

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 15: NUMBER 1.....JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 2020

Legendary

Over the years that I have been in New Mexico, I have seen references to or pictures of Elfego Baca at various times, but never with much, if any, information as to who he was or what he did. From the pictures I assumed he was just another 19th century gunman, but recently while perusing the shelves in the library I came across a couple of books about his life, so I decided that I was interested enough to discover what I had missed.

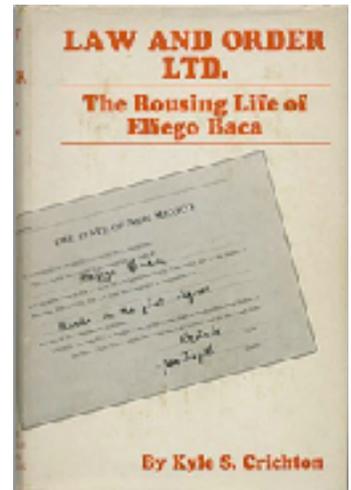
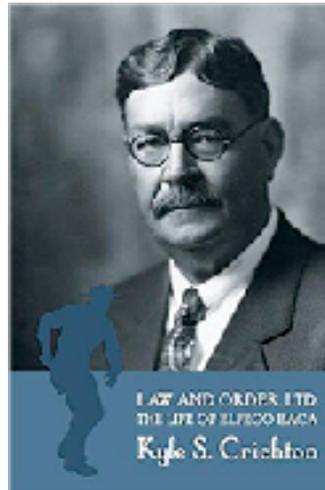
Featured this Month

***Law and Order, Ltd: The Rousing Life of Elfego Baca* by Kyle S. Crichton**

This informal biography of Elfego Baca consists mostly of stories of incidents in his life that characterize his lifestyle, some of them obtained from Elfego and some from other sources. The book, written by an author who knew Elfego and with his cooperation was published in 1928 while Elfego was still alive.

Elfego was born in Socorro, New Mexico, but spent most of his youth in Kansas when his parents moved there to improve their sons' education. After Elfego's mother died he returned to Socorro with his brother and his father became the Town Marshal of Belen. A dispute of his father with a powerful local politician resulted in his father being imprisoned in Belen. His rescue by fifteen year old Elfego and a friend was by subterfuge and doing the unexpected, not by violence.

The next incident presented was quite the opposite. The gun-fight at 'Frisco lasted about a day and a half with Elfego pitted against a mob of 80 irate armed cowboys who objected to his arrest of one of their number for shooting up the town and endangering the local inhabitants. Elfego emerged from the battle



uninjured despite thousands of shots by the cowboys into his totally inadequate shelter while there were four of the cowboys dead from his few well placed shots to defend himself against their approach to his hiding place.

One of my favorite stories took place while Elfego was County Sheriff in which he used finesse rather than force to accomplish the arrest of numerous accused criminals. His reputation as a gunfighter was such by that point that when he wrote to the accused persons pointing out the danger to them if he had to come find them, they simply came in and surrendered.

Lawyer, politician, representative of the Mexican government, newspaper publisher, security guard, Rio Grande conservationist, and judge are among the various roles he played in the stories recounted in this book. He was tried for murder several times, both as a lawman and in defending himself against efforts to eliminate him. In all of these roles he maintained his characteristics of facing the problem at hand promptly and using whatever means necessary to solve it, be it a gun, finesse, or persuasion.

Introduction and review by Joe Diel

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New at the Library

Non Fiction

Silver-Plated Deceit: *The Story of Mining in Lake Valley, New Mexico* by Homer E. Milford et al.
A Bad Peace and a Good War: *Spain and the Mescalero Apache Uprising of 1795-1799* by Mark Santiago
Killing Pat Garrett, the Wild West's Most Famous Lawman: *Murder or Self-Defense?* by David G. Thomas
Tracking Nana by R. M. Hagan
Dakotah by Charles Bowden
The Pioneers by David McCullough
Educated by Tara Westover
Chimayo Weaving by Helen Lucero
Einstein's Daughter by Michael Zackheim
Alzhemier's with my Mother Eileen by Jim Dicke II
Economic Geology of Selected Mines in Hillsboro & San Lorenzo Quadrangles by D C Hedlund
! Concha! Matriarch of a 300-year-old New Mexico Legacy by Kathryn Cordova
Missions of New Mexico Since 1776 by John Kessell
Miera Y Pacheco-*A Renaissance Spaniard in 18th Century New Mexico* by John Kessell

Mystery

Fracture by Susan Cummins Miller
The Night Trade by Barry Eisler
Lucia Lone by Barry Eisler
All the Devils by Barry Eisler
The Cactus Plot by Vicky Ramakka

Fiction

Slugger by Chuck Barrett
Give Me Your Hand by Megan Abbott
Girl With a Gun by Kari Bovee
What Rose Forgot by Nevada Barr
Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

Informational CDs

Environmental Impact Statement Special Use Airspace Optimization (Holloman Airbase) by the United States Airforce

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit <http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed
Tues. 3:30 - 5:30pm Wed. 1:00 - 4:00pm
Thurs: 3:30 - 5:30pm Fri: 10:00am - 1:00pm
Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

Bookmobile Schedule

January 21 & February 18,
Hillsboro 1:00- 2:00 Kingston 2:30- 3:30

Notes from the Library Board

The Annual Meeting of the Hillsboro Public Library will be held on **Saturday, February 8 at 2:00pm in the Library Reading Room.** All member-patrons are encouraged to attend. Officers for the coming 2-year term will be elected. Nominations for officers will be accepted from the floor.

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P.O. BOX 205, HILLSBORO NM 88042 (575-895-3349)