AZTEC A GREAT BUSINESS CENTER.

A Brief Summary of Improvements Made Last Year

INDEX TO HER BUSINESS HOUSES.

The year just ended has been a record maker in Aztec. Progress has been the watch-word with our citizens and many improvements have been the result. New buildings and new enterprises have marked and made the progress of the town. A new $10,000 county court house has been finished. The Odd Fellows have built a two-story brick hall at a cost of $3,500. Messrs Green & Pool have erected a commodious town hall with business rooms on the first floor, at a cost of $3,000. Col. Williams has erected a neat brick cottage at a cost of $1200. John M. M. Morrison has built a neat brick house for a home at a cost of $1,000. Orin Randall is finishing an attractive $800 frame residence. J. D. Thomas has built a $1,000 brick cottage which he and his family now occupy. J. B. Austin with his family occupies a neat brick dwelling, erected at a cost of $750, while C. G. Brewer and son are spending close to $3,000 in two brick cottages, which are nearing completion.

The Postoffice has moved into new and commodious quarters, erected especially for that purpose. J. M. Palmer completely overhauled his residence property and added a second story to it at a cost of $750. McCoy & Rathjen's new brick business block was built at a cost of $3,000—and is a credit to the town and to the enterprise of the firm who built it. The Colorado Telephone Co. has built an exchange here and our telephone service is complete throughout the county. An Aztec resident can now sit in his home and talk to persons in nearly every part of the county, also throughout Colorado.

Besides these there have been many minor improvements. J. M. Randall has built a $500 addition to his dwelling. Judge Pendleton has improved his residence and office at an expense of several hundred dollars. John A. Koontz has spent $500 in improving his residence property. The Aztec hotel has been greatly improved and Wm. F. Gilliam has built cellars, cisterns and out buildings at an expense of several hundred dollars. Dr. E. G. Condit has expended $500 in improving his residence property. T. A. Pierce has built a barn and otherwise improved his lots preparatory to building a home. Jarvis & Hart's livery barn has been greatly improved.

These and many others mark the progress made by Aztec during the past year.

Business in Aztec has been good throughout the year and merchants and business men generally are satisfied with results. Aztec is the business center for a large scope of country, drawing trade from the La Plata, San Juan and Pine River valleys and along the Animas from the state line to below Flora Vista.

Among Aztec's business houses, the most exacting can get their every wish or need supplied, from the least to the greatest, even from the proverbial "camibrick needle to a threshing machine."

Col. W. H. Williams, the pioneer of Aztec merchants, carries a large and varied stock of well selected merchandise.

J. M. Randall carries a complete stock of general merchandise, including many of the small, useful articles not regularly found in a general stock.

Bailey & Howe have a complete stock of dry goods, groceries, notions, and in fact, everything usually carried in a complete general store.

J. W. Lair handles a complete stock of goods in general merchandise, while McCoy & Rathjen carry a large and complete stock of heavy and shelf hardware, furniture and lumber.

Bay & Current have a complete stock of fresh, pure drugs, notions, cigars and candies.

E. C. Waring carries a full line of jewelry, watches, clocks etc. and does all kinds of repairing.

Mrs. J. F. Bell and Mrs. J. W. Lair each handle full lines of millinery and fancy goods.

Mrs. Dalton carries a complete line of candies, nuts and soft drinks.

The San Juan Stores Co. have within the past few days moved into the new Odd Fellows' building and have a complete stock of general merchandise, and do a general banking business. They also operate the Aztec flouring mills, and handle the celebrated Studebaker wagon and McCormic harvesting machinery.

Baker & Lenfestey and Richard Heath run well-conducted places where the best brands of wines, liquors and cigars, with excellent treatment, can always be had.

A. M. Hubbard's meat market is one of the substantial institutions of the town, where the best meats, fish and oysters are to be had at all times.

J. M. Morrison has recently opened a meat shop, and keeps a well-stocked market. His meats are the best obtainable.

J. T. Green has one of the most complete saddle and harness stores in the West, and his work at all times is guaranteed to be the best. He does repairing of harness and shoes.

C. H. Villman's barber shop and bath rooms are neat and clean, and the best of work is guaranteed.

C. H. Baker conducts the Aztec hotel and many a weary traveler finds this a veritable oasis after a long day's travel. All who stop at this hotel attest to the superior accomodations offered.

Ed. Fiedler runs a first-class restaurant and has rooms in connection, where everything is as clean and comfortable as the most exacting could desire.

Mrs. Blancett and Miss Luther have rooms, neat, clean and airy, and make their guests feel at home.

Austin & Turner have one of the best conducted blacksmith and repair shops in the county, and the busy ring of their anvils attest to the work they do.

Jarvis & Hart keep one of the best livery stables to be found in the country, where new rigs and the best driving horses can always be had, and where stock left to board receives the best of care.

Mrs. Waring is Postmistress and has a liberal share of the work to do in attending to the wants of this busy people.

Judge Granville Pendleton, as a lawyer and real estate agent, is known far and wide, and probably to his efforts, more than all else, except his natural advantages, does Aztec owe much of her prosperity.

Dr. E. G. Condit and Dr. W. R. McRee are the physicians of the town, both well qualified in their professions and have the confidence of their patrons and the community.

A. B. McClure is a surveyor of ability, and spends his leisure time in assisting Judge Pendleton in the real estate business.

Aztec has five secret orders: Masons, Eastern Star Odd Fellows, Rebekahs and Maccabees.

Two church organizations minister to the spiritual wants of our people, the Presbyterian and Baptist.

There has been a noted increase both in attendance and interest in our public Schools from that of 1902. Our teachers are capable and painstaking, and every facility is offered for the foundation of a thorough education.

Last, but not least, The San Juan County Index works, week in and week out, that the people may know of this great county and of Aztec as the center

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Commissioners' Proceedings.

Aztec, N. M., Oct. 5, 1903.

The Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County met in regular session at the court house in Aztec. Present, J. E. McCarty, chairman, Commissioners J. R. Williams and J. V. Lujan, Joe Prewitt, clerk.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

A petition of Peter M. Shumway et al asking for a road to be opened was granted and the road ordered opened.

Bond of M. W. Milligan as road supervisor of precinct 5, was approved.

Bond of Ramon Lavato as road supervisor of precinct 1, was approved.

Ordered by the Board that for the years 1902 and 1903 any assessment against the fraction of se ¼ of nw ¼ sw ¼ of ne ¼ sec. 14 Tp 29 n. r. 13 w., 45 acres, and any costs or penalties thereon incurred be abated and that the assessor be intructed in the future to make no assessment of said, and the clerk give Mr. Collyer a copy of this order. The said land being on the Navajo reservation.

Omissions having been made on the assessment roll, and it being shown to the satisfaction of the commissioners that they were householders within the county and entitled to exemptions, the following persons were allowed such exemptions for the years named, and the collector instructed to make such allowances:

H. Baldwin for the year 1903 $200 of ass'mt.
M. W. Milligan " " " 200 " "
Mrs. Agnes Colton " " " 200 " "
" " " " 1901 200 " "
Wm. White for the year 1901 200 " "
M. L. Eldredge " " 1898 200 " "
Wm. Meadows " " 1902 200 " "

Mrs. A. M. Pinkney having been assessed on sheep for the year 1901 and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Board that she did not own sheep during that year, the tax assessed against her on sheep for said year, 1901, was ordered abated.

It appearing that there was an error in the assessment of David Craxton for 1903, penalty on his tax for said year is ordered abated.

Robert McRee was appointed Justice of the Peace for precinct No. 3.

John Slater was appointed constable for precinct No. 3.

E. G. Berry, Justice of precinct No. 2, reported no fines collected for quarter ending Sept. 30, 1903.

F. W. Sharp paid clerk of the board $5.00 to be used to pay expenses of viewing road petitioned for.

T. L. Blake paid clerk of the board $5.00 to be used to pay expenses of viewing road.

Road supervisor of precinct No. 2 was ordered to put the road between Hildebrand's and Cameron's ranches in good condition.

It appearing to the Board that R. L. Hamblet was erroneously assessed for the years 1898 and 1899, he having no property in the county during those years, the tax assessed against him for said years was ordered abated.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Board that Antonio Montoyo was erroneously assessed on 40 acres of land for 1902, $25 of his assessment for that year is abated.

A warrant was ordered drawn on road fund for M. W. Milligan for $50.

D. J. Donivan, assessor for 1901 and 1902 was paid $82.41 and warrant drawn for amount.

Warrant was drawn to O. C. McEwen for $85, quarter salary and stationery as Supt. of Schools.

No further business appearing, the board adjourned.

Attest: J. E. McCARTY, Chairman.
JOE PREWITT, Clerk.

Aztec, N. M., Dec. 8, 1903.

The Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, New Mexico, met in special session, this day. Present, J. E. McCarty, Chairman, J. V. Lujan and J. R. Williams, Commissioners and Joe Prewitt, Clerk.

The amount paid by John Passmore on personal tax of Everett Wright for the year 1902 was ordered transferred to John Passmore's taxes of 1903.

Resignation of R. J. Chambers as Justice of the Peace of Precinct No. 5, was received and accepted.

Petitions for the appointment of J. L. Fay and J. C. Hubbard as Justice of the Peace to fill vacancy in precinct No. 5, were presented and upon a vote being taken, J. T. Fay received 2 votes and J. C. Hubbard one. James T. Fay was declared elected to fill vacancy.

Assessment of $62.50 was ordered abated on tax of Thos. Evans, precinct No. 4, he having been assessed on 20 acres of land when he owned only 10 acres.

The Treasurer and Collector was instructed to correct the special school tax assessed against J. A. Koontz, as botween Districts 2 and 16.

The following persons were allowed exemptions as heads of families, it having been omitted on the tax rolls: P. M. Schumway $200 for year 1903; Francisco Manzanares $200 of assessment for 1903; J. E. Wheeler $200 of assessment for 1903.

The Treasurer and Collector was instructed to make correction of taxes on land between J. W. Coolidge and Edmund Thurland and that the taxes on that part assessed to Coolidge, which makes a double tax, be abated.

Bonito Martinez was ordered to file a new bond as Justice of the Peace for precinct 7. F. Archubeque having withdrawn as one of his bondsmen.

M. W. Hunt was appointed road overseer of precinct No. 3.

Saturday, Jan 16, 1904 was the day fixed to hear evidence in the matter of damages awarded on road petitioned for by C. T. Brown and others.

Surveyor Holley was ordered to survey and open road petitioned for by C. T. Brown and others.

No further business appearing the board adjourned.

Attest: J. E. McCARTY, Chairman.
JOE PREWITT, Clerk.

THE INDEX

AZTEC, NEW MEXICO.

Entered at the postoffice at Aztec as mail matter of the second class.

JOE PREWITT. Editor and Manager.

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF SAN JUAN COUNTY

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One Year.....$2 00
Six Months.....1 00
Three Months.....50

FRIDAY JANUARY 1, 1904.

LARGELY LOCAL.

School reopens next Monday.

Judge Pendleton departed on a business trip to Santa Fe on Monday.

The Aztec Sunday Schools will be held at the regular hour on next Sunday.

Joe Pendleton and Dean Howe furnished music for the dance at La Plata, Wednesday night.

Paraphernalia for the new postoffice, "Pendleton," on the La Plata, passed through Aztec this week.

The little book of "Don'ts" for boys, evidently doesn't warn its readers against betting on prize fights.

The new Odd Fellows' Hall in Aztec, will be dedicated Jan. 9, 1904. Public installation of officers at 2 p. m.

Miss Perle Pendleton returned to Durango on Monday, after a month's visit with Aztec relatives and friends.

Rev. B. B. Wright will hold services at the Presbyterian church tomorrow night at 7:30, also Sunday morning and evening.

Durango persistently advertises her excellent water. We are not much for water down here, but have the best booze in the land.

Miss South Church of Boston, says "a kiss is the anatomical juxtaposition of orbicular muscles in a state of contraction." It sounds all right.

"Dr. Cure All," a comedy in two acts, interspersed with vocal and instrumental music, will be given by the local lodges of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs at Green's Hall, Jan. 9, 1904. The public invited.

Mrs. F. E. McClure, daughter, Olive, and two sons, F. D. and W. G., arrived in Aztec Monday, from Howard, Kas. They came here for the purpose of securing a ranch and will make this their future home.

A number of young people spent Christmas evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. Current. Flinch was the main feature of amusement. Refreshments were served and a pleasant time was reported.

The Misses Laura and Mollie Hudson returned to their home at Walsenburg, Colo., on Sunday. These young ladies, during their short sojourn here, have made many friends among our people who regret their going away.

On Christmas, at hotel Baker, Judge Berry pronounced the words that united in marriage, Mr. Alexus Ritter of Durango and Miss Viola Wyley of Delta, Colo.

Mrs. Mira M. Page of Flora Vista, has been allowed a pension of $8 per month from April 30, 1901. This will give Mrs. Page some $250 back pay. A number of pensions have been granted this fall and winter through Delegate Rodey's efforts, and we are glad to note that Mrs. Page is among them.

A large company of our young people were invited to attend "A Meeting of the New York Stock Exchange" in the cozy parlors of Mrs. W. H. Waring on Thursday evening of this week. "Panic" was the amusement, and as the fun waxed fast and furious, the merry participants agreed that it had been rightly named. At eleven o'clock, dainty refreshements were served. Mesdames Lenfestey and Linsacumb assisted greatly in making the evening a delightful one.

For lowest prices on sash, doors, moldings, shingles and lumber of all kinds, call at yards of The Durango Planing Mill and Lumber company, rear of the First National bank, Durango. Mill work a specialty.

Flora Vista Notes.

We wish all the Index readers a bright and happy New Year.

Owing to many trials and troubles we have been delayed in carrying on our correspondence with the Index. In the future we expect to keep the Index informed on all of the local news of the neighborhood.

Owing to the scarlet fever scare, there were no entertainments at Flora Vista, during Christmas, except some private gatherings. Among them might be mentioned the gathering at the Goodwin home, a few of the nearest neighbors. A nicely prepared Christmas tree and a real Santa Claus served for the amusement of the little ones.

In the future we may have a wedding to report, but at present we dare not say anything about it.

Since the arrival of a boy at the home of Arthur Sever, he is only touching the high places.

Master Robert and Clyde Goodwin drove up to the Mexican plaza Sunday to visit Alice Goodwin, and Mrs. Bryce's family.

Miss Henry, who is a very successful teacher, will take up her school at Flora Vista immediately after New Years.

The old batchelors of Flora Vista are congratulating themselves on 1904 being leap year. Any old maids who are contemplating matrimony may apply to the one of her choice. Correspondence will be cheerfully answered in a pains taking manner.

Miss Carrie Cornelius was visiting on the La Plata Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mrs. S. E Pepin thinks seriously of renting her ranch the coming season and spending the summer in the mountains.

E. Wood of Flora Vista is building quite a large addition to his already commodious residence. Mr. Wood is one of our most practical farmers, having taken sweep stakes premium on the best desplay of farm products at the Farmington Fair.

Mr. Mullarkey, brother of our fellow townsman W. T. Mullarkey, seems to be well satisfied with this section of the country. We trust however he has not brought any Dakota blizzards with him.

Some three or four of our most prosperous farmers contemplate building brick houses the coming year.

Now as this is the New Year, it is the time to make good resolutions, which many of us will do, but are only made to be broken before the end of the year.

Contest Notice.

Department of the Interior,
United States Land Office,
Santa Fe, N. M., Nov. 19, 1903.

A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by Granville Pendleton, contestant against homestead entry No. 6886, made Feb. 29, 1902, for the s½ of ne ¼ and s ½ of nw ¼, Section 34, Township 29 n. Range 12 w., by J. M. Williams Contestee, in which it is alleged that the said J. M. Williams has wholly failed to establish residence or make any improvements upon the land and has wholly abandoned the same, being a non-resident of the Territory and has gone to parts unknown, said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m. on January 11, 1904, before the Probate Clerk of San Juan County, at Aztec, New Mexico, (and that final hearing will be held at 10 o'clock a. m. on February 11, 1904 before) the Register and Receiver at the United States Land Office in Santa Fe, N. M.

The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit, filed Nov. 19, 1903, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice cannot be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.

MANUEL R. OTERO, Register.
TOM MULLER, Receiver.

Contest Notice.

Department of the Interior,
United States Land Office,
Santa Fe, N. M., Nov. 19, 1903.

A Sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by Granville Pendleton, contestant, against homestead entry No. 6927, made March 21, 1902, for the w½ of se¼ and e½ of sw¼ Section 34, Township 29, n. Range 12 w, by Walter Halliman Contestee, in which it is alleged that the said Walter Halliman has wholly failed to establish residence or make any improvements upon the land and has wholly abandoned the same, being a non-resident of the Territory of New Mexico, and has gone to parts unknown, said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m. on January 11, 1904, before the Probate Clerk of San Juan County, at Aztec, New Mexico, (and that final hearing will be held at 10 o'clock a. m. on February 11, 1904 before) the Register and Receiver at the United States Land Office in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit, filed November 19, 1903, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice can not be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.

MANUEL R. OTERO, Register.
TOM MULLER, Receiver.

Contest Notice.

Department of the Interior,
United States Land Office,
Santa Fe, N. M., Dec. 18, 1903.

A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by A. B. McClure, contestant, against homestead entry No. 6020, made for se ¼ of sw ¼, sw ¼ of se ¼, sec. 19, and ne ¼ nw ¼ and nw ¼ ne ¼, section 30, township 30 n., range 11 w., by Oscar A. Cameron, contestee, in which it is alleged that the said Oscar A. Cameron has wholly abandoned said tract; that he has changed his residence therefrom for more than six months since making said entry; that said tract is not settled upon and cultivated by said party as required by law; that there are no improvements of any kind made upon said land, and that the said Oscar A. Cameron is a non-resident of New Mexico, said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m. on February 15, 1904 before the Probate Clerk of San Juan County, at his office in Aztec, New Mexico, (and that final hearing will be held at 10 o'clock a. m. on March 15, 1904, before) the Register and Receiver at the United States Land Office in Santa Fe, N. M.

The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit, filed Dec. 18, 1903, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice cannot be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.

MANUEL R. OTERO, Register.
FRED MULLER, Receiver.

First pub. Dec. 25, 1903; last Jan. 15, 1904.

NOTICE. NO. 323.

Territory of New Mexico, }
County of San Juan. }

Edna L. Austin vs John F. Austin } In the District Court of the First Judicial District of New Mexico for the County of San Juan.

The said defendant John F. Austin is hereby notified that a complaint has been filed against him in the District Court for the County of San Juan, Territory aforesaid, that being the Court in which said case is pending, by said plaintiff Edna L. Austin, the general object of such action being to obtain absolute divorce from said defendant on the ground of desertion and non-support, and for the restoration of former name etc., as will more fully appear by reference to the complaint filed in said cause. And that unless you enter your appearance in said cause on or before the 5th day of February, 1904, judgment will be rendered against you in said cause by default. Name and address of plaintiff's attorney, GRANVILLE PENDLETON, Aztec, N. M.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal of said Court at Santa Fe New Mexico, this 11th day of December, A. D. 1903.

A. M. BERGERE, Clerk.

Estray Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has taken up the following described estray animal at her ranch, near Aztec, New Mexico, viz:

One sorrel horse, 9 years old, four white feet, white strip in face, ear-marked, and branded quarter-circle-star on left shoulder.

The owner or owners of said described animal forfeits the same at the end of seven months from the date of the first publication of this notice, unless claimed by the owner or owners thereof, or their agent, proving ownership and paying all legal charges thereon.

MRS. JOB NIXON,
First pub. Nov. 20, 1903. Aztec, N. M.

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CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER

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ED. FIEDLER, Proprietor.

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"The Red Front,"

The Aztec Meat Market

A. M. HUBBARD, Prop.

AZTEC, N. M

Fresh and Salt Meats kept constantly on hand.

A trial solicited.

Highest cash price paid for hides

J. T. GREEN

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A NEW LOT OF

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Aztec, N. M.

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REX.

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General outfitters for men and women.

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We want to make you thoroughly acquainted with our store and its methods. No other store in southwestern Colorado has facilities the equal of ours, for close buying and economical store management. We are the inaugurators of low prices on dry goods and clothing in this section of the state; and our prices, quality considered, are maintained as low as anywhere, and we meet the prices of any catalogue house in the country. Our big stock of Fall and Winter goods are now arriving daily, and we are equipped better than ever to make your trading with The Famous, this season, a money-saving venture for you. All mail orders entrusted to us will receive your most prompt and careful attention.

The Famous Stores Co., Durango

R. T. F. SIMPSON

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J. A. EDSON, Manager, Denver, Colorado.
A. S. HUGHES, Gen Traffic Manager, Denver, Colorado.
S. H. BABCOCK, Asst. Gen. Traffic Mgr., Salt Lake City, Utah.
S. K. HOOPER, Gen. P. and Ticket Agt. Denver, Colorado.