



NEWSLETTER

January 2015

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Susan Krueger

Looking back to see what is coming in 2015.

As we head toward a new year and another Annual General Membership Meeting and Awards Luncheon, I looked back to last year's Awards Luncheon and those we honored: Jon Hunner, the NMSU students and Janet and Dave Clements, all of whom contributed and some of whom are continuing to contribute to the effort to obtain a historic district nomination for the Mesilla Park neighborhood. In our October 2014 Newsletter, Janet presented a project update, particularly on the work to establish the historic district boundaries and to complete building surveys. At that time, the target date to submit the nomination to the Historic Preservation Division was June 2015, and Janet continues to welcome and train volunteers in the tasks that remain to complete the nomination and meet the deadline. If you would like to join this project, email Janet at jkwclements@gmail.com.

Then it seemed appropriate to check in with Gretchen Ward, Chief of Planning for the National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region. She was the Society's featured speaker at the January 2013 Annual Awards Luncheon. At this event, DACHS recognized the Butterfield Overland Trail with three awards: a Property of Historical Significance, an Endangered Historic Property and a Property Worthy of Preservation. Gretchen reports that, currently, she and her colleagues are in the final stages of editing and approving a feasibility study, part of a special resource study that includes an environmental assessment, to evalu-



ate the suitability of designating the Butterfield Overland Trail as a national historic trail. Once the final review is finished, the document will be released to the public for comment, which should happen in late 2015. Trail historians and preservationists will have an opportunity to comment on the feasibility study before it is sent to Congress, anticipated to happen at the close of 2015 or early 2016.

Returning to the present.

At the January 31, 2015 Awards Luncheon, the Society will recognize one historically significant building worthy of preservation and an impressive list of people, each of whom are contributors to the historical or cultural heritage of Southern New Mexico. To begin with the building, it is the 500K Static Test Stand on White Sands Missile Range, located about four miles south of the Main post. Completed in 1950, it was designed to test rockets with 500,000 pounds of thrust without leaving the ground. A history of the Test Stand with pictures begins on page 207 of Jim Eckles' book *Pocket Full of Rockets*.

The people to be honored include writers: David G. Thomas for Volumes 1 and 2 of the *Mesilla Valley History Series*; and six collaborating authors: Celeste Conrad, Rosemary Leyva, Olivia Lerma McDonald, Dawn Santiago, Rev. Ricardo Bauza and Rev. Christopher Williams for the publication of *The Heart of Las Cruces, St. Genevieve Church*. Other honorees, each to be awarded a distinguished place in

the Society's award categories, are Toni Laumbach, Chief Curator and Director of Museum Programs for the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum; Heather Pollard, former director of the Dona Ana Arts Council and the Main Street Revitalization project and now the President of the Amador Museum Foundation; and Bob Gamboa, a gifted photographer who uses his camera and curiosity to document the history of people, events and places.

Join us to visit with old friends and to meet new ones as we recognize those who work to preserve the heritage of Southern New Mexico. A registration form for the Awards Luncheon, to be held at noon on January 31, 2015 at the Double Eagle Restaurant on the Mesilla Plaza, appears in this newsletter.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT

The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society will hold its annual conference November 14-15, 2015 at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum and two members of the planning committee have contacted DACHS, asking for help and guidance. The Conference topic is "Celebrating 30 Years: A Retrospective and the Jewish Communities of the Southern Southwest." A Call for Conference Papers and Sessions has been issued with a due date of February 15, 2015, so a quick response is necessary and please share this information. The website for the Jewish Historical Society is <http://www.nmjewishhistory.org>, and I will provide the contact information for the planning committee members, just send me an email at 19dachs63@gmail.com.

AND FINALLY: A prosperous New Year, full of historical achievements, to all. Susan ■



Home in a Land Use program in the little community of Crater, New Mexico, in western Doña County, circa 1936. Photo courtesy Library of Congress. Doyle Piland's history of Crater will appear in a subsequent Newsletter



Buffet Luncheon Menu

- Fresh Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings
- Tomato, Cucumber, Onion Vinaigrette Salad
- Cherry Tomato Mozzarella Salad
- Medley of Fresh Vegetables
- Green Chile Cheese Enchiladas
- Beef Burgundy over Noodles
- Freshly Baked Dinner Rolls and Butter
- Assorted Desserts
- Ice Tea and Coffee

-----Print, cut along dotted line, fill and mail with registration-----

If you have friends or family members who would also like to attend the banquet, please use the form below for their reservations. We need their names to make name tags to be picked up at the door. Thanks

RESERVATION FORM for additional guests due by Saturday, January 24, 2015.

NAME _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

\$25.00 per person TOTAL enclosed

Will pay at the door



You are invited to the Doña Ana County Historical Society's Annual Awards Luncheon

January 31st, 2015, Double Eagle Restaurant on the Mesilla Plaza; 12:00 noon

Seating for the Annual Awards Luncheon will begin at noon with the buffet lunch to be served at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$25.00 per person payable in advance or at the door. For your convenience, this reservation form is included, and you may email your reservation directly to Susan Krueger at skrueger575@msn.com Or, if you prefer, you may print it, fill it in, and snail mail it to Susan Krueger, c/o DACHS, P.O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004.

Following lunch, there will be the awards program and the installation of new Board members.

If you have any questions, please call Susan at 525-0654.

RESERVATION FORM due by Saturday, January 24, 2015

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

\$25.00 per person TOTAL enclosed

Will pay at the door

If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2015, Please renew your Membership Today. See form below.

-----Cut along dotted line-----

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.

Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates

Individual \$20 Family \$25 Student \$8 Contributor \$40 Benefactor \$150 Life \$300 Southern New Mexico Historical Review Sponsorship \$50

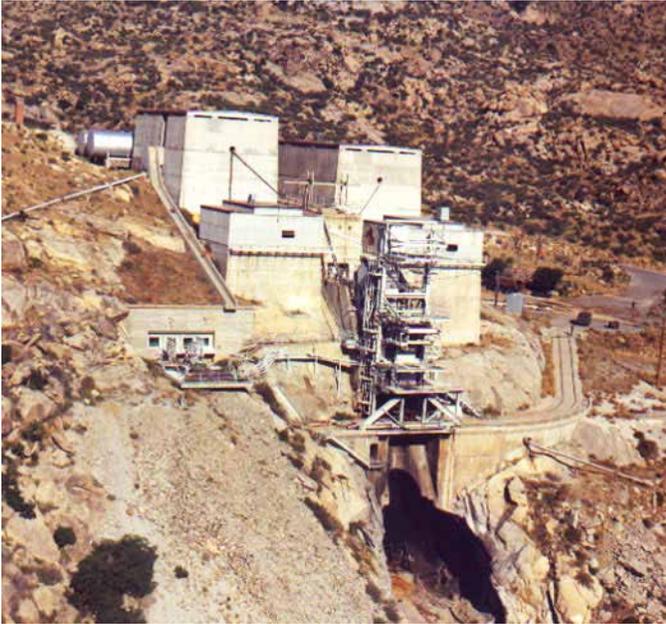
Is this a change of information? Yes No A check for \$ _____ is enclosed. Date _____ Check # _____

Name(s) _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____ Newsletter via E-mail Yes No

How would you like to receive your copy of the Southern New Mexico Historical Review (SNMHR)? Printed Version Society Website Version PDF on CD Version



This year's selection as a historically significant building worthy of preservation is the 500K (500,000 pounds) static test stand at White Sands Missile Range. Photo courtesy White Sands Missile Range Museum Archives.

Thanks to our 2014 Corporate Sponsors

We encourage our Members to patronize their businesses

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On The Mesilla Plaza
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**White Sands Federal Credit Union
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William Jacobs, President & CEO**

**Doña Ana County Historical Society
gratefully acknowledges the accounting assistance
of Beasley, Mitchell & Co.
for tax preparation.**

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