

# NEWSLETTER

January 2018

## 2017: The NMSU Archives Year In Review

Doña Ana County Historical Society

By Dennis Daily, DACHS Incoming President  
Department Head of NMSU Library Archives  
and Special Collections

The Doña Ana County Historical Society has had a long partnership with the NMSU Library's Rio Grande Historical Collections, playing a key role in the establishment of this archive program in 1972. The RGHC has been active in the preservation of regional history resources and documentation for 45 years, often through collaboration with DACHS.

At the same time, the RGHC serves as a resource for Society members who are conducting historical research on our region. This relationship is as important today as it was when the RGHC opened its doors nearly half a century ago and should remain a mutually beneficial arrangement for years to come.

During 2017, DACHS and RGHC strengthened ties by sharing leads on potential collections, collaborating on a field trip to the archives for DACHS members, and fostering more of an open-door policy for those wishing to conduct research at RGHC. As an extension of that, I want to provide a summary for DACHS members of new collections acquired by RGHC during 2017 and information about collections processed over the course of the year in order to make them more accessible to researchers.

Since the beginning of the year, RGHC has acquired about 202 linear feet of new materials for the collection. These include family and personal papers, research collections, records of organizations and businesses, scrapbooks, photographs, maps, etc. Some of the highlights of these new collections include:

- Wendell Chino papers – Wendell Chino was leader of the Mescalero Apache tribe for nearly 50 years and one of the most influential Native American leaders of the 20th century. The extensive collection mostly covers Chino's career at the local, state and national levels, from the late 1940s until his death in 1998, but also includes personal papers, research on Native American rights and Mescalero history.

- Dr. William Lyon and Corrie Bowman correspondence – Corrie Bowman was the daughter of George Bowman, one of the early residents of Mesilla Park. Dr. William Lyon was an Army surgeon who settled in Mesilla after leaving the military in 1879. Corrie and William began a courtship in 1881 and were married in 1882. The correspondence, more than 400 letters, covers the years 1881-1889 and touches on many personalities and events of Mesilla and southern New Mexico. Acquisition of the letters was facilitated by DACHS.

- Casad-Burt family papers – Letters, photographs and other papers related to Edwin Burt and Alice Casad Burt. Alice Casad was the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Casad, important Mesilla Valley landholders, agriculturalists and entrepreneurs of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. RGHC holds extensive collections related to the Casad family. These materials cover the years ca. 1860-1940.

- Frank Allen and Carrie Hadley correspondence – Frank Allen was a mechanical engineer and attorney, working first for the Santa Fe Railroad then in private practice in New Mexico during the 1880s. The collection consists of 163 of his letters to Carrie Hadley, daughter of New Mexico Agricultural Col-

See Funeral Home Records, page 2

# Funeral Home Records — CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

lege founder Hiram Hadley, written between 1884 and 1887. Allen and Carrie Hadley would marry in 1888. While mostly of a courtship nature, the letters include valuable information about towns, people and activities in New Mexico territory during the mid-1880s.

- Nelson's Funeral Home records – This collection includes 15-bound volumes of funeral records from the Nelson's Funeral Home, dating from 1935 to 1965. Nelson's was one of the principle businesses of this type in Las Cruces during the mid-20th century and the books contain important genealogical and historical data on many of Las Cruces-area residents who died during this time period.

- Coila Isaacks and Frank Goodin papers – Contains letters, newspaper clippings and 58 original photographs dating from about 1900 to the 1950s, from the Isaacks and Goodin families, both ranching families with land holdings near the Organ and San Andres mountains east of Las Cruces.

- Among the organizations that donated records RGHC during the year were: Las Cruces Country Club Women's Golf Association, Las Cruces Press Women, P.E.O. Sisterhood, Las Colcheras Quilt Guild, Native Plant Society of New Mexico, Rotary International District 5520, Wednesday Literary Club, Progress Club of Las Cruces, American Association of University Women, and Casa Tabor.

The major work activity in the RGHC is arranging and describing the archival collections in order to make them accessible for use. This time consuming activity occupies most of our staff hours. Collections that were processed in 2017 include:

- Deidre Sklar papers – Dance ethnologist who researched the dance and cultural practices at Tortugas during the 1980s. Her book on the topic, *Dancing with the Virgin*, was published by the University of California Press in 2001. The collection includes extensive background research, original writings, observation notes, analysis, interview notes, images, audiovisual material, maps and correspondence.

- Donald Howard Wilson papers - Donald Howard Wilson was a civil engineer for the United States Army Corps of Engineers-Albuquerque District from approximately 1943 to 1963. While employed by the Corps of Engineers, Wilson was a project

engineer involved in various dam site projects in New Mexico. Papers, photographs and films relate to hydrology, dams and flood control projects in New Mexico during the 1940s and 1950s. Included are bound reports and records on projects throughout the state, including rivers of the Rio Grande watershed; irrigation districts and dams, such as Abiquiu, Elephant Butte, Percha, Hondo, Chama, Chamita; and hydroelectric projects.

- Blue Bell Square Dance Club records - The records document the activities of a Las Cruces square dance and social club, active from 1951 to 2016. Consisting of organizational records, scrapbooks, and photographs, the records cover the period 1973-2013 and provide a window on social organizations and leisure activities in the Las Cruces area.

- S. Omar and Elsa Barker papers – Noted Western writers who were widely published in the popular press from the 1920s to the 1960s, the Barkers voluminous papers (about 45 linear feet) include the manuscripts, drafts and publication copies of about 1,500 short stories, 2,000 poems, and 1,200 articles. S. Omar Barker is well known, and often recited, in cowboy poetry circles. The collections also includes personal and professional correspondence.

- Also processed were the William Lyon and Corrie Bowman correspondence and the Frank Allen and Carrie Hadley correspondence mentioned above.

Digitization of photograph collections has been an ongoing effort at RGHC since the mid-1990s. Each year thousands of new images are scanned and added to the online photo database, which now contains about 45,000 images. While the site needs updating, it is still a valuable way to locate historic images of our region - <http://archphotos.nmsu.edu/>.

Preserving and promoting the unique history of our region is a job equally shared by the Doña Ana County Historical Society, the Rio Grande Historical Collections, and many other community groups, organizations, museums and archives. Working together will make all of us more effective in our shared missions, to the benefit of everyone who is interested in the history and development of our area.

Dues Are Due  
Thanks

# DACHS Awards Luncheon Is Set For Jan. 27

*You are invited to the Doña Ana County Historical Society's Annual Awards Luncheon to be held Saturday, January 27, 2018, in the Double Eagle Restaurant on the Mesilla Plaza at high noon.*

Seating for the luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the buffet service to begin at noon. The cost is \$26.50 per person, payable in advance or at the door. For your convenience a **reservation form is located just below this article.** It includes spaces to list guests - we'd like to make nametags for everyone. You may mail the form and payment to DACHS, P.O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004. Or copy and email it to [skrueger575@msn.com](mailto:skrueger575@msn.com) and pay at the door. Reservations must be received by Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

Installation of Board members and the Awards program will take place following lunch. If you have questions, please call Susan (575) 525-0654.

The menu for the buffet includes the following:

Green Chile Cheese Enchiladas

Cactus Barbeque Brisket

Oven Roasted Red Potatoes  
Seasonal Fresh Vegetables  
Spinach Salad with Cranberries, Almonds and Feta Cheese  
Cucumber, Tomato, Onion Vinaigrette Salad  
Macaroni Salad  
Fresh Baked Rolls and Butter  
Chefs Assorted Dessert Table  
Ice Tea, Coffee and Water

### **The following awards will be presented:**

- ✓ Deb Dennis – Hall of Fame Award for her leadership in preserving the Amador Hotel.
- ✓ Dolores Archuleta – Heritage Award for her work on historic places and veterans affairs.
- ✓ Dona Ana Bend Colony – Old Timers Award
- ✓ Jim Eckles – Pasajero Del Camino Real Award for *Deming, New Mexico's Camp Cody: A World War One Training Camp.*
- ✓ Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce – for Noteworthy Renovation of the Armijo house.

## **Doña Ana County Historical Society's Annual Awards Luncheon Saturday, January 27, 2017, Double Eagle Restaurant On the Mesilla Plaza, 12:00 noon**

Seating for the Annual Awards Luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the buffet lunch served at 12. The cost is \$26.50 per person payable in advance or at the door. Note the form below includes spaces to list all your guests. You may email your reservation to Susan Krueger at [skrueger575@msn.com](mailto:skrueger575@msn.com). Or, if you prefer, you may print it, fill it in and mail it to Susan Krueger c/o DACHS; P.O. Box 16045; Las Cruces, NM 88004.

The installation of Board Members and the Awards program will take place following lunch. If you have questions, please call Susan (575) 525-0654.

### **RESERVATION FORM DUE BY TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

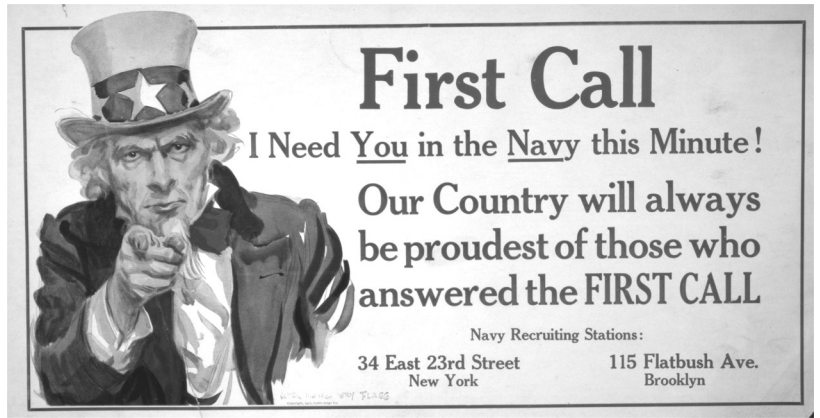
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$26.50 per person TOTAL enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Will pay at the door



One hundred years ago, at the beginning of World War One, we first see the image of Uncle Sam pointing out from a poster telling the viewer that the country needs him. There were many iterations on the theme. The idea was also used for a recruiting poster featuring a knightly General John J. Pershing on his powerful steed. Pershing was a very popular figure during the war because of fame he gained in chasing Mexican rebel Pancho Villa in Mexico.

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