



NEWSLETTER

May 2015

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Susan Krueger

In this month's newsletter, you will meet Garland Courts, one of two new DACHS Board members. I dropped in at the City of Las Cruces Railroad Museum last Friday and was again amazed not only at the railroading displays that Garland oversees so expertly but also at the building itself, a well preserved piece of history. The other new Board member is Bob Gamboa whom you met in last month's newsletter. If you would like to know more about serving on the DACHS board, please talk to me after the meeting or send me an email at 19dachs63@gmail.com

William Godby will be the speaker at the Society's May 21st membership meeting. Bill, an archaeologist, is the Manager of the Cultural Resource Program at White Sands Missile Range. The title of his talk "The Legacy of White Sand Missile Range and How I learned to Love the Cold War" promises a laugh or two. **Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday May 21, at the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle.**

There is also an article from Jim Eckles in this Newsletter about a possible field trip to Hembrillo Basin on White Sand Missile Range. Sign up information is included in the article.

This is our last membership meeting until September. The Society takes a break for the summer to give you and your friends and family time and space to explore the history of your surroundings, wherever that may be. Watch for an announcement of the Society's fall programs and dates and if you have questions or suggestions for the DACHS, please share them with me at 19dachs63@gmail.com.

At the April meeting, I was asked by a DACHS member who had forgotten to pay his dues for 2015, if we sent out dues reminders. I told him yes, that in past years we added red dots to the newsletters of those whose dues were still unpaid as a reminder. So, this month's newsletter includes **RED DOTS** strategically placed on the front page before and after the word "NEWSLETTER" as a dues reminder. The form to use for payment appears on page 3, along with the DACHS mailing address.

The Society values your membership and invites you to stay with us; please send along your payment now while it is still fresh in your mind. Because membership lists change off and on, there is a chance for mistakes. If you received red dots by mistake, please let me know at 19dachs63@gmail.com and I will correct the mistake. Thank you, Susan

MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Join us on May 21, 7 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Auditorium

Our speaker will be Bill Godby, archaeologist and cultural resource manager at White Sands Missile Range. Bill will be providing us with an overview of the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) cultural resource program, leading into a discussion of his engagement with the Cold War resources found at WSMR. Bill is actively developing historic contexts for the interpretation and evaluation of the multitude of unique Cold War era resources remaining at WSMR. He will be sharing with us how things are



Bill Godby

coming together with the project, to include the development of the ground breaking optics program by Clyde Tombaugh, design and layout of the vast North Range by Ernst Steinhoff in 1950, centralizing the thousands of existing records into a singular database and the re-evaluation of the WSMR Cantonment Historic District.

Bill Godby grew up in Flint, Michigan attending the University of Michigan-Flint, receiving a B.A. in both anthropology and philosophy in 1993. In 1996, he and his family moved to the island of Oahu, Hawaii where Bill attended graduate school at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, receiving his M.A. in anthropology in 1999. In 2000, Bill served as cultural resource manager and archaeologist for the US Army at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island until 2009, residing in Hilo. His interesting career in Hawaii included creat-

See Bill Godby on page 3

At the Annual Awards Luncheon on January 31, 2015 two Hall of Fame Awards were presented.

2015 Hall of Fame Award Recipients



Heather Pollard

What do the Rio Grande Theater, the Amador Hotel, and the Pioneer Park-Alameda Historic District have in common? Heather Pollard.

From 1981-98 Heather was executive director of the Doña Ana Arts Council. While still executive director she received a phone call from sisters Jan Clute and Carolyn Mug-

genburg. They asked “What would you do if we gave the council the Rio Grande Theatre?” As the saying goes, the rest is history.

That phone call altered Heather’s life. She ended up resigning from her 18 year long lead position with the council to devote her full attention to the theater renovation. That led her to many more downtown renovations, as executive director of Las Cruces Downtown, an organization whose motto is “Revitalize the heart of the city.” Heather spent ten years at the helm.

For Heather downtown Las Cruces is very much alive and a part of her everyday life as resident and citizen. She lives in the historic Pioneer Park district in a house once owned by one of the original Rio Grande Theater owners. It is a remarkable example of life in full circle.

More recently Heather began working with the Amador Hotel Foundation. As current president, she is leading efforts to save one of the last significant downtown landmarks, a hotel built in 1870 by the Amador family. “Restore and revitalize” is a core value in Heather’s life.

When not involved in historic preservation, Heather works with La Casa, the local domestic violence shelter and finds time to volunteer at La Tienda de Jardín de Los Niños. She is active in St. Paul’s Methodist Church, and both the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce and the Hispano Chamber of Commerce. Heather is a patron of local theaters, galleries, and the Las Cruces Symphony. ■

During Chief Curator Toni Laumbach’s 17 years at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, she has conceived, designed and implemented most of the exhibitions and public programs for the museum, as well as seeking out, acquiring, cataloging and pre-

serving the museum’s collections of over 10,000 items of historical and cultural significance.

As an undergraduate at the University of New Mexico, Toni worked for Museum Director Dr. J. J. Brody and studied under the renowned archaeologist, Dr. Florence Hawley Ellis. As an undergraduate, she rose through the ranks at the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology at UNM, serving as both registrar and collections manager.

In 1972, Toni became the curator of the New Mexico State University Museum, where she helped organize and catalog their collection. In that role, she also taught NMSU’s first museology classes and organized students in the preparation of the museum’s first exhibits.

Following other dreams, Toni enjoyed a successful career as a registered nurse, working in many capacities, both technical and administrative, in the Las Cruces area. However, her true love was museums.

With the development of the concepts for the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum beginning to take shape in the late 1980’s, Toni approached those in charge of the project and joined the team in 1996, shortly before the museum building was completed. As well as being the museum’s first registrar and chief curator, she has performed a variety of other tasks, including serving as the interim director in 2005-06.

In addition to her many museum achievements, Toni also has continued to pursue a career in archaeology, where she has demonstrated extensive knowledge of prehistoric and historic pueblo ceramics. Most recently, she curated the museum’s exiting new exhibit, “The Cañada Alamosa Project: 4,000 Years of Agricultural History.” ■



Toni Laumbach

Bill Godby from page 1

ing a lava tube mapping program that continues to map lava tube systems containing extensive archaeological remains of the ancient Native Hawaiians. In April of 2009, Bill and family moved to Las Cruces where Bill began his present career at White Sands Missile Range as an archaeologist and cultural resource manager. Bill's other passion is music, playing guitar since he was 13. He is presently the guitarist for the local band, Muddy Hands Blues Band. ■

Hembrillo Basin Road Trip

By Jim Eckles

The DACHS is considering a field trip this fall to the Hembrillo Basin on White Sands Missile Range. The basin is the site of the 1880 battle between Chief Victorio's Warm Springs Apache and the Army's Buffalo Soldiers. On the drive into the basin, we would pass Rock Art Spring where Apache and Mogollon petroglyphs and pictographs are found.

Another stop would be Bloody Hands, site with pictographs and bedrock mortars. Also in the area is Victorio Peak where the fabulous Noss pile of 100 tons of gold is hidden. Such a field trip would take all day.

The main constraint for this trip is the road up the canyon. At its best, the road demands high clearance vehicles - SUVs, pickups and vans that can easily clear largish rocks and can maneuver through a few ditches. Four-wheel drive is not usually necessary.

To make this trip possible we will need members with appropriate vehicles to volunteer to haul those who don't have such a vehicle. For instance, I have a Nissan Xterra. I can take 4 other folks besides myself.

If you would like to volunteer to be a driver, please call Jim Eckles at 521-8771 or email him at nebraska1950@comcast.net and provide your name, phone number, what kind of vehicle you have, and how many other members you can take besides yourself. ■



**New DACHS Board member
Garland Courts**

Garland Courts is the Director of Education for the Las Cruces Museums and has been with the City for over 10 years, starting as manager of the Branigan Cultural Center and Railroad Museum. Garland grew up in Whittier, CA and has degrees in both History and Political Science. After college he began working at Boeing Aircraft for 11 years before transitioning into the museum field working with history, his true passion. Garland was director of the Whittier Museum from 2000-2005 before moving to Las Cruces. Garland's historic interests range from the Roman Empire to 18th century British Naval history, the Old West and World Wars I & II. His current mustache is in honor of his great-grandfather, Earl Courts, a doughboy who served in World War I and all those who gave their lives on the centennial of the Great War. Lest we forget. ■

-----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.

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Jim Eckles on the left, our speaker at the April 16 meeting discusses his presentation with audience members after his talk.

Mea Culpa

by Jim Eckles

I apologize to those of you who attended my talk on the 16th of April about Trinity Site. Getting wrapped up in details and my computer doing ghostly things, I forgot

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to relate the “punchline” to the story about the hollow earth zealots. It was important because it is the tie-in with Trinity Site. Here’s the rest of the story - the bomb test at Trinity so shook the earth, the humanoids living in the center were worried. They constructed a flying machine and flew out of their underground world at the north pole heading south to Trinity Site. They had problems and crashed just northeast of Trinity, near Corona, NM. It was this crash site that Mac Brazel found in July 1947 which started the Roswell legend. So, you see, the aliens recovered by the Air Force were not from Outer Space, they were from Inner Space. ■

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Garland Courts

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