



# Newsletter

November 2006

**Dona Ana Historical Society**

## PRESIDENT' STUFF

**NEXT MEETING MARTIN AMADOR CAMPBELL, "A GLIMPSE OF LIFE IN THE AMADOR HOTEL" TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 7pm  
PLACE: AMADOR HOTEL. PRESENTED JOINTLY BY HUMAN SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DOÑA ANA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Greetings! First, please note the change of date and place in our monthly program. This will be the first of many functions in the Amador Hotel. We look forward to Martin telling of his experiences growing up in that historic place.



It's election time for the nation and your society as well. Look for the nominations presented in this issue as well as some changes to the Bi-Laws. Nominations will be accepted by mail from the membership during November, and they also may be made in writing at the meeting on Oct. 14th. Due to the joint meeting on the 14th and with HSR members present on this date we felt that written nominations would be more appropriate. The final ballot will be in the December newsletter. You may vote by mail and send your reservation for the January Annual Banquet (Saturday, Jan. 27), at the same time. Also, 2007 dues are due and you can take care of that as well. Talk about killing three birds with one stamp!!

Along with all of the other excitement, i.e., annual meeting, voting, and membership renewal, we need you to be calling for pick up of your silent auction items. The silent auction has always been a major money raiser as well as giving the annual meeting some spice and action. Call me at 521-7833, George Helfrich at 522-3477, or Roger Rothenmaier at 521-7531.

The Board has had requests in the past for the Society to sell member's books at meetings as well as the Annual Meeting. We felt this was more that the Society could commit to, but as a compromise we passed the following policy change. Member-authors may set up a book sales table in the foyer and man it themselves. All profits will go to the authors. The Society's table will most likely be set up in the dinning room since profits from our publications have been important income for the Society.

Another DACHS Board member bio:

### **Felix Pfaeffle**

Felix was born on January 18, 1928 in Karlsruhe, Baden (Germany.) While attending his junior high school year he was drafted into the Luftwaffe anti-aircraft corps, not quite 16 years old. He served from January 1944 until April 1945 when WWII ended.

His home in Germany having been destroyed in a bombing raid, his parents moved to Heidelberg, where Felix joined them in May 1945.

While studying at Heidelberg University, he worked for the US

Army in Heidelberg as an interpreter and various other capacities from 1945 to 1951.

In 1951 he left Germany with 75 dollars in his pocket and immigrated to the United States. He moved to Detroit, Michigan to join his brother Heinz who had come to America two years earlier. While working several jobs in the commercial art field, he enrolled at Wayne State University and after graduating in Technical Communications in 1954 joined Rogers Publishing Company as art editor.

The firm subsequently moved to Denver, Colorado where he was married and raised two daughters.

From 1959 to 1964 he was presentations manager at the Denver plant of Martin Marietta Aerospace Corporation. He worked many years in the computer field for Control Data Corporation, both at their Minneapolis headquarters as well as in their European branches. In 1977 he and his wife Nancy moved from Minneapolis to Ouray, Colorado. Having “retired” early, he got involved in several avocations including mountain rescue, Chamber of Commerce, Real Estate and market consulting in this beautiful mountain village. In 1989 they moved to Sun City, Arizona where they lived until they felt the Phoenix area too congested.

In 1998, Felix and Nancy settled in Las Cruces. Having visited New Mexico many times while living in Ouray, they had found the “Land of Enchantment” to be their ultimate retirement haven. Felix got involved in a number of activities, including serving on the Board of DACHS and becoming its newsletter editor. In 2002 he co-authored, with DACHS lifetime member Chuck Miles, a book entitled “*Once Enemies’ Now Friends.*” In it they related their war-time experiences that brought them together within a few miles during the fighting, only to realize almost 60 years later that they lived only a few houses apart, here in Las Cruces. In his ‘free time’, Felix works on converting old photographs, slides and 8mm film into DVD “photostories”, viewable on television screens. One of these is the DVD entitled “*Early Days– The First 150 days of Las Cruces.*” Preserving our local history in many different manifestations is one of Felix’s main concerns.



*-continued from insert page BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE*

In 1956, Mattie and James Davis and M. and Ann Fitzgerald bought the property for what has been said to be a “paltry sum.” Deferred maintenance had been practiced for years and the ranch was in need of repairs. It had even been rumored that the town of Silver City had considered buying the property to be used as a country club and tearing down existing buildings. This never happened, as in March of 1959, Myra and Frederick McCormick of Albuquerque bought the lodge and began an historic era of ownership. With the buildings in very bad shape, they embarked on a long and arduous process of preserving the lodge and turning it into a successful business enterprise. Known particularly for her Audubon workshops, Mrs. McCormick conducted nature tours and related activities for 41 years until her death in 1999. Those who remember her describe her as “colorful,” “eccentric,” and even “cantankerous.” She did much of the cooking at the lodge, was said to be frugal to a fault, and ran the inn with a tight grip. However, she left a legacy of having inspired guests from around the world with her vast knowledge of wildlife, particularly birds.

The lodge is now owned by the Nature Conservancy of New Mexico, having been endowed by Mrs. McCormick. Major renovations have taken place, but in keeping with Mrs. McCormick’s wishes, it will continue to serve its guests with birding, hiking and naturalist programs.

## Martin Amador Campbell, Jr.

Martin Jr. was born in the same room of the Amador Hotel as his father, Martin Amador Campbell and grandmother, Corina Amador. He attended elementary schools in Las Cruces. Junior high and high school were spent as a boarding student at St. Michael's in Santa Fe. He also attended New Mexico State University and earned a degree from the University of Phoenix in Denver, CO. Retiring from AT&T in 1989, Marty returned to Las Cruces and started a fire protection business, Dimar. Systems. The hotel was sold by Martin Amador Campbell (Marty's father) in 1966 to Ben and Sally Paul. They took over at the height of Urban Renewal and their venture was not successful. They gave up the business after 2 years of operation. The hotel was taken back by Martin Campbell Sr. in 1968 and operated as a hotel for another 2 years despite Martin Campbell suffering a stroke in 1969. Martin Jr. ran the hotel until it was sold to Citizen's Bank in 1970. The bank sold the building to Doña Ana county in 1985.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDED BYLAW CHANGES

The DACHS board recommends the following changes to the Society bylaws to improve operations of the Dona Ana County Historical Society:

- 1) Article I Section 3 - the change will give new members who join the Society after the first of November the option of having their dues applied to the next year. Those selecting this option would receive the newsletter and could attend the Banquet at the Member rate, but would not be eligible to vote until the next year and would not receive a free copy of the SNMHR until the next year.
- 2) Article II Section 1 – the change will eliminate a December meeting from the list of regularly scheduled meetings.
- 3) Article III Section 6 – the change will increase the number of elected At-Large Board Members from four to six.
- 4) Article III Section 7 – the change will provide for the City of Las Cruces ex-officio board member to be selected by the City of Las Cruces Museum Administrator subject to approval of the Board.
- 5) Article IV Section 3 – The change will provide for the term of office of the President and Vice-President to be two years rather than one year.

*continued from page 1 (President's stuff)*

## KING TUT—KING TUT—KING TUT

This is the most significant museum collection to hit Las Cruces, ever! I have heard only rave reviews from people who have seen it in other locations including Cairo and then here. Those who have seen it for the first time were enthralled and want to go back. Same for the school children tours. If there was ever an event we as individuals and as a Society should support—this is it. We will have two more Doña County Historical Society Docent days. The dates are Thursday Nov. 16 and Thursday Dec. 14 and the requested 2-hour periods are between 1:00 and 7:00PM. Call Holly Bethune at the 541-2322 to register for a two-hour period 541-2322. If training is needed you will be informed about time and place. But the activity is very low key and enjoyable and no knowledge of King Tut is needed. Questions I had to answer concerned the bathroom and closing time. There are other people around if real experts are needed. See you Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of November at 7 pm at the Amador or at the King Tut exhibit on the above given dates.

*Chuck*



6) Article V Section 2 – the change allows the records of the Society to be kept at a place other than the Branigan Cultural Center

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a list of the recommended persons to be elected for 2007

President Roger Rothenmaier  
Vice-President George Helfrich  
Secretary Donna Eichstaedt  
Treasurer Zandy Church  
Historian Karen George  
At-Large Members Buddy Ritter (1 year remaining)  
Marcie Palmer  
Felix Pfaeffle  
Leslie Bergloff  
Barbara Jean Neal  
Frank Parrish

If you wish to nominate someone in addition to those above and if that person has agreed to serve, you may call Chuck Murrell at 521-7833 or bring the written information to the meeting on Nov. 14, 2006.

**We welcome these new members:**

Rose Marie Araya  
Rose Mary LaPlante

Don't forget to come to our next  
DACHS meeting on Tuesday,  
November 14 at 7pm at the  
AMADOR HOTEL!



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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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 – Mary Lou Pendergrass

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