



NEWSLETTER

April 2018

Doña Ana County Historical Society

Pat Garrett Will Be Here On April 19

Scott Green will appear at our next monthly lecture on April 19 as the legendary Dona Ana County Sheriff Pat Garrett. As usual, the meeting is at 7 p.m. in the Good Samaritan auditorium. Be careful what you ask him.

In 2002, Scott Green enrolled in a course at New Mexico State University (NMSU) that, though titled Guiding Heritage Tours, was Dr. Jon Hunner's first Time Travel course at NMSU. Per Jon's suggestion, Scott became Pat Garrett that semester as he and four other students transported children back to the New Mexico (Territory) of 1889. Garrett worked with John Newbrough making adobes and periodically recounting his encounters with a one William Bonney.

Scott's tireless research of Pat Garrett's amazing life that semester connected him with a person who though known mainly as "the man who killed Billy the Kid," was much more. Through Leon Metz's biography, among other secondary sources, and the many primary documents residing at the Rio Grande Collections, Scott was able to create a voice and persona of one of the West's most notable lawmen. During that semester, on a trip

through Texas, Scott stopped in Uvalde, Texas, where Garrett lived for a short time. Scott was able to find Garrett's former residence where the current owner of the property invited him in and showed him deeds signed by Garrett.

Scott has portrayed a wide-range of characters, from Friar Escalante and the Hermit of La Cueva to Manhattan Project scientist William Higinbotham and Denali National Park's first superintendent - Harry Karstens. Yet the character Scott has portrayed most often and in the greatest variety of venues is Pat Garrett.

At a fundraiser for the Amador Hotel, Scott stayed in character as Pat Garrett for three hours in one room. Scott has twice portrayed Pat Garrett in Lincoln and delivered a theater performance as Garrett at the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired to honor Elizabeth Garrett. In 2015, Scott performed as Garrett at the Guild Cinema in Albuquerque. He introduced showings of Peckinpah's "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid" and following the film, he led a Hollywood versus History discussion from Pat's perspective. Most recently, at last year's High Plains Roundup in Hobbs, Scott had the pleasure to perform as Garrett alongside famed historian Drew Gomber. Audiences enjoyed a repartee between a modern historian looking back and a historic character remembering.

For Scott the journey and exploration with Pat continues. When he puts on his Garrett Stetson, wherever that may be, a transformation takes place. He's happy to speak to audiences and entertain questions but if you ask him if he really shot Billy the Kid in Fort Sumner in 1881, don't expect a pleasant response.



Scott Green, AKA Pat Garrett.

Field Trip To Columbus Set For April 14

On April 14 we will hold a field trip to Columbus, N.M. The plan is to gather at the Pan Am Center at NMSU at 8 a.m. We will leave and drive as a caravan to Columbus via Deming. We'll probably get there about 10 a.m.

Our first stop will be the Pancho Villa State Park. Admission is \$5 per vehicle. According to the park manager, the 22-minute video they have is a good starting point. He said it is old, made in the 1980s, but because of that age, it has interviews with people, who as children, actually experienced Pancho Villa's raid on Columbus on March 9, 1916. Then we will look around the museum.

For lunch we can eat our picnic lunches in the state park. Apparently there are a couple of picnic tables near the museum. You might want to bring your own lawn chair just in case we overload the table capacity or you want something more comfortable.

After lunch we'll visit the Columbus Depot Museum. Richard Dean, Columbus Historical Society, has agreed to give us a tour of the tiny museum. Then there is a walking tour of town which points

out the key sites during the night of Villa's attack.

When we are done, folks can return to Las Cruces on their own. Those with more energy might want to drive down to the border and walk across to Palomas, Mexico to visit the Pink Store. Others might want to visit the Deming-Luna Mimbres Museum on the return.

If you plan on attending, we strongly urge you to read the two articles about the Pancho Villa attack and the U.S. Punitive Expedition into Mexico in the 2000 issue of our *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. They were written by Rhonda Jackson and Karen Keehr. If you don't have a paper copy, you can read the articles on our website at: <http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org/HistoricalReview/2000/HistoricalReview2000.pdf>

All back issues of the *Review* are on the website.

To sign up for the trip, send me an email at nebraska1950@comcast.net. Be sure to include names of everyone attending and how to call you in case the wind is going to blow 75 mph and we call it off. You can also call Jim Eckles at 521-8771 and provide that information.



A soldier from nearby Camp Columbus stands guard over some of the smoldering ruins in Columbus after the Pancho Villa raid of March 9, 1916. Library of Congress photo.

Historical Society Committees Could Use Some Assistance

The DACHS has a number of committees to help the board of directors keep the organization functioning. Some of these have only one member and could use a volunteer or two to make them actual committees.

Our bylaws list a number of standing commit-

tees. If you would like help in one of these areas, please get in touch with one of the board members or email us at: 19dach63@gmail.com. The committees are for: Programs, Publications, Finance, Awards, Education, Membership, Special Projects and our museum items.

DACHS Awards Scholarship To NMSU History Student

Recently, the DACHS board of directors voted to award the Mary and J. Paul Taylor Student Scholarship to David Lee Del Norte, a graduate student in public history at NMSU. The money will be used to cover the initial cost of an oral history transcription service for his project. The amount of the scholarship was \$1,200.

David's project is called "Mesilla Valley Community of Hope Stories." His plans call for collecting oral histories at the Community of Hope in Las Cruces - the community facility where numerous private agencies are collaborating and then partnering with other organizations to assist the homeless.

He hopes to collect, preserve, and present a great variety of local stories about homelessness, public health and our local social services. He already has many interviews scheduled for those leaders who established the Community of Hope and those who manage the facility now. It should provide some insight into what works and what doesn't.

The DACHS scholarship will make it possible to make professional, readable transcripts from his interviews. Also, as part of the scholarship, David is required to make a presentation or provide a paper to the DACHS on his findings. You'll see more on this in the future.

Help Spread The Word About Articles For Our *Review*

We are looking for original articles concerning local New Mexico history for the next annual *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* (Volume XXVI, January 2019). Biography, local and family histories, oral history, student papers and articles focusing on the history of the Southwest and Northern Mexico will be considered. Small monetary awards are available for some pieces.

The editors prefer submissions electronically as Word or simple text documents. Other formats can

be negotiated. We prefer photos to be fairly high resolution as JPEGs or TIFFs. It is nice to see images at 300 dpi.

To submit an article or to ask questions, contact Jim Eckles by email at 19dachs63@gmail.com or by phone at 575-521-8771.

The deadline for final articles is October. Please help spread the word to those who might be interested in writing up something for the *Review*. It is a great opportunity to get published.

Farm And Ranch Museum To Open "Dressed For The Occasion"

Women's clothing from the 1870s to the 1930s, what was visible and not usually visible, is the subject of a new exhibit at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum.

"Dressed for the Occasion" focuses on clothing for "everyday" as well as special occasions like weddings, funerals, and baptisms. The exhibit opens with a free reception from 5-7 p.m. on April 5. Costumed interpreters will be at the reception and refreshments will be provided.

"The idea for this exhibit began as an underwear exhibit," said Leah Tookey, the Museum's History Curator. "As we searched our collection, and the collections of some of our sister museums in southern New

Mexico, we found many beautiful dresses and artifacts that tell interesting stories about women's lives during the late 19th and early 20th century. With all of these discoveries, the exhibit blossomed into this wonderful assemblage."

This exhibit features several vignettes, including "Underthings," which has a lobster tail bustle, corset, pantaloons, camisole, petticoat and other items. "Four Weddings and a Funeral" shows stunning dresses and historic photographs.

"A Child's World" features a small bedroom displaying christening gowns and shoes, as well as period toys and furniture. Another vignette shows the many items she might have carried in her purse.





I found this photo of Pancho Villa (center) at the Library of Congress. The military officer to the right is Brigadier General Hugh Scott. The photo was taken in January 1914 at the Juarez racetrack, two years before Villa's raid on Columbus, and was probably taken by Otis Aultman of Aultman & Dorman of El Paso. Apparently Villa liked Aultman and called him "Banty Rooster." Just a few months after his day at the races, Scott was named Assistant Chief of Staff of the United States Army. Soon after he was made Chief of Staff.

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