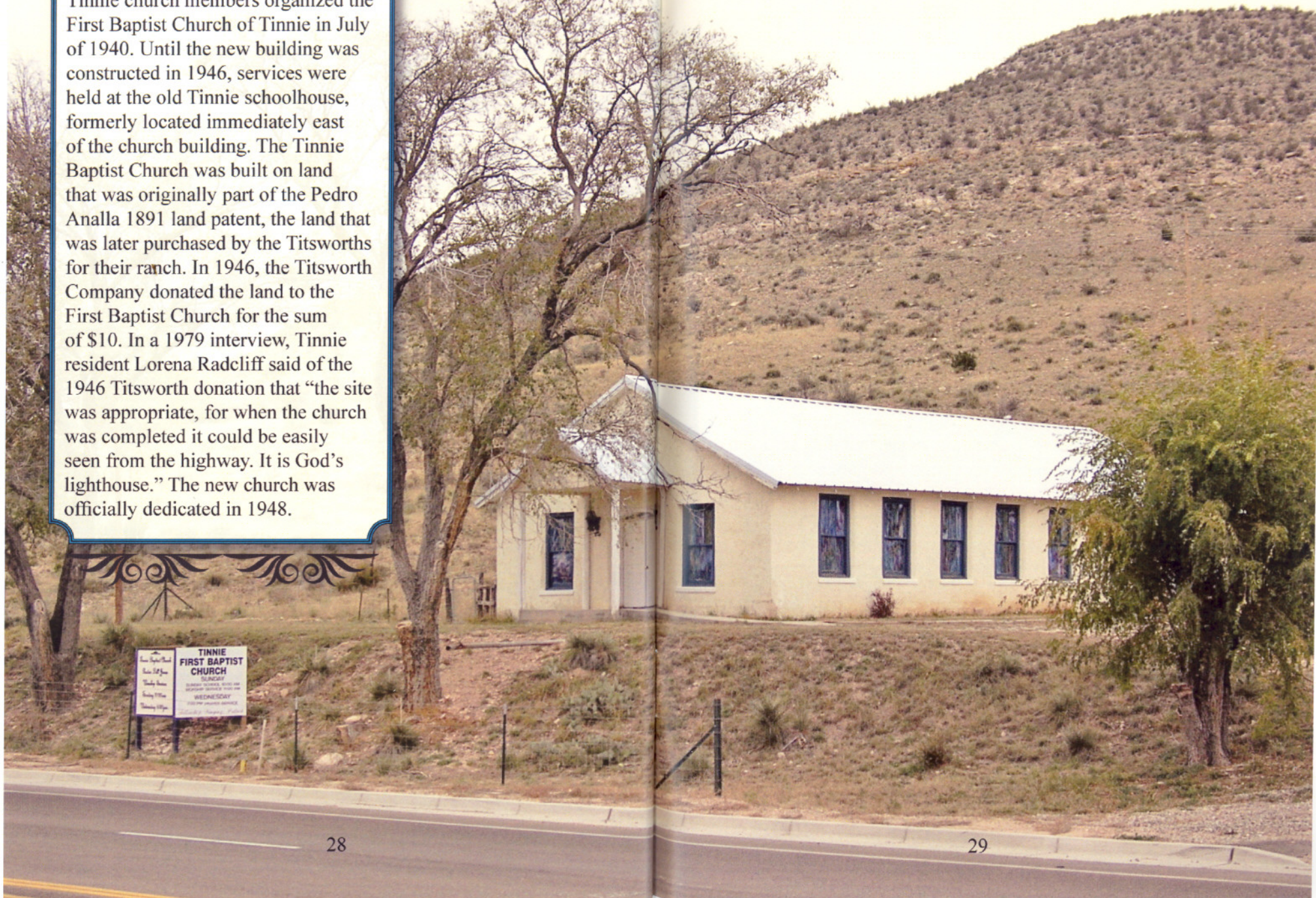
The Works Progress Administration—part of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal program—built a second Tinnie school in 1935, which is currently used as the Fellowship Hall for the Tinnie Baptist Church. Like the Picacho School, another WPA construction project, the 1935 Tinnie school was built to resemble early Protestant churches with its rectangular form, sash windows along the long side, main door in the gable end, and belfry above.



This resemblance was not accidental, but related to the similar functions served by religion and education, to foster the moral, physical, and intellectual development of students. The Tinnie Elementary School closed in 1955, as the various elementary schools in the Valley were consolidated into a single school in Hondo.

Churches

Tinnie church members organized the First Baptist Church of Tinnie in July of 1940. Until the new building was constructed in 1946, services were held at the old Tinnie schoolhouse, formerly located immediately east of the church building. The Tinnie Baptist Church was built on land that was originally part of the Pedro Analla 1891 land patent, the land that was later purchased by the Titsworths for their ranch. In 1946, the Titsworth Company donated the land to the First Baptist Church for the sum of \$10. In a 1979 interview, Tinnie resident Lorena Radcliff said of the 1946 Titsworth donation that “the site was appropriate, for when the church was completed it could be easily seen from the highway. It is God’s lighthouse.” The new church was officially dedicated in 1948.



TINNIE
FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
SUNDAY
SERVICES 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM AND
12:00 PM
WEDNESDAY
7:00 PM SERVICE

WHY HISTORY IS IMPORTANT

History is important because it connects modern day people with the past. This publication uses historical records to give the reader a sense of what it was like to live in the Tinnie area in the early and middle twentieth century, a time of tremendous change in America. The people who lived here were witnesses to economic depressions, world wars, the social revolutions of the 1960s, the rise of technology, and the global society that we as Americans are part of today. Although the Hondo Valley communities may seem placid and far removed from these broad movements, the reach of these developments often had concrete effects on the lives of local residents. Improvements like the paving and rerouting of US 70 permitted faster and easier transportation to other parts of the state and, by extension, the rest of the country. New ideas, products, and people followed the road and contributed to the makeup of the valley as it exists today.

Through all the changes of the last century, the residents of the Hondo Valley communities retained the values that they inherited from their forefathers and foremothers and passed them down to their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Although those values are taken for granted by the people who live them, they are the common wisdom of people who lived on and depended on the land. Their example helps us understand what it took to survive and be happy without many of the common conveniences of the modern day such as electricity or cars. This record of their lives preserves a portion of the culture that they have passed down, even as it continues to evolve over time.



FURTHER READING

- Adams, Clarence S. and Joan N.
1989 *The Historical Roundup: A Collection of Stories of Old Timers of Long Ago in New Mexico*. Old Time Publication, Roswell.
- Julyan, Robert
1998 *The Place Names of New Mexico*. rev. ed. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.
- Larson, Carole
1993 *Forgotten Frontier, the Story of Southeastern New Mexico*. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.
- Patterson, Paul E.
1999 *Hardhat and Stetson: Robert O. Anderson, Oilman and Cattleman*. Sunstone Press, Santa Fe.
- Shinkle, James D.
1970 *Robert Casey and the Ranch on the Rio Hondo*. Hall-Poorbaugh Press, Roswell.
- Wilson, Chris, Stanley Hordes, and Henry Walt
1989 *The South Central New Mexico Regional Overview; History, Historic Archaeology, Architecture and Historic Preservation*. Historic Preservation Division, Office of Cultural Affairs, State of New Mexico, Santa Fe.

List of photographs donated by citizens of the Hondo Valley used in this volume of the Snapshot Publication Series:

contributor	description	page
Barbara Radcliff	Farm Demo at H.P. Joyce Farm, 1940	18
Barbara Radcliff	Titsworth Corncrib	19
Paul & Nellie Ruth Jones	Original Tinnie Schoolhouse	24

