

Recollections about Dixon from Antonio Durán (1914-2004)

Recorded by his daughter Concha Durán Brown in the 1960s.

In the late 1800s Delovinia and Juan Isidro Romero's house was across from Silviano Sanchez' house. They were some of the early families that befriended the first Presbyterian missionaries to Dixon. These folks were the parents of Ben, Inez, Mentor, Bonifacio and Onofre Romero. They were the grandparents of Amadeo, Avenicio and Frank Lucero. Mrs. Inez R. Lucero also raised me (Antonio Durán), Lena Goodhart and Orlando Medina.

The Romeros were all very musical. Bonifacio made his own violin. Mentor played his fiddle at worshop before breakfast at the Embudo Hospital. Mentor also played his fiddle at the mission while Dorothy Barnes (a Presbyterian missionary) accompanied him on the piano.

Mr. Lucero had one red and one black horse. Avenicio was responsible for Antonio Durán's stay with his family for he wasn't afraid of the horses they would often go riding together. They all helped by chopping wood and carrying water from the river.

Dr. Taylor was one of the first missionary doctors to "Los Rincones". He first went to Peñasco where Mrs. Inez Romero Lucero first attended mission school. The Peñasco mission preceded the Dixon mission, but was later closed. In those days, the midwives delivered the babies. They were having a very difficult time with a particular delivery when they asked Dr. Taylor for his assistance. The husband of the delivering mother was upset that a "man" was attending his wife. Soon after this incident, women doctors appeared on the scene such as Dr. Virginia Voorhies and Dr. Sarah Bowen.

J. P. Lujan (Juan Pablo) donated the land where the mission now stands. He went from place to place taming horses and finally settled in Dixon.

Epimeño Medina donated the land for the present hospital by the river. The people built the many adobes and donated their time and expertise to build the new hospital in 1939. They also cut the trees and made them into vigas for the new hospital. Before the Embudo/Dixon hospital existed, St. Vincent's Hospital in Santa Fe was the closest hospital to the people of Los Rincones.

In the beginning, Dixon was an Indian Village when the first Spanish families moved there. The Indians then moved across the river at Dixon and then on to Picuris. Where Zeller's store was (now Lebeo's) many Indian artifacts were dug up. The torreón next to the Catholic Church was built for the villagers to hide in from the raiding Indians. The women would heat water and throw it out the window to ward off the Indians. They would also throw stones and sticks. In the meantime, the

village men, who were hunting and working in the fields, were alerted and would come to their rescue. There was always someone on 'guard' to watch out for the Indian raids. Sometimes the Spanish

Typed from the original by Robert Templeton, 2012