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# DOÑA ANA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## In Memoriam

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### Christine Buder Myers

by: Louise Forshaw

Born in St Louis, Missouri, September 12, 1924, Christine Buder Myers died at La Posada, Mesilla Valley Hospice, June 16, 2011. She held a lifelong interest in libraries and history, an interest reflected in her education, her professional employment, and her membership in numerous organizations concerned with books and with history.

Chris received her B.A. from Culver-Stockton College in Missouri and her Master's in Library Science from the University of Illinois.

After serving as Assistant Librarian at Culver-Stockton College, she went on to the Disciples of Christ Historical Society and the Christian Board of Publications in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1962, Chris accepted a position at New Mexico State University, where she worked in many capacities at the Library—Circulation Librarian, Social Sciences and Business Administration Librarian, Head of Reference, and Special Collections Librarian, the position from which she retired. She received recognition for her work in developing the New Mexico and Southwest area collections.

One of her great satisfactions was the purchase of an adobe house in Las Cruces. True to her historian's heart, Chris went to Juarez, Mexico for furniture which would be appropriate for her hacienda-style house.

After her 1982 marriage to Leland (Lee) Myers, a military historian of the Southwest, Chris and Lee traveled to many sites and military installations in the Southwest. Chris edited several of Lee's articles about Southwestern military history.

Christine Buder Myers shared her talents and energy with many organizations and was an active member of each, contributing ideas and purpose. She

was a charter member of the Doña County Historical Society, acting as the group's eleventh president from October 1983 to January 1987 and was a life member. She also joined the Historical Society of New Mexico, the Council on America's Past (CAMP) and the Order of the Indian Wars. Chris was president of the New Mexico Library Association and also served on Committees of the American Library Association. For several years, she transcribed the proceedings of the Las Cruces Oral History Club. After retirement, she joined the Friends of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library and was elected president of the group for two terms. Somehow, she also found time to compile *NEW MEXICO LOCAL AND COUNTY HISTORIES: A Bibliography* in 1983.

When she moved to Good Samaritan Society Las Cruces Village in 2001, she led an active life at the facility. She volunteered at the Good Samaritan library, helping to build the collections. Chris was also generous about sharing her knowledge, energy, and wit in other activities. She became a skilled billiards player often competing in billiards tournaments at Munson Senior Center. Only health problems slowed her down.

### Patricia Edson Tombaugh

By: Reta Beebe,  
Professor of Astronomy,  
New Mexico State University Library

Patricia "Patsy" Edson Tombaugh, wife of Clyde Tombaugh, discoverer of the planet Pluto, died Jan. 12, 2012. She had looked forward to celebrating her 100th birthday on Nov. 7.

Patsy and Clyde married in 1934 and, after he had established his reputation at Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff Arizona, they moved to Las Cruces in 1946.

They had two children, Annette and Alden. Led by Patsy, the family has made strong contributions to the community. She was a founder of the Unitarian Universalist



Patricia "Patsy" Edson Tombaugh

Church of Las Cruces, one of the area's first art associations, and the Community Concerts Association.

In 1986 Patsy and Clyde committed themselves to establishing the Clyde Tombaugh Scholars Fund in support of post-doctoral fellowship at NMSU. During the following 2 years

they traveled extensively, giving public lectures to raise money for the fund. Since Clyde's death in 1997, Patsy continued to participate in selecting the most promising

candidate. She was proud of the quality of the fellows who benefitted from her efforts and continued to have an active interest in colloquia and activities within the Astronomy Department.

To assure that the Tombaugh Papers would be preserved and available worldwide for use by researchers, the family gifted them to the Rio Grande Historical Society. She worked with the library to provide supplementary information about specific items, and to identify additional material to be included in the collection.

In addition to her efforts to improve the city and university environments, she had a strong interest in the NASA planetary program and how it could be applied to enhancing education. In 2006 NASA launched the New Horizons Mission to Pluto. It is halfway there and due to encounter Pluto in July 2015. The Principal Investigator, Alan Stern, appointed Patsy as a member of the educational outreach team and assured that she attended the launch. In his memorial Alan said "When we explore Pluto in three years, she will be as much on our minds and in our hearts, as she is today".

Patsy's efforts will continue to be appreciated by our community and the NMSU astronomers will certainly miss her enthusiastic support.