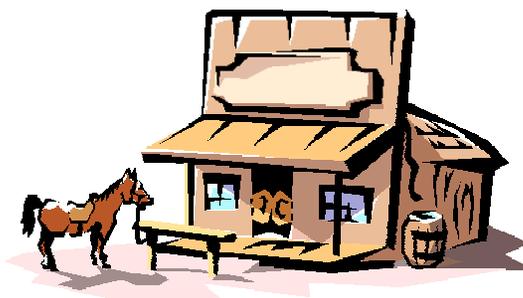


CHIZ (Chise) – *This cemetery is located 24 miles NW of Truth or Consequences, above the box on Cuchillo Creek, 14 miles N of Cuchillo and 9 miles S. of Winston.*

Each year as close to May 25th as possible, the San Gregorio Fiesta, for St. Gregory the patron saint of Chiz, is celebrated by the descendents of Bentura Trujillo, founder of the settlement. Chia is a diminutive name for Cochise, the Chiricahua Apache leader, Chise is pronounced, cheez and sometimes spelled Chiz. The original name, taken from the Apache word for “wood,” reportedly because the chief had a tough, springy frame. Bentura Trujillo, of Montrose, CO. came to settle his second home on Cuchillo Negro Creek, W of Cuchillo with his wife, Clarita. Cochise camped near the Trujillos’ home and visited them often. Bentura was an active lay member of the Catholic Church who baptized one of Cochise’s children and named his farm home for his friend. Raiding Apaches never bothered the Trujillos. Clarita Trujillos and the women of her family built a chapel there. Water was essential to the success of their crops and she decided that on the Saints Day on which the water began to flow (from the mountains) after the structure was started would be the parton saint of Chiz. On May 25th, Saint Gregory’s Day, the water came down and St. Gregory became the patron saint of Chiz. The chapel was constructed so that water ran beneath it. Clarita did not

live to see the chapel completed and at her death, she was buried inside. The chapel was completed as it had begun, by the women of the community. Bentura lived to the age of 105, raising 12 children; his descendants still live in the area and own property in Chise

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*Cemetery Books are for sale on the web and
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Cemeteries of Sierra County

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