

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW



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The *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* (ISSN-1076-9072) is looking for original articles concerning the Southwestern Border Region for future issues. Biography, local and family histories, oral history and well-edited documents are welcome. Charts, illustrations or photographs are encouraged to accompany submissions. We are also in need of book reviewers, proofreaders, and an individual or individuals in marketing and distribution.

Copies of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* are available for \$7.00. If ordering by mail, please include \$2.00 for postage and handling. Correspondence regarding the Review should be directed to the Editor of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* at Doña Ana County Historical Society, P. O. Box 16045 Las Cruces, NM 88004-6045.

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Editor's Page

As the New Mexico Statehood Centennial Celebration year draws to a close, *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* contributors have chosen to cast a light into some of the darker corners of New Mexico's past. After a contentious contemporary election in 2012, the Historical Research Group "FAT Boys" (Eric Fuller, Daniel D. Aranda, Emilio Tapia, Joe Lopez, and Mary Kay Shannon) remind us in "Shootout in La Mesilla" that the citizens of 1870s Mesilla also took their politics very seriously and the repercussions of disappointment sometimes led to catastrophic, homicidal resolution. Elvis E. Fleming, Chief Archivist of the Historical Society for Southeast New Mexico discusses the violent manifestations of intolerance instigated by a Roswell branch of the Ku Klux Klan, which enjoyed a resurgence in the 1920s.

Perhaps more surprising is the revelation that intolerance toward literature deemed threatening to public morality led to book-burnings in New Mexico as recently as 2001. Cary Osborne, Political Papers Archivist for the New Mexico State University Library, has examined the cases against *Bless Me, Ultima*, the Harry Potter Series, and *The Lord of Rings*, that led to their public incineration in Alamogordo. Book reviewer, Rick Hendricks, New Mexico State Historian and former *SNMHR* editor confronts the shocking life story recounted in *El Sicario: Autobiography of a Mexican Assassin*.

Wars with the Apache and the Comanche nations were an integral and unfortunate part of the tapestry of New Mexico's history. Daniel D. Aranda of the aforementioned FAT Boys historical group has contributed two essays on recent scholarship in Apache studies. M. Lois Stanford, Associate Professor of Anthropology at New Mexico State University, discusses a recent study of the life of Quanah Parker, charismatic and powerful leader of the Comanche, whose empire extended well into New Mexico. Unbowed in defeat, Quanah Parker reinvented himself as a politician, businessman, and friend to Presidents while a "guest of the government" at Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

In that same vein, Mesilla leading citizen, Thomas Casad, came to Southern New Mexico after building and de-constructing lives in Jackson County, Missouri, and Southern California. Rick Hendricks has edited the letters Casad wrote to his nephew, Orla, upon his arrival in Mesilla. They describe with colorful enthusiasm the attractive opportunities available locally to a young man "prepared to fight the battle of life and education."

A recent tradition of the *Review* has been the revisiting of New Mexico "classics". Lutisha Piland, a relative newcomer to this area, has brought new insights to Marc Simmons' *New Mexico. A History*.

Finally, in this season of Bowls and Superbowls, frequent *SNMHR* contributor and New Mexico State University alumni, Walter Hines recounts the uplifting story of the greatest decade in NMSU football history-1958-1967. Led by Coach Warren Woodson, NMSU saw action in two Sun Bowls, generated its one and only first team All-American player, and enjoyed an undefeated season.

The editor and Board of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*, hope you will enjoy these journeys into New Mexico's past. As always we look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Martha Andrews
Editor