

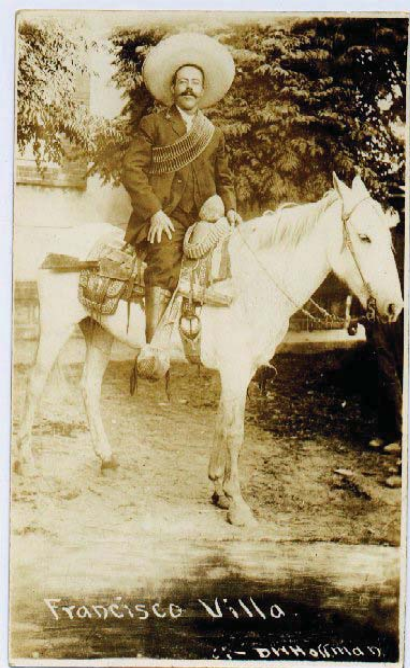
Dear Friends and Relatives,

Greetings from **Fouts Springs/Stoneyford**.

Unless you are a motorcycle dirt rider, you may never have heard of Fouts Springs and Stoneyford. They are west of the town of Willows, California, and part of the Mendocino National Forest. This area has about 200 miles of trails designated for motorcycles, quads, and dune buggies. Fouts Springs, in particular, is in the middle of nowhere. To get into this valley, you have to traverse about 9 miles of narrow road on the side of a cliff. Most of the road is literally one lane wide. You have to be more than a little nuts to drive a motorhome pulling a trailer over this road. Well, our old friend, **Bill Gemulla**, sent us email that said he would be here this weekend and as luck would have it, we were in **Chico** only about 2-1/2 hours away. So here we are writing a newsletter on a cold and rainy day. With this newsletter, we are playing catch up to describe areas in New Mexico that we didn't have time to write about.

### **Columbus, New Mexico.**

Many people believe that the 9/11 attack on New York was the first time the United States has been attacked. Wrong. Some people believe that the attack on Pearl Harbor was the first attack on U.S. soil. Wrong. Pearl Harbor does not count as Hawaii was not yet a state, and New York was actually the second attack. The first attack actually occurred in 1916, when **General Francisco "Pancho" Villa** attacked the U.S. border town of Columbus, New Mexico.



**General Francisco "Pancho" Villa**

Pancho raided the town with around 500 Mexican revolutionaries and killed 18 U.S.

citizens. This sleepy little town was caught completely by surprise as were about 350 U.S. Army soldiers who were stationed there. It appears that Pancho was after supplies and not particularly interested in killing. The U.S. Army caught on fairly quickly and killed at least 70 of Pancho's men and drove them back across the border. The U.S. response was dramatic. General **John J. "Black Jack" Pershing** arrived in Columbus to lead a punitive expedition into Mexico to find and capture Pancho Villa. Within one day, the first of several thousand troops began to arrive in Columbus. The troops supported by airplanes and trucks ventured 300 miles into Mexico. This was the first time that our Army had been so mechanized. Was it actually a test run of our equipment in preparation for World War I?



Railroad Station Museum, Columbus, NM.

Pershing and his men chased Pancho Villa for more than a year and never found or captured him. Pershing used Columbus as a base and the military money was a tremendous boon to this little town.

Columbus is still a little sleepy town, but worth a visit because of its interesting history. It's also a great place to cross into Mexico. You can walk right in and darn near walk right out. The border is open 24 hours and does not have the long lines we have seen in other border crossings. There is a great bar, restaurant and shop called the **Pink Store**. A lot of the citizens from Deming drive the 30 miles to cross the border and have drinks and dinner at the Pink Store which is in the Mexican town of **Palomas**.



The Pink Store, Palomas, Mexico.



**Mexican musicians in the restaurant at the Pink Store.**

We strongly recommend a visit to Columbus. The railroad station museum is worth visiting as is the museum in the state park. Incidentally, the state park has a darn nice RV park.

Until next time, home is where you park it.

Chuck & Donna  
(530) 524-5020