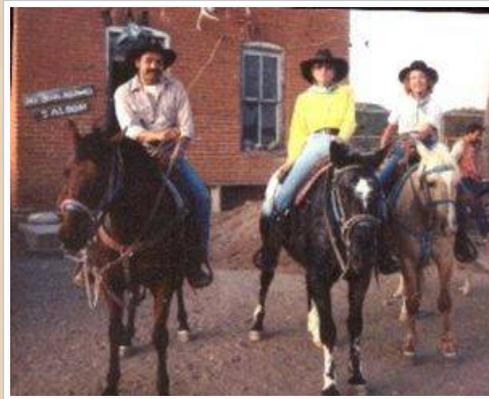




# NO SCUM ALLOWED SALOON

Best Old West Bar in New Mexico

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Gilbert Barela, Gwen Rogers and Gail Smith in front of the first No Scum Allowed Saloon sign, September 1992.

Whether you are astride your favorite pony, your prized Harley, your sports car, SUV, or pick-up, the winding road you take to White Oaks, New Mexico has been well traveled through the centuries by Native Americans, Spanish explorers, miners, cowboys, New Mexico's first state governor and most notably the outlaw Billy the Kid.

White Oaks was settled in the early 1880s after gold was discovered in the surrounding mountains by John Wilson, Wilson shared his discovery with Jack Winters and Harry Baxter and the "boom" began. White Oaks soon transformed from a mining tent city to a more "respectable" town with numerous businesses and a growing population of about 800. It is said that there were more than fifty businesses, including four newspapers, two hotels, three churches, a sawmill, a bank, an opera house, livery stables, and a number of saloons and even casinos. The most notable of the gambling houses was the "LITTLE CASINO," owned and operated by Belle La Mar, known locally as Madame Varnish. There are two privately owned Victorian mansions visible from the road as you enter White Oaks, the red brick Hoyle House on the right and setting back off the road to the left is the imposing white frame Gumm House, both products of the thousands of dollars in gold extracted from the rocky slopes you have just traveled through.

Billy the Kid's presence in White Oaks was for the most part fleeting. After the Lincoln County War of 1878, Billy and some of the remaining Regulators were left to their own means of making a living; cattle and horse rustling presented the most lucrative option. Their antics took them as far away as Texas and as near as White Oaks where there was usually a decent market for the cattle "found" in Texas. At one point they were pursued by a posse from White Oaks to the Greathouse Ranch some forty miles away, where a shootout occurred resulting in the death of Deputy Carlisle. Billy was also known to have had many Spanish friends living in the settlement of Raventon which was only a few miles outside of White Oaks.

Today, the two Victorian mansions, the adobe home built by blacksmith Napoleon Taylor, an old Chinese laundry, the Brown Store Building, (all privately owned), the School House and the building which houses the No Scum Allowed Saloon are about the only original structures that remain of the once bustling New Mexico town.

During the heyday of White Oaks the red brick portion of what is now the No Scum Allowed Saloon served as law offices, as an assay office and a newspaper office. This all ended when the railroad passed White Oaks by for the new town of Carrizozo twelve miles away. By the turn of the twentieth century, businesses and most of the population moved to Carrizozo, the new county seat, leaving White Oaks little more than a ghost town.

The history of the little brick building is vague at best until sometime in the 1970s, when a local landowner, Robert "Bud" Crenshaw acquired the property where he eventually established the "White Oaks Bar," sometimes referred to the "White Oaks Exchange Bar and Museum" as Bud had furnished his drinking establishment with artifacts and mementos of the area. The bar, with its newly added dance hall, soon became the local hangout of prospectors, ranchers, cowboys, hunters and bikers. Shortly before his death, Bud sold the Bar to Jim and Mary Penrod of Carrizozo. It was during the Penrod ownership that the Bar was first referred to as the No Scum. In the 1990s Grady and Betty Stewart of White Oaks purchased the bar, calling it the White Oaks Social Club. The establishment again changed hands a few years later, purchased by Tony Marsh. By this time the No Scum Allowed name had taken hold and become the official name. Present owners Marlon and Teresa Coffman have carried on the tradition of an old west

saloon, with great ambiance and great music.

### How did the name "NO SCUM ALLOWED" come to be?

In the fall of 1992, a redhead by the name of Gail managed the bar for the Penrods. She had two riding buddies, Gilbert Barela of White Oaks and Gwen, a friend from Capitan. After a good day of horseback riding, Gwen went home to Capitan and watched one of the Young Guns movies. The movie portrayed Billy the Kid and his gang entering the prosperous town of White Oaks where they encountered a sign which read "**White Oaks, Home of 756 (?) Respectable People NO SCUM ALLOWED.**" Thinking this quite humorous, Gwen returned to White Oaks the next day; searched out a couple of old boards, added the words "NO SCUM ALLOWED SALOON" in white paint and asked Mary if she could nail them to the front of the building and the rest, as they say, is history.

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[noscumallowedsaloon.net](http://noscumallowedsaloon.net)

[tc.noscumallowed@gmail.com](mailto:tc.noscumallowed@gmail.com)

Phone: 575 648-5583