

NEWSLETTER

October 2022

Doña Ana County Historical Society

German Paperclip Kids And Their Special Treatment

Professor Jonna Perrillo, UTEP, will be our speaker on Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. The presentation will be held in the auditorium at Good Samaritan, 3011 Buena Vida Cir., and will also be available via Zoom.

We all know about the German Paperclip rocket scientists who came to Fort Bliss and White Sands to help America kickstart its rocket and missile programs. But what about the families that came along?

Educating the Enemy is the title of Dr. Perrillo's talk. It begins with the 144 children of Nazi scientists who moved to El Paso in 1946 as part of Operation Paperclip and compares their privileged

educational experience with the educational disadvantages faced by Mexican American students in the same city.

Jonna Perrillo, PhD is a Professor of English Education at the University of Texas, El Paso. She has been an education historian and a professor of English Education at the University of Texas of El Paso since 2005.



Her scholarship focuses on the history of schools and citizenship, both in the sense of how schools define and translate citizenship values and how they enfranchise or disenfranchise students and teachers. Dr. Perrillo will be talking about her newest book, *Educating the Enemy: Teaching Nazis and Mexicans in the Cold War Borderlands*.

If you cannot attend, you can participate via the Zoom platform. We will send out the Zoom invitation a few days before by email. Non-members can also attend in person or request the Zoom link via email at: 19dachs63@gmail.com.



German children in school at Fort Bliss in 1947. Courtesy Jonna Perillo.

Volunteers Needed To Help Run Historical Society

Every fall, we have elections for some of the DACHS offices and at-large board positions. Terms are for two years and are staggered so not every position needs to be filled annually.

Terms for the following positions are expiring:

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

One At-Large slot

If you are interested in serving on the board as an officer or in an at-large position, it would be greatly appreciated as many board members are approaching a decade of service. Contact Dennis Daily, President, if you'd like to sign on. He is at: ddaily@nmsu.edu or call him at 575-646-4756 to discuss options.

Elections will take place at our November presentation/meeting. A slate of candidates will appear in next Newsletter.

Last Call For Articles For *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*

The deadline for final submission of articles for the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* is rapidly approaching. However, there is still time to submit an item about some aspect of history in the southern half of the state.

Jim Eckles points out that an item does not have to be a 15-page article with another page of footnotes and references. It can also be a short biography, a local or family history, a collection of historical photographs, an oral history, a student paper or

a book review or museum review. This year we are going to have a few essays about life and experiences here in New Mexico.

If you have an idea, please contact Jim Eckles at nebraska1950@comcast.net and propose it. Small monetary awards are available for some pieces.

The *Review* will be put together in December, printed in January and distributed at the end of January. DACHS member Jim Eckman has volunteered to edit the *Review* again this year.

Mountain Lions, Pumas And Cougars To Be Discussed On Oct. 13

Of course, these are all the same animal as you'll find out if you attend the next Farm and Ranch lecture. Mountain lion research in New Mexico is the subject of the next Culture Series at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. The "Big Cats of New Mexico" presentation at 7 p.m. on Oct. 13 is organized and hosted by the Friends of the Museum. Admission is free. Dr. Travis Perry, a biology professor at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., will talk about his New Mexico mountain lion research, meaningful outdoor education, and creating a field station in the Gila National Forest. In 2021, Dr. Perry founded National Curiosity, a nonprofit based in Hillsboro, N.M. that created the station for hands-on education, back-country skills, and conservation research in the Gila.



Photo of a mountain lion cub only a few weeks old, taken during the 10-year lion study on White Sands Missile Range. By Jim Eckles

Historical Society Of New Mexico Now Taking Proposals For 2023

The Historical Society of New Mexico invites proposals for presentations for the 2023 New Mexico History Conference, to be held March 30-April 1 in Silver City at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center.

Conference sessions are 90 minutes in length. Most sessions will consist of two or three individual

presentations delivered orally, each approximately 20-25 minutes, allowing time for a moderator's introduction and questions from the audience.

Submission deadline is November 1, 2022. The preferred method of submission is by email attachment to Robert J. Tórréz at robertjtorrez@gmail.com More info at: <https://hsnm.org/call-for-presentations/>

Trost And Trost Building In Danger Of Being Scraped

In 2020, the Dona Ana County Historical Society named the old Las Cruces Country Club clubhouse a "Building Worthy of Preservation." The structure was designed by the architectural firm of Trost and Trost in El Paso with construction in 1929.

The company is noted for its bold, early 20th century designs and many of its buildings have been maintained and still can be seen in Las Cruces and El Paso. Trost and Trost is highly acclaimed for incorporating Southwestern styles into their work, which resulted in some wonderful and unique buildings – distinctive structures that stand out from the typical boxes next to boxes so commonplace today.

In the award's description, we said, "We think that, with proper restoration, the building could be a wonderful historic island in the midst of all the modern buildings that will surround it."

Officials should note this was more than a "golf course" building. Many people fondly remember being teens and young adults and attending proms, dances and other community events held there.

The new developer has applied for a demolition permit. There is still time to stop this and come up with a solution that will save the building and will still be beneficial to the company. To make that happen, the city of Las Cruces will have to go to bat for the building. With your help, we can hopefully

nudge city officials in that direction. Here are points of contact for the city. Emails to these people pointing out the above may help save this building.

City Manager IFO PILI
ipili@las-cruces.org

Mayor KEN MIYAGISHIMA
KMiyagishima@las-cruces.org

Councilor KASANDRA GANDARA
kgandara@las-cruces.org

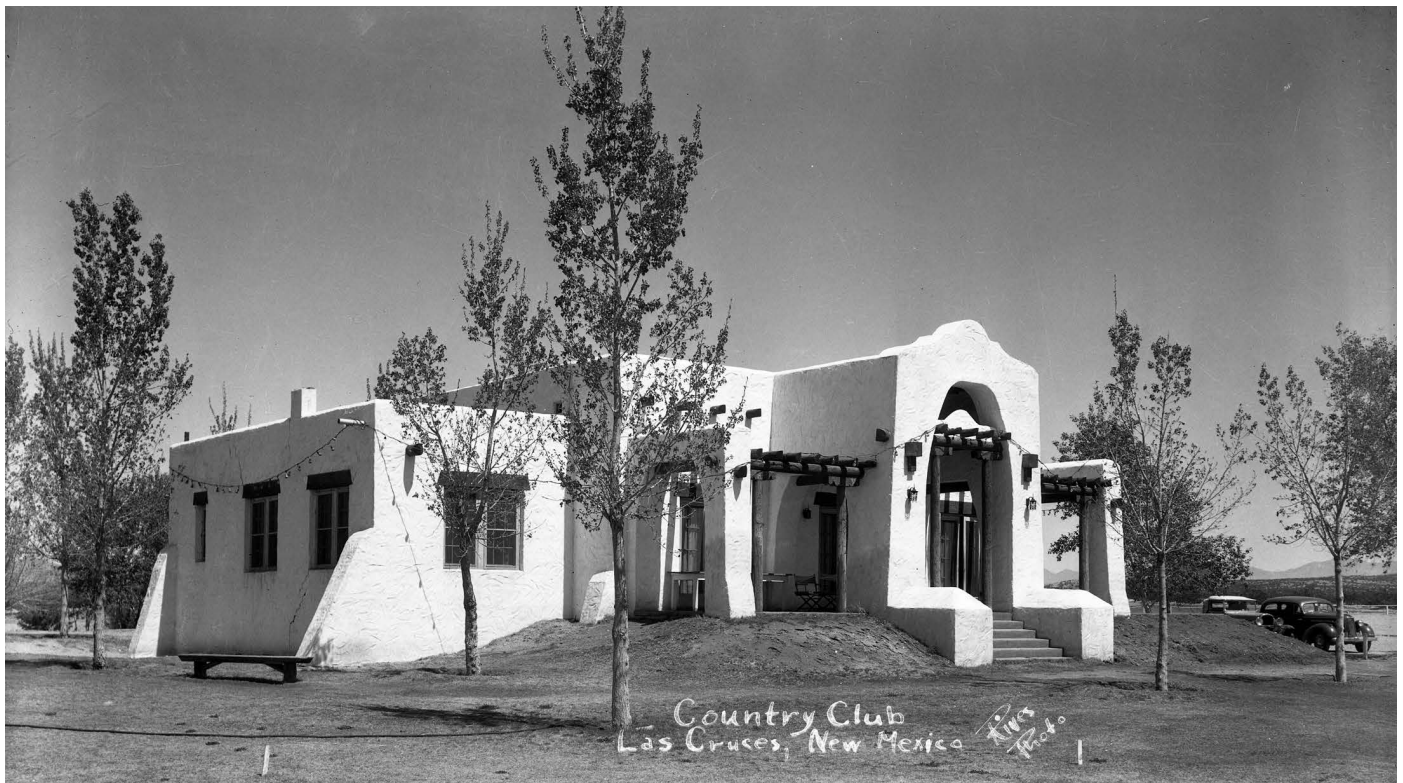
Councilor TESSA ABEYTA
tstuve@las-cruces.org

Councilor BECKI GRAHAM
bgraham@las-cruces.org

Councilor JOHANA BENCOMO
jbencomo@las-cruces.org

Councilor BECKY CORRAN
bcorran@las-cruces.org

Councilor YVONNE FLORES
yflores@las-cruces.org



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Tour the Masonic Cemetery of Las Cruces

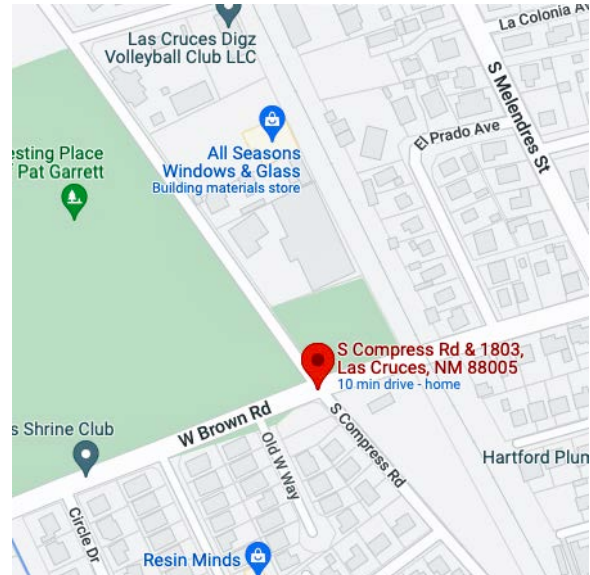
Saturday, October 29
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Find the likes of Sheriff Pat Garrett (the man who killed Billy the Kid), Ralph Goddard (radio pioneer who established KOB**), Fabian Garcia (noted horticulturist), and Crickett Coogler (murder victim). Learn more about Freemasonry while visiting the Jewish section of the cemetery. Allow for a 2 hour walking tour, little or no seating, over sometimes uneven terrain. Participants are strongly encouraged to wear sturdy walking shoes, hats, sunscreen, and carry bottled water.

The field trip will be led by historian, Mary-Kay Shannon, author of a series of cemetery guides published by the Branigan Cultural Center. Meet at 10 a.m. at the corner of Brown Road and South Compress Road, a few blocks west of Main Street.

**New Mexico had been a state for just ten years when 770 KKOB (KOB) began broadcasting as a commercial radio station. On April 5, 1922, the Federal Radio Commission awarded the campus radio

station at the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts a commercial radio license to broadcast at 883.3 on the AM dial with 750 watts of power. The school went on to become New Mexico State University and the radio station is now the 50-thousand watt Voice of The Land of Enchantment, News Radio 770 KKOB.



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