

# DONA ANA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ANNUAL AWARDS

January 2022



### 👉 NOTE

In past years the historical society has posted the awards banquet program here listing the awards presented. Since there was no banquet for 2022, the awards were presented remotely and a Zoom PowerPoint video was created. Here are the slides and supporting script for the awards.



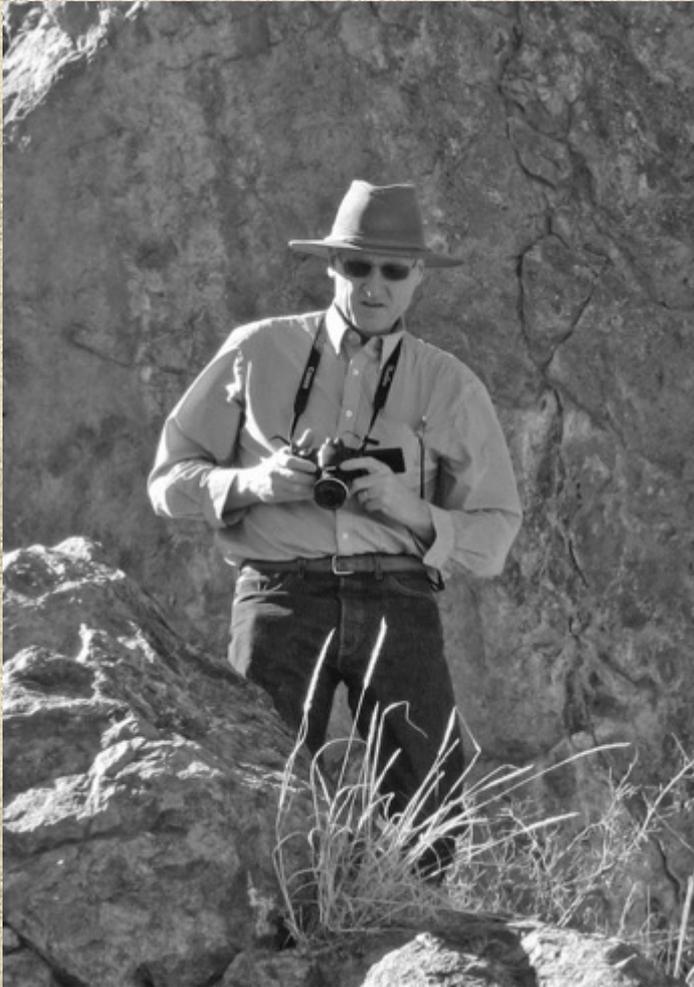
Presented by Susan Krueger and Dennis Daily.

# HALL OF FAME

Presented To

# David Soules

*To recognize an individual who is known for exceptional contributions to the preservation of the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley.*



David at Foster's Hole where the Mormon Battalion found water in 1849.



David Soules

## Hall of Fame – David Soules

David Soules, who was a member of the Dona Ana County Historical Society, is honored with the Hall of Fame Award. Let's begin by looking at his exceptional contributions to the preservation of the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley, particularly southern New Mexico's public lands and the Chihuahuan Desert. He was a native of Las Cruces and a graduate of NMSU with a doctorate in mechanical engineering. In his capacity as a conservationist and a community leader, he served on the boards of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, the White Sands Missile Range Historical Foundation, and the New Mexico Game and Fish Commission.

He co-authored the book "Exploring Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument," which tells about the historical places, artifacts and events that qualified this area for protection as a National Monument. In a presentation to the Dona Ana County Historical Society, he demonstrated how he used satellite imaging to find likely cultural sites before going out to survey the area. He is described by Mark Allison, Executive Director of New Mexico Wild, as "a real listener, with a rare willingness to learn something new." (continued on next slide)

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David passed away unexpectedly in the spring of 2021. Frances Williams, President of White Sands Missile Range Historical Foundation, remembers David in the following tribute.....

“Thank you David Soules. Dr. David Soules leaves behind a legacy as a conservationist, manager, and a historian working to preserve the history not only of the land but also of our national defense.

I knew him as the manager of one of the biggest contracts providing support to White Sands Missile Range’s mission, and also serving as a member of the White Sands Missile Range Historical Museum Foundation. In that capacity, and because of his superb intellect, he provided valuable advice, insight, and was also a source of information in developing strategies on how the foundation could improve its outreach to the communities we serve as well as the many visitors who came from the four corners of the earth to visit the museum.

He was a man for all seasons, had impeccable integrity, and was also a nice guy. His early departure from this life leaves a big hole in our hearts. Thanks for doing tikkum olom (Hebrew for the repairer of the world). We will miss you.”

# HERITAGE AWARD

Presented To

**Evan Davies**

*To a person whose actions or deeds have  
contributed to the historical or cultural heritage of  
Dona Ana County.*



Evan Davies

## Heritage Award – Evan Davies

Evan Davies is the recipient of the 2022 Heritage Award given to a person whose actions have contributed to the historical and cultural heritage of Dona Ana County. Evan, a resident of New Mexico for over 60 years, is a graduate of Roswell High School and Kansas State University. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Greek, a Master of Divinity from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley California, and a Master's and Doctorate in history from Oxford University, England.

When he returned to Las Cruces in the early 1980's, Evan became archivist for the Episcopal Diocese of New Mexico and Southwest Texas and President of the Institute of Historical Survey Foundation (IHSF), an educational non-profit archive, library and museum complex. IHSF is primarily a conservatory which processes historical documents, photographs and audiovisual media. Its activities are not limited to any subject matter or geographical area.

During the 1990's, Evan raised funds to build a 10,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility complete with security and climate control in Mesilla Park to house the Institute's collections. The collections include over two million photographic images and 50,000 each of books and audio recordings from all over the world. Here, forty plus staff members and volunteers process and restore all type of paper, film and sound.

Under Evan's editorship, the Institute publishes finding-aids for ecclesiastical, genealogical and historical resources and numerous books on subjects of archival interest.

Once Evan is available again for archival presentations, the Historical Society will be able to consider a field trip to the Institute.



David Thomas, friend of Evan Davies, accepted the Heritage Award for Evan outside Evan's Institute of Historical Survey.

PASAJERO DEL CAMINO REAL AWARD

Presented To

**David Thomas**

For the publication of *The Trial Of Billy The Kid.*

## Pasajero Del Camino Real Award – David G. Thomas

Our author award this year goes to David G. Thomas for his book *The Trial of Billy the Kid*. This book is the 7th Volume in David's Mesilla Valley History Series and it is as entertaining to read as were the first 6 volumes. David is a craftsman at researching his material, including gathering photos some of which have never been published before, and then weaving the facts into a tale about historic persons, places and events.

On the jacket's back page, David writes that until his book, Billy the Kid's trial for the murders of Lincoln County Sheriff William Brady and Andrew L. "Buckshot" Rogers was the least known event of Billy's life. Further David says, with the information laid out in his book, it is now possible to answer questions that previously went unanswered.

As listed on the jacket's back page, the questions include:

What were the governing Territorial laws?

What were the charges against Billy?

Was there a trial transcript and what happened to it?

What kind of defense did Billy present? Was the trial fair?

Did Billy testify in his own defense?

Did Billy have witnesses standing for him?

Who testified against him for the prosecution?

What was the jury like? What legal grounds did he have to appeal the verdict?

What action by the trial judge virtually guaranteed his conviction?



David Thomas received the Pasajero Del Camino Real Award from Susan Krueger for his recent book *The Trial Of Bill The Kid*.

# GEMOETS PRIZE

Presented To

**Dylan McDonald**

For outstanding article in the 2022  
*Southern New Mexico Historical Review*

## Gemoets Prize – Dylan McDonald

Dylan McDonald has served as the Political Collections Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at New Mexico State University. He is the recipient of the 2022 Gemoets Prize, an award honoring the author of the outstanding article in the current year's "Southern New Mexico Historical Review." The title of his article is "The Las Cruces Murals of Tom Lea." It details the history of how Las Cruces received three outstanding Tom Lea murals through the Federal Government project, Public Works of Art during the Great Depression.

Tom Lea, a well-known southwestern artist, painted the murals in 1934 and 1935. One of the murals, "Conquistadores, 1934," is located outside Dylan's office in Branson Library at NMSU, and another hangs in the Branigan Cultural Center.

Dylan, together with Jennifer Olguin, was featured in the October 2021 Historical Society Newsletter. Then at the October 21, 2021, membership meeting they spoke on urban renewal in downtown Las Cruces.



Behind Dennis Daily and Dylan McDonald is the Tom Lea mural, Conquistadores, 1934. The mural is located right outside Dylan's office in Branson Library.

# OLD TIMER'S AWARD

## **International Boundary Monuments Between The United States & Mexico**

Recognizing a cherished object, phenomenon or tradition.



Marker #8 in 1892, 25 miles west of El Paso.

MONUMENT No. 8 (IRON), VIEW TO THE S. E.  
On desert.

MONUMENTO No. 8 (FIERRO), VISTA AL S. E.  
En el desierto.



Marker #8 in 2019.

## Old Timers Award – International Boundary Monuments

The Old Timer's Award recognizes a cherished object, phenomenon or tradition. It goes this year to the International Boundary Monuments between the United States and Mexico. Dennis Daily, Department Head of Archives and Special Collections, New Mexico State University Library, provides the following account.

New Mexico's southern border marks the international boundary between the United States and Mexico. Along that boundary in New Mexico are 71 international boundary markers, part of 276 total boundary markers that stretch from El Paso to the Pacific Ocean. Fifteen markers made of stone were installed in New Mexico during the boundary survey that followed the 1853 treaty between the United States and Mexico to establish the international boundary line, colloquially known as the Gadsden Purchase. By the 1880s boundary disputes had become a problem between the two countries and the markers were separated by vast distances and some had deteriorated or been intentionally moved or destroyed. As a result, an International Boundary Commission between the two countries was established in 1889 and a new survey was carried out between 1891 and 1896 to define the boundary line with more modern survey methods, and to repair or replace old monuments as well as construct new monuments at shorter intervals. (continued on next slide)

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The result was the installation of 56 new iron monuments at points along the line in New Mexico, and a total of 215 new iron monuments between El Paso and the Pacific Ocean. These monuments stood as the only indication of the international boundary for many years, until barbed-wire fences began to be installed to prevent livestock crossing from one side to the other. More recently, more substantial fences have been installed with an intent to prevent human border crossing.

The stone and iron boundary monuments still stand on the southern border and are maintained by the International Boundary and Water Commission. Many are now difficult to see as they stand on the other side of border fencing that has been constructed in recent years. In addition to marking the official boundary line, they stand as markers of a fascinating political and cultural history of our border region.

In his book *La Posta*, Chapter 1 “Founding of Mesilla,” David Thomas writes about the joint commission established to survey the border between Mexico and the United States. Illustrating the “fascinating political and cultural history of our border region,” he mentions the many interruptions to the survey, such as internal partisan politics and conflicts between military and civilian members of the commission, political disputes between the two countries, geological obstacles, temperature extremes, huge delays, funding problems, surveying complications, and conflicts with Native Americans.

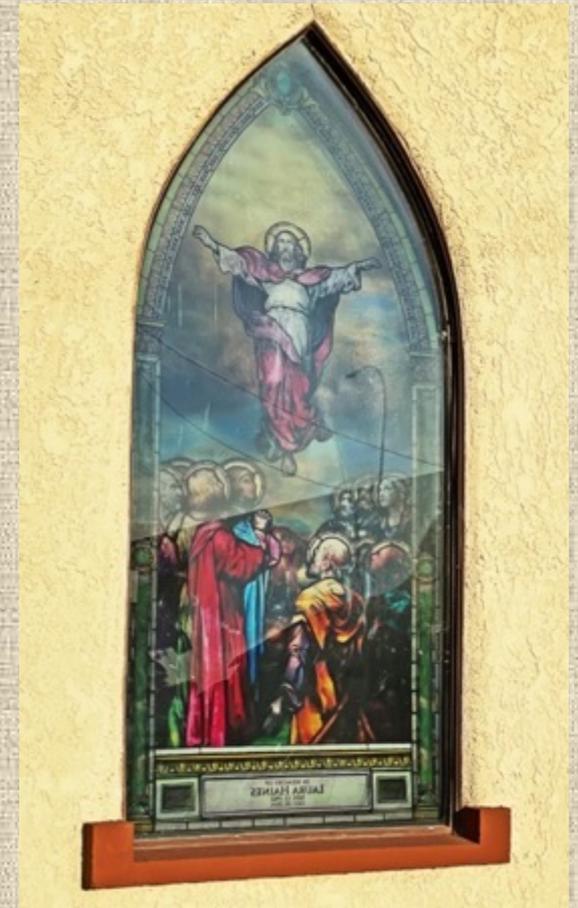


Dennis Daily presented the Old Timers Award to Mark Howe, Cultural Resources Specialist with the International Boundary and Water Commission.

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT BUILDING  
WORTHY OF PRESERVATION

**St. James Episcopal Church  
Now The Parish Hall**

Given to encourage preservation of a unique building.



St. James church, now Parish Hall, in 2022

## Historically Significant Building Worthy of Preservation

This is an architectural award to recognize a building distinguished by its age and historical significance as worthy of continuing preservation.

A simple adobe building housed the first service of St. James Episcopal Church, held on September 22, 1901, with Rev. McConnell officiating. It is not to be confused with the larger, brick church built later across the street.

It is thought that the first episcopal services in Dona Ana County were held in 1871 in a private home. It was not until 1901 that sufficient funds were raised to build a permanent church, St. James Episcopal Church, in what is now Mesilla Park.

The original building was a simple rectangle. Several additions were made to the original structure; and in 2017-2018, it underwent a major renovation. It is currently used as a parish hall.



Susan Krueger accepted the Historical Significant Building Worthy of Preservation certificate for St. James.

*Thanks For Viewing  
We Appreciate Your Support*

