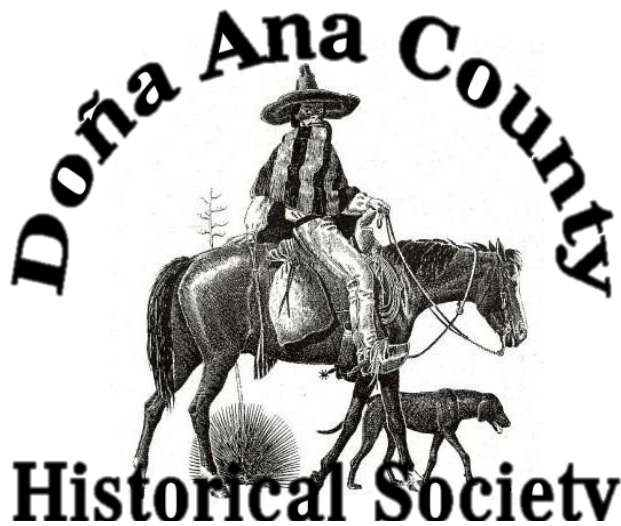


**Doña Ana
County Historical Society
48th Annual Awards Program**

Saturday, January 31, 2015
Double Eagle Restaurant, Mesilla



St. Genevieve's Church ca. 1908



The Doña Ana County Historical Society was founded in 1963 to encourage and foster a better understanding of the County's far reaching history for future generations. Emphasizing research, education, and preservation, the society encourages a greater appreciation of New Mexico history, especially that of Doña Ana County.

Founding Members

John Atshool, Betty Bowen, Helen Caffey, Laiten Camien, Martin Campbell, Ira Clark, Adlai Feather, Louis Freudenthal, Dorothy Mechem, Hugh Milton, Thomas Mitman, Helen Shomer, David Streeter, J. Paul Taylor, and Mark Thompson

Doña Ana County Historical Society

48th Annual Awards Program

Welcome and Introductions Dr. Susan Krueger
President, 2014-2016

Introduction of 2015 Officers and Board Members

Program

“History of St. Genevieve’s Church”

Rosemary Leyva and Dawn Santiago

Awards

Building of Historical Significance,
& Worthy of Preservation **500K Static Test Stand,**
White Sands Missile Range

Pasajero Del Camino Real Award David G. Thomas
Mesilla Valley History Series, Volumes 1 & 2

Heritage Award Bob Gamboa
..... Celeste Conrad, Rosemary Leyva, Olivia Lerma McDonald,
Dawn Santiago, Rev. Ricardo Bauza, and Rev. Christopher Williams

Hall of Fame Heather Pollard
..... Toni Laumbach

**Doña Ana County Historical Society
2015 Board of Directors**

President: Dr. Susan Krueger

Vice President: Dr. Jon Hunner

Past President: Marcie Palmer

Secretary: Jim Eckles

Treasurer: Rebecca Slaughter

Historian: Mary Kay Shannon

At-Large Board Members

Garland Courts, Bob Gamboa, George Helfrich
Doyle Piland, C. W. "Buddy" Ritter, and Sara Wagner

Committees

Southern New Mexico Historical Review:
Mary Kay Shannon and Becky Nell Young, Co-editors

Website and Publicity: Jim Eckles

Newsletter: Doyle Piland, Editor

Education/Scholarships: Dr. Jon Hunner

Book Sales: Carl Eichstaedt

Liaison to City Museums: Mike Walczak

Liaison to Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum: Leah Tookey

Awards

Buildings and Properties Worthy of Preservation

The award is given to encourage an owner to preserve the uniqueness of a building in Doña Ana County that is distinguished by its age and historical character, its historical significance, or that represents historical architectural character. Residential, commercial, and industrial buildings are eligible.

Recent Recipients:

- 2008 St. Frances de Sales Catholic Church, 105 N. Jose Serna St., Rodey
- 2009 CCC Camp and Schoolhouse, 535 S. Melendres St., Las Cruces
- 2010 Buildings of the Doña Ana Historic District, Cristo Rey St., Doña Ana
- 2013 Butterfield Overland Trail
- 2014 Mesilla Park Historic Properties

Buildings and Properties with Historical Significance

This designation can be applied to a property, including a district, a building, structure, or object, which is at least fifty years old. Criteria used to evaluate historic significance of a property include association with a significant historic event or person and/or incorporation within the property of historic characteristics of a period of time or a method of construction or an architectural style.

Recent Recipients:

- 2011 Santa Fe Railroad Depot, 351 N. Mesilla St., Las Cruces
- 2012 Newberry Farm, 1815 Shalem Colony Trail, Fairacres
Mark Thompson House, 409 W. Las Cruces Ave., Las Cruces
- 2013 Butterfield Overland Trail, across Doña Ana County
- 2014 Mesilla Park Historic Properties

2015

**Building Worthy of Preservation and
Building with Historical Significance:**

**500K Static Test Stand
White Sands Missile Range**

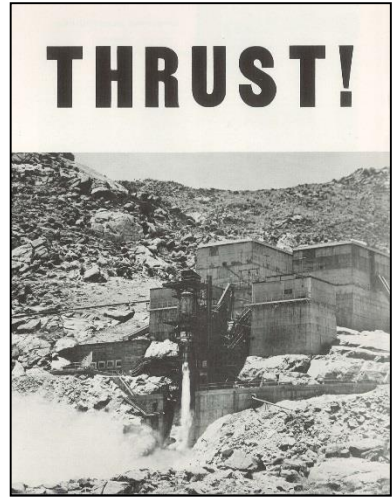
Located about four miles south of the White Sands main post, the 500K Static Test Stand juts out from the side of Granite Peak like some medieval European castle but is most often mistaken as an old mining structure. Built between 1948 and 1950, it was capable of testing rocket propulsion systems with up to 500,000 pounds of thrust while holding them firmly in place against the peak.

At one time it was the largest facility of its kind in the world. The Army and White Sands saw it as the future of propulsion testing.

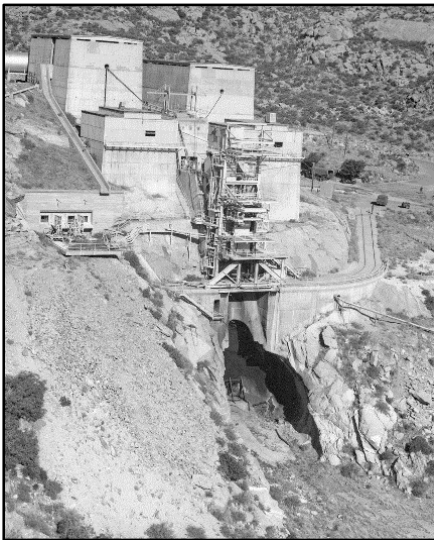
The original rocket motor mount was built to fire rockets at a 60-degree angle. Later it was rebuilt to fire on a vertical plane with a reduced capability from 500K to only 125K. The motor mount was designed to be adjustable and accommodate various sized missiles and power plants. Scattered around the motor mount, instrumentation captured information on a rocket motor's performance. The control room, housing personnel and recording devices, was built directly into the granite cliff. Four observation windows in the east wall faced angular mirrors which allowed safe, indirect viewing of the motor under test.

German V-2 motors were tested there in 1950 and 1951, Redstone motors from 1953 to 1955, Nike motors during 1956 and Corporal missile propulsion systems in 1957 and 1958. The facility was mothballed in 1961.

The 500K Static Test Stand is one of the top five important structures still standing at WSMR. It is both worthy of preservation and has unique historical significance.



1956 Poster featuring the
500K Static Test Stand



Heritage Award

The Heritage Award is given to a person or persons whose actions or deeds have contributed to the historical or cultural heritage of Dona Ana County and who is (are) not professional or avocational historians.

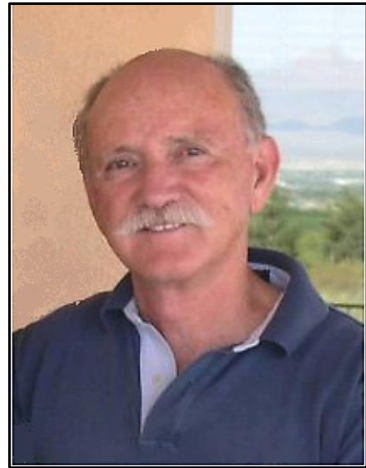
Recent Recipients:

- 2009 Anthony Pennock
- 2010 Col. Gerald P. Schurtz, (Ret.)
- 2011 Keith Humphries
- 2013 George Hackler
- 2013 Cal Traylor
- 2014 Janet and David Clements

2015 Heritage Award Recipients



Authors of *The Heart of Las Cruces: History of St. Genevieve's Church* (seated) Olivia Lerma McDonald, Rosemary Leyva, (standing) Dawn Moore Santiago, Celeste Conrad, (not pictured) Rev. Ricardo Bauza and Rev. Christopher Williams



Bob Gamboa

Celeste Conrad, Rosemary Leyva, Olivia Lerma McDonald, Dawn Santiago, Rev. Ricardo Bauza, and Rev. Christopher Williams collectively receive the Heritage Award for their work in preserving the history of St. Genevieve's Catholic Church through the publication of *The Heart of Las Cruces, History of St. Genevieve's Church*.

In ten essays, ranging from the chronological to the sacred, and with stories from national and regional import to familial and personal recollections, their work examines the historical evolution of this faith community, which has played a crucial role in the development of Las Cruces. For over a century St. Genevieve's Catholic Church served as the actual physical heart of Las Cruces, the most recognizable feature of the community's downtown. The complex and intriguing story of the establishment, growth, and expansion of the church is detailed. The loss of the "old" church building during the physical and social transformations of the parish during the 1960's, and a recommitment to the sacrifice and service centered on the "new" church provide a tangible historical narrative for future generations.

Bob Gamboa is an avid avocational photographer. He has photographed historic people, places, and events for as long as anyone can remember. Photography runs in his family. He recalls his mother, Maggie Lucero Gamboa, photographing his own family using a Kodak Box camera. Bob will also tell you about his uncle, Armand Lucero, a WW II Army Air Corp reconnaissance photographer.

While employed by Bell Laboratories at White Sands Missile Range, Bob was busy photographing the development of the Nike Missile. When he was transferred to Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, he spent many hours documenting many of the WW II ruins. In each subsequent move, Bob and his camera documented his world. His photographs have been published in company periodicals, newspapers, Chamber of Commerce promotions, and newsletters including our own.

Bob has used his camera to document tours of local history, Society field trips, and events of our day that will be noted by historians of the future. Bob Gamboa is recognized for his continuing contributions to the Society with the Heritage Award.

Pasajero Del Camino Real Award

This award is given to author(s) of a significant historical publication about events, persons, places or issues in Doña Ana County or the nearby area. The Society should strongly consider works by its members and those persons living and writing in Doña Ana.

Recent Recipients:

2006 George Hackler: *Butterfield Trail in New Mexico*

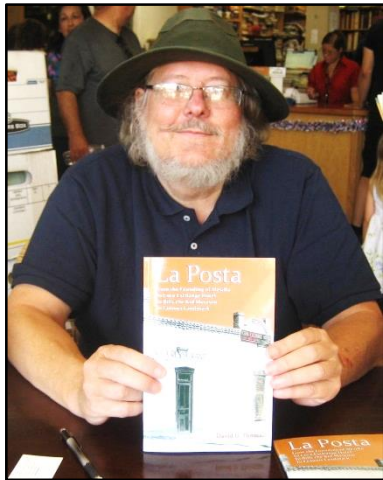
2007 Dr. Jon Hunner: *Inventing Los Alamos, The Growth of an Atomic City*

2009 Paula Moore: *Cricket and the Web*

2010 Marvin Tessneer: Journalist, *Las Cruces Sun-News* and *Las Cruces Bulletin*

2014 Jim Eckles: *Pocket Full of Rockets: History and Stories*

Behind White Sands Missile Range



2015

Pasajero Del Camino Real Award

David G. Thomas

Mesilla Valley History Series

David G. Thomas is known for his exceptionally well researched material focusing on the people and places that have left a mark on the Mesilla Valley. There are now two books in his Mesilla Valley History Series. The first is *La Posta, From the Founding of Mesilla to Corn Exchange to Billy the Kid Museum to Famous Landmark*. Using the story of a single building, David details the people of Mesilla and their places in relation to the historic restaurant. The second book, *Giovanni Maria de Agostini: Wonder of the Century, Astonishing World Traveler Who was a Hermit*, is the biography of the Hermit from his birth in Italy, his travels throughout both North and South America, and his final resting place in Mesilla.

In addition to the history series, David is the author of lascrucesblog.com where he posts notes on his ongoing historical research. He is the founder of WindowDOS Associates, co-founder of Friends of Pat Garrett, a filmmaker, screenwriter, author, historian, and travel writer.

Doña Ana County Historical Society Hall of Fame

1964	Elizabeth Fountain Armendariz	1989	Lee & Christine Myers
1965	Herbert Watts Yeo	1990	Michael R. Taylor
1966	General Hugh M. Milton II	1991	Patrick Beckett
1967	Helen Pauline Caffey	1992	Louis Ray Sadler
1968	George Adlai Feather	1993	Bradley Blake
1969	Katherine Dougherty Stoes	1994	Jesse Scroggs
1970	Fabian Garcia	1995	Alice Wilbur Gruver
1971	William & Minnie Sutherland	1996	Gerald W. Thomas
1972	Hunter & Edith Lewis	1997	William P. Stevens
1973	Louis E. Freudenthal	1998	Archie Beckett
1974	Opal Lee Shore Priestly	1999	Austin Hoover
1975	Harriett Hanson McGuire	2000	Gordon Owen
1976	Edmund & Aileen Shannon	2001	Charles Miles
1977	The Day Sisters	2002	Karl Laumbach
1978	Keith Humphries	2003	Eva Jane Matson
1979	Ira G. Clark, Jr.	2004	Bob Pick
1980	Eva Pendleton Henderson	2005	George Helfrich
1981	Margaret Page Hood	2006	Jo Tice and John Porter Bloom
1982	The Cox Family	2007	Donna Eichstaedt
1983	Carmen Freudenthal	2008	Dr. Jon Hunner
1984	Mary D. and J. Paul Taylor	2009	Charlotte Ann Priestley
1985	Herman Weiner	2010	Marcie Palmer
1986	Ilka Feather Minter	2011	Allan Holmes
1987	Calvin Lee Taylor	2012	<i>not awarded</i>
1988	Leon Metz	2013	Sally Kading

The Hall of Fame Award is designed to recognize an individual who is known for their exceptional contribution to the preservation of the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley. The contribution should be of a substantial nature and be evidenced by enduring and observable worth to the Doña Ana Historical Society and the community at large.

Hall of Fame 2015: Heather Pollard



What do the Rio Grande Theater, the Amador Hotel, and the Pioneer Park - Alameda Historic District have in common? Heather Pollard.

From 1981-98 Heather was executive director of the Doña Ana Arts Council. While still executive director she received a phone call from sisters Jan Clute and Carolyn Muggenburg. They asked "What would you do if we gave the council the Rio Grande Theatre?" As the saying goes, the rest is history.

That phone call altered Heather's life. She ended up resigning from her 18 year long lead position with the council to devote her full attention to the theater renovation. That led her to many more downtown renovations, as executive director of Las Cruces Downtown, an organization whose motto is "Revitalize the heart of the city." Heather spent ten years at the helm.

For Heather downtown Las Cruces is very much alive and a part of her everyday life as resident and citizen. She lives in the historic Pioneer Park district in a house once owned by one of the original Rio Grande Theater owners. It is a remarkable example of life in full circle.

More recently Heather began working with the Amador Hotel Foundation. As current president, she is leading efforts to save one of the last significant downtown landmarks, a hotel built in 1870 by the Amador family. "Restore and revitalize" is a core value in Heather's life.

When not involved in historic preservation, Heather works with La Casa, the local domestic violence shelter and finds time to volunteer at La Tienda de Jardin de Los Niños. She is active in St. Paul's Methodist Church, and both the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce and the Hispano Chamber of Commerce. Heather is a patron of local theaters, galleries, and the Las Cruces Symphony.

Hall of Fame 2015: Toni Laumbach

During Chief Curator Toni Laumbach's 17 years at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, she has conceived, designed and implemented most of the exhibitions and public programs for the museum, as well as seeking out, acquiring, cataloging and preserving the museum's collections of over 10,000 items of historical and cultural significance.

As an undergraduate at the University of New Mexico, Toni worked for Museum Director Dr. J.J. Brody and studied under the renowned archaeologist, Dr. Florence Hawley Ellis. As an undergraduate, she rose through the ranks at the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology at UNM, serving as both registrar and collections manager.

In 1972, Toni became the curator of the New Mexico State University Museum, where she helped organize and catalog their collection. In that role, she also taught NMSU's first museology classes and organized students in the preparation of the museum's first exhibits.

Following other dreams, Toni enjoyed a successful career as a registered nurse, working in many capacities, both technical and administrative, in the Las Cruces area. However, her true love was museums.

With the development of the concepts for the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum beginning to take shape in the late 1980's, Toni approached those in charge of the project and joined the team in 1996, shortly before the museum building was completed. As well as being the museum's first registrar and chief curator, she has performed a variety of other tasks, including serving as the interim director in 2005-06.

In addition to her many museum achievements, Toni also has continued to pursue a career in archaeology, where she has demonstrated extensive knowledge of prehistoric and historic pueblo ceramics. Most recently, she curated the museum's exiting new exhibit, "The Cañada Alamosa Project: 4,000 Years of Agricultural History."



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Las Cruces, T or C, White Sands Missile Range, El Paso
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Susan Krueger

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Doña Ana County Historical Society

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