



NEWSLETTER

February 2015

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Susan Krueger

The DACHS Board meeting on January 9, opened with a presentation by Susan Michelson on the NM Jewish Historical Society's regional conference to be held November 14-15 at the Farm and Ranch Museum. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact me.

Then we celebrated the return of Jon Hunner from his yearlong interim position in Santa Fe as Director of the NM History Museum and the Palace of the Governors; next, we updated plans for the Awards Banquet; and finally, we reviewed the schedule of spring programs, which follows. On February 19, 2015, we are back at the Good Samaritan Auditorium at 7: 00 p.m. with Alex Mares telling winter Pueblo stories. On March 19, Nathan Stone, Manager at Fort Selden, will share with us the Management Plan for this historic site. We are still working on a speaker for April. Then for May 21, the title of Bill Godby's presentation is "The

Legacy of White Sands Missile Range and How I learned to Love the Cold War." If you joined us at the Awards Luncheon, you will have met Bill, who accepted the award for the 500K Static Test Stand. Till Feb. 19th. ■

February 19, 2015 Meeting Program

Our meeting program will be a presentation by Mr. Alex Mares titled "Traditonal winter Diné and Pueblo Stories."

Description of presentation:

Traditonal winter Diné and Pueblo stories told in English. These stories can only be told at this time of year. Grandfather coyote, First Mother, and the Holy Ones provide examples and instruction to the people on how to live a life of balance and beauty.

No recording of any kind will be allowed.

Bio: Alex Mares has worked as a Park Ranger and Interpreter for over 25 years in both New Mexico and West Texas - including the world renowned site known as Hueco Tanks. He is of Diné and Mexican descent. ■



The check-in table at the January 31st Awards Luncheon at the Double Eagle in Mesilla. Left to right: Jim Eckles, Secretary; Sara Wagner, at Large board member; and Rebecca Slaughter, Treasurer

President Susan Krueger's Note

"The Pasajero Del Camino Real Award," which recognizes a noteworthy author, is one of the most popular awards given at the Annual Awards Banquet and this year it went to David G. Thomas for Volumes 1 and 2 of the *Mesilla Valley History Series*. Part of its popularity lies in the fact that it leads us directly to the pleasure of reading a good, historical book. Reprinted here from Madeleine Vessel's *Dona Ana County Historical Society 1963-1994* is the history of how this award came to be and a list of its recipients and their writings from 1989 to 1994.

PASAJERO DEL CAMINO REAL AWARDS

(Excerpted from Madeleine Vessel's book)

In 1988, Vice President Paxton Price conceived the idea of giving the Pasajero del Camino Real Award at the Annual Banquet. Price designed the award to honor an author or authors of a significant historical publication about events, persons, places, or issues in Dona Ana County or in the nearby vicinity. Neither the fact that an author had or had not received a previous award nor recency of publication would be a condition of candidacy for this award. Further, Price felt that the Society should strongly consider works by its members and by other persons living and writing in Dona Ana County. "Giving this award is our one means of honoring accomplished historians."

Because the title of the Pasajero del Camino Award implicated the Old Camino Real, Price turned to his friend, Jose Cisneros, for permission to use some of his drawings as illustrations during the Annual Banquet on January 31, 1990. Cisneros responded, not only by displaying some of his drawings, but also by giving the Society a drawing of a typical character from the 1880s and 1890s in our Southwestern history. The drawing, which has since been adopted as the DACHS logo, is now framed and hanging in the Branigan Cultural Center.

1989, *Ira G. Clark* for his book *Water in New Mexico*

1989, *Opal Lee Priestley* for her book *Shalam: Utopia on the Rio Grande*

1990, *Darlis A. Miller* for *Soldiers and Settlers: Military Supply in the Southwest, 1861-1885*

1990, *Jose Cisneros* for *Riders Across the Centuries: Horsemen of the Spanish Borderlands*

1991, *John P. Wilson* for *Merchants, Guns, and Money: The Story of Lincoln County and its Wars*

1992, *Monroe Billington* for his "contributions to understanding of the multi-cultural history of this region, particularly for his interest in the history of Black culture in the South and Southwest." At the time of this award, Billington had a book in progress, *Blacks in New Mexico, 1539 to the Present*. Other significant previous publications include the following books: *New Mexico's Buffalo Soldiers, 1866-1990*, *Southern Politics Since the Civil War*, and *The Political South in the Twentieth Century*. A relevant article, "Civilians and Black Soldiers in New Mexico Territory, 1866-1900: A Cross-Cultural Experience," was published in *Military History of the Southwest*.

1993, *Opal Lee Priestley* for *Journeys of Faith*

1993, *Herman B. Weisner* for *Politics of Justice, A. B. Fall and the Teapot Dome Scandal, a New Perspective*

1994, *Leon C. Metz* for *Southern New Mexico Empire* ■

The following, including Photo, was excerpted from the Luncheon Program prepared by Mary Kay Shannon

2015

Pasajero Del Camino Real Award

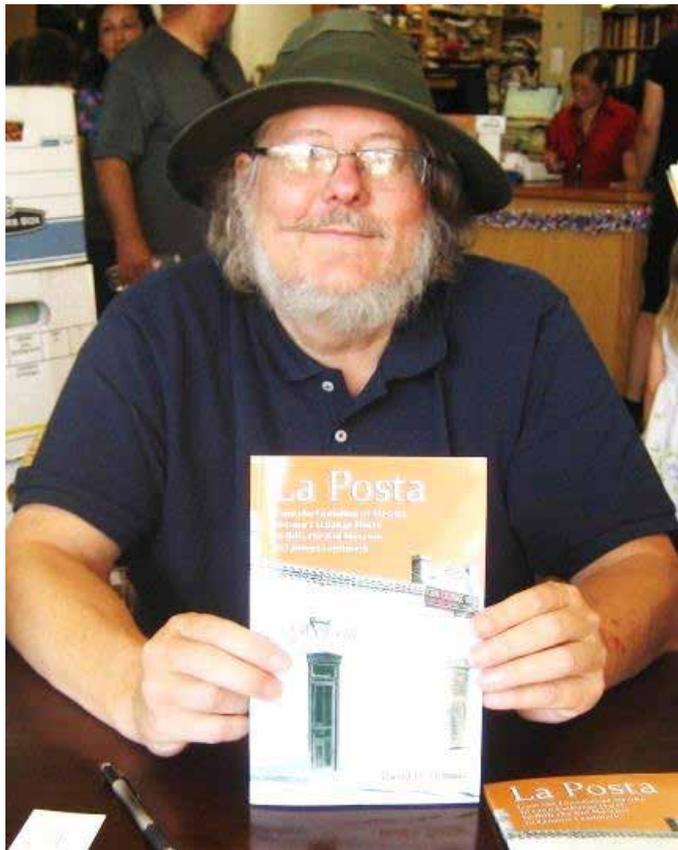
David G. Thomas

Mesilla Valley History Series

David G. Thomas is known for his exceptionally well researched material focusing on the people and places that have left a mark on the Mesilla Valley. There are now two books in his Mesilla Valley History Series. The first is *La Posta, From the Founding of Mesilla to Corn Exchange to Billy the Kid Museum to Famous Landmark*. Using the story of a single building, David details the people of Mesilla and their places in relation to the historic restaurant. The second book, *Giovanni Maria de Agostini: Wonder of the Century, Astonishing World Traveler Who was a Hermit*, is the biography of the Hermit from his birth in Italy, his travels throughout both North and South America, and his final resting place in Mesilla.

In addition to the history series, David is the au-

thor of lascrucesblog.com where he posts notes on his ongoing historical research. He is the founder of WindowDOS Associates, co-founder of Friends of Pat Garrett, a filmmaker, screenwriter, author, historian, and travel writer. ■



David G. Thomas

The Program for the Annual Awards Luncheon was “History of St. Genevieve’s Church”

By: Rosemary Leyva and Dawn Santiago

Rosemary and Dawn were two of the six contributing authors of their new book “*The Heart of Las Cruces: History of St. Genevieve’s Church.*” Their presentation was very interesting and informative, accompanied by a slide show of the church at various phases in the church’s history. Much of the history revolved around the church building dedicated in 1887 and the structural problems and attempted remedies tried in an effort to save the structure. Those efforts eventually failed and the building had to be destroyed in 1967. Rosemary and Dawn alternated in presenting the various phases of the church’s history, included the construction of a new church building located at 100 S Espina St. in Las Cruces. ■



Rosemary Leyva

Dawn Santiago

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Doña Ana County Historical Society, P. O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004-6045

DACHS Membership Form

Please renew/enroll my/our membership in the Doña Ana County Historical Society. Memberships are active for the calendar year of enrollment and fees are deductible within legal limits for Federal and State income tax purposes. If you are unsure of your status or have questions regarding membership, please contact the President, Susan Krueger, at 575 525-0654.

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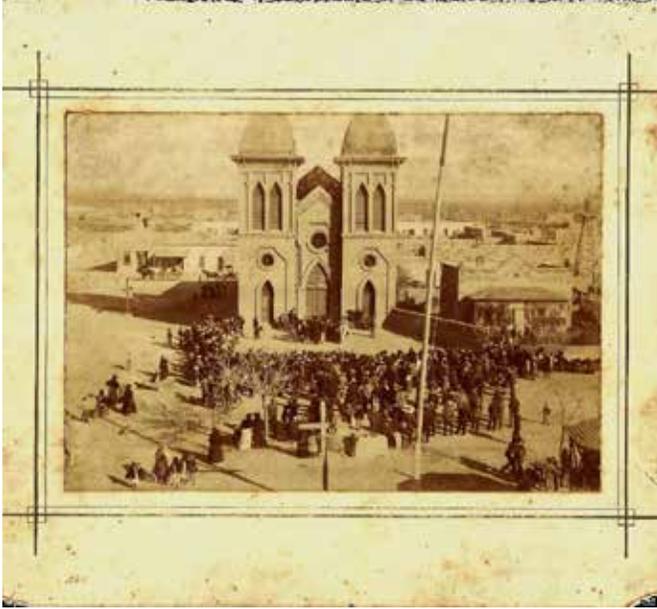
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St. Genevieve's Church ca. 1908

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