

Tour Number Three

This tour includes the cemeteries of Hillsboro, Kingston, Gold Dust, and Lake Valley.

HILLSBORO is located on NM 152, 17 miles W of Caballo in the Black Range foothills.

The community was established about 1877 during the boom days of silver and gold mining. During its heyday, Hillsboro produced six million dollars in silver and gold, also some copper, lead, manganese, iron and vanadium. Originally named Hillsborough by draw of names from a hat, the town, which was the center of a gold-strike (1877-1906) was the County seat of Sierra County with the name shortened to Hillsboro, by act of the legislature. The first courthouse was on Main Street. Apaches, resentful of the takeover of land previously theirs, continually harassed the residents by raids led by Geronimo and Victorio. Four companies of soldiers were stationed there to protect the settlers in the late 1800's.

The town and the Sadie Orchard Hotel filled with spectators, witnesses and jurors during the famous trials held at the courthouse: the murder of Judge Albert J. Fountain and his eight-year-old son, and that of the murder of rancher Hood Sikes in what was known as the "Lake Valley War". Flood and fire have taken their toll on many

of the landmark buildings of the early days, as well as on the people, yet the community is taking a swing toward prosperity as new people come in to build and revive the old ghost mining town



KINGSTON located on NM 152, 9 miles W of Hillsboro in the Foothills of the Black Range.

Once known as "Skull Hill", the Kingston Cemetery grave markers tell the story of years gone by. Among the graves of pioneers marked by a pine slab is that of Sheba Hurst, Mark Twain's humorous character in "Roughing It." Known in its day as the "Gem of the Black Range", Kingston was born in August, 1882 as a result of a rich silver strike by Jack Sheddon. The town quickly grew to a tent-town of 1800 people. Mark Twain, Albert Fall, and Edward Doheney (who later became involved in the Harding Administration's Teapot Dome Scandal), were among the famous to regularly visit Kingston. It was also

the domain of Apache Chiefs, Geronimo and Victorio.

Two miles north of Kingston on Saw Pit Creek lived a family named Reid. Mrs. Margaret Reid started a small herd of Angora goats in 1882 to supplement their income and in time, her careful selection in breeding developed some of the finest breeding stock and award winning mohair in the United States. Margaret Reid Armer became known as the 'Angora Queen'. The Angora goat herds won many trophies, ribbons and awards in nearly every State of the Union that had Angora goat herds. Many of these were donated by Mrs. Robert Reid (daughter-in-law of Margaret Reid Anner) to the Geronimo Springs Museum in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, for display in memory of her husband and his mother.

