



# Newsletter

June/July 2006

## Dona Ana Historical Society

### PRESIDENT'S STUFF

#### ANNUAL SUMMER CELEBRATION AT CHUCK'S HOUSE

Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

The Historical Society will furnish the drinks, silverware and plates

Bring friends and potential new members!!

The Board will have a little time off during the summer. Traditionally we have no programs or board meetings during the months of June, July and August. The pot-luck dinner is about as much work as we can commit to during vacations and 100+ degree weather.

Maybe because we are having dinner outdoors we can stimulate a little (or a lot!) much needed rain? Here's hoping!

Directions to my house and phone # are: South on Las Alturas, left on Tellbrook, right on Remington, right on Superstition, left on Redman. Address is 5265 Redman and phone is 521-7833.

Please be thinking about the annual meeting even though it is 7 months away. We need nominations for the awards committee in all areas. The committees are meeting now and trying to line up a good slate of properties and persons to honor. We have not heard any negative comments on not having a program at the annual meeting. We have had several people say that the time set aside for visiting with friends and catching up with each other was important and could be lengthened. The awards presentations could be expanded a bit to allow a better understanding about the background of the awardees and even allow a short presentation from each one. At this point we are leaning that way. If this will keep you from attending and especially if you have a better suggestion we would sure like to hear from you pronto!

Roger has lined up an interesting program for September. Dr. Ben Brown of UTEP will discuss the French painter Leon Troussset who painted extensively in the American Southwest in the late 1800's. He is noted for a painting of the Mesilla Plaza.

One of the Society's projects is to facilitate NMSU student (especially Master's level) research by awarding grants for research expenses. We helped three students last year and one has expressed interest this year. We would like more applications so keep your eyes and ears open for this kind of need.

The beat goes on with the County and the City trying to decide how and if the Amador can be used by the City. George has an update in this issue.

Here's wishing you the best for the Summer! We'll see you at the picnic and see how our rain-making talents turn out.

*Chuck*



### **.Field Trip to Dripping Springs**

Located east of Las Cruces, the Dripping Springs Resort was built by Col. Eugene Van Patten in the 1870's. Holding 16 rooms, a large dining room and concert hall the resort in its spectacular setting was a natural attraction for people. The site later became a tuberculosis sanitarium.

Today, the BLM oversees the Dripping Springs Natural Area. Dan Aranda, a volunteer for the BLM and longtime DACHS member has agreed to lead a tour of this historic site in the fall. We will keep you informed as the date is set.



*Dripping Springs when it was running  
(July 6, 1999)*

*We wish all our members  
a pleasant summer  
and look forward  
to seeing you at the  
DACHS picnic at  
Chuck's house  
on August 19!*

### **Introducing Board Member Marcie Palmer**

Born in the sandhills of West Texas, I grew up there and in Roswell, New Mexico (88201). Graduated from Roswell High and attended T.C.U. Fort Worth where I studied dance, majoring in Physical Education. I have worked in banking, Medical Profession, taught kindergarten and ballet. I worked for Grieves Group Realtors in

Roswell and at Prepared Foods in Santa Teresa, New Mexico. These were my last two jobs before retiring. I went back to work three years later in 2001 as a realtor at Steinborn G M A C, my new career.

I have lived in West Texas, Roswell, Fort Worth, and

Amarillo, before moving to the Las Cruces area in 1991 where I purchased a home in 1997. I have been volunteering at New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum as a docent and in the Oral History Department, interviewing farmers and ranchers. I am a member of the Doña Ana Arts Council, Friends of the University Art Gallery, Cool Chilies Two Red Hatters, am on the board of the Symphony Guild, the Steering Committee of the Y W C A , as well as the Doña Ana County Historical Society board. Through the Las Cruces Association of Realtors I have served as Chairman of the Community Service Committee and am now serving on this committee and am Chairman of the Membership Committee. With these groups I have worked with Special Olympics and the Habitat for Humanities.

I have volunteered on the K R W G FM and TV telephone answering events and contribute to the University Foundation's many events. I am a member of Wellspring Church. I have a large, close family, two brothers, one sister, four daughters, one son, four granddaughters, and three grandsons. As someone wiser than I once said "If I had known grand- children were so much fun I would have had them first." I play bridge, do gardening, beading, quilting, and paint on gourds and fabric. I enjoy music of all kinds, as well as sports.



## Summer Schedule

As usual there will be no monthly meetings in June, July and August. However, the annual DACHS Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 19th at Chuck Murrell's home at 5265 Redman. More details will be provided in the August – September newsletter but mark your calendar now for that date.

## Expanded Website

The Dona Ana County Historical Society has a great Internet website at [www.zianet.com/dachs](http://www.zianet.com/dachs) which has program information, schedules, publications, membership forms and links to various other items. Our Web Master, Mary Lou Pendergrass has added the monthly newsletter to the web so that if you misplace or do not save your copy, another is always available. If you have not visited the site please do so and tell your friends about it.

## DACHS Authors

While the Society has a number of publications for sale including most volumes of the Southern New Mexico Historical Review and several other books published by DACHS in the past, we thought a list of books written by Society members would be of interest. If you have not read them, pick up a copy and enjoy one on a hot summer afternoon.

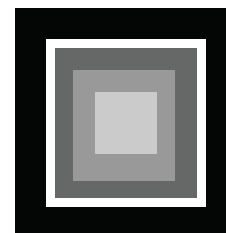
- Jo Bloom—*A History of the Mesilla Valley-1903* (available only through Dr. Bloom)
  - George Hackler – *The Butterfield Trail in New Mexico.*
  - Linda Harris - *Las Cruces an Illustrated History - Ghost Towns Alive*
  - Rick Hendricks –Co-author of *The Witches of Abiquiu*
  - Jon Hunner – *Inventing Los Alamos.*
  - Leon Metz – *Pat Garrett - Border and others*
  - Gordon Owen – *Las Cruces New Mexico Multicultural Crossroads* \*\* (see note)
  - The Two Alberts – Fountain and Fall.*
  - Felix Pfaeffle & Chuck Miles – *Once Enemies, Now Friends*
  - Ray Sadler coauthor – *The Archaeologist Was A Spy*
  - Mary Taylor – *A Place As Wild As The West Ever Was*
  - Gerald Thomas coauthor – *Victory In World War II*
- Note\*\* Gordon Owen donated the rights to the third printing of this revised edition which was reprinted and is sold by DACHS
- Most of these books are available at local bookstores and at COAS My Bookstore. If you can't find a copy call me, George Helfrich, at 522-3477 or e-mail at [dachslcnm@aol.com](mailto:dachslcnm@aol.com).
- If you have written a book and were not included, please let us know and you will be added to the list.

## Volume XIII of SNMHR

All 2006 members of DACHS are entitled to one free copy of the Review. If you are local and have not received a copy at the Banquet in January or at one of the monthly meetings, it is requested that you pick up a copy at the Branigan Cultural Center (500 N. Water Street) by asking at the desk and signing for it there. Other arrangements can be made by calling 522-3477.

## Amador – Courthouse Update

The State has approved the sale of the Courthouse to Amador Associates LLC for conversion to condominium apartments as reported in the last newsletter. The future of the Amador is still undecided as there were two proposals in addition to the one submitted to the County by DACHS on 3/31/06. Brian Haines, the County Manager is responsible for recommending disposition of the building to the County Commission but he has not responded to a request relative to the status of this historic building nor has the Advisory Committee been contacted. The County has moved most of their offices to their new facility.



New Members:  
*Patsy Duran*

Thanks to Contributing Members:  
*Nelson & Georgia Clayshulte*  
*Orlando Cervantes*

The Society wishes to extend our sympathy to the family of J. Henry Gustavson, a long-time DACHS member who passed away recently.



Please renew/enroll my/our membership in the Doña Ana Historical Society. A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Fees:**

|                  |                   |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Individual \$ 15 | Student \$ 8      | Benefactor \$ 150 |
| Family \$ 20     | Contributor \$ 40 | Life \$ 300       |

Memberships are active for the calendar year of enrollment. Membership in the Society is deductible within legal limits for Federal and State income tax purposes. If you are unsure of your status, please call Membership Chairman, George Helfrich, at 522-3477.

**Doña Ana County Historical Society**  
**P.O.Box 16045**  
**Las Cruces, NM 88004**  
**[www..zianet.com/dachs](http://www..zianet.com/dachs)**

2005 Officers:

President - Dr. Chuck Murrell  
Past President – Austin Hoover  
Vice President – Roger Rothenmaier  
Secretary – Donna Eichstaedt  
Treasurer – George Helfrich  
Historian – Karen George  
Board Members-at-Large -  
Marcie Palmer  
Felix Pfaeffle  
Buddy Ritter  
Wanda Tourney  
Newsletter Editor – Felix Pfaeffle  
Public Relations – Wanda Tourney  
Webmaster – Mary Lou Pendergrass

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