



# Newsletter

March 2007

**Dona Ana Historical Society**

**Our next meeting:**  
**ZEBULON PIKE BICENTENNIAL**  
*FIRST GRINGO DOWN EL CAMINO REAL: PIKE'S TRAVEL  
THROUGH SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO IN 1807*  
**SPECIAL PUBLIC PROGRAM AT RIO GRANDE THEATER, LAS CRUCES**  
**2:00 PM SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2007**  
*more information on page 2*

March 2007

## **President's Stuff**

The Board has authorized and purchased a laptop computer for use at Historical Society meetings for power point presentations CD, DVD, and other acronyms. We have not as yet decided which of our Board members will be the safe keeper of the computer. Donna Eichstaedt will use it for Secretarial duties and Xandy Church for membership and treasurer duties. All our records will then reside in one machine. Memory devices are getting smaller and smaller so also we should not have a problem with back-up. We, at some time in the future we will probably purchase a digital projector, once again for Power Point and other visual presentations. Right now Chuck Murrel is allowing us to use his projector. George Helfrich has been making his laptop available for meeting use. I can remember when a laptop was for Grandchildren.

Please note that our March Historical Society Meeting will be held at the Rio Grande Theatre, that's a Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM Please don't show up on that Thursday at Good Sam as you will be all alone. That happens to be my birthday, there's not enough candles. Refreshments will be served.

Many people did not take along the programs and Southern New Mexico Historical Reviews from the banquet this year. The Review had many good articles this year, as usual. Its quite costly to print these items, I hope we aren't forced to cut back on the amount printed or distributed one of these days. I'd like to encourage you to as much as possible to have your Newsletters Emailed to you. It saves us a little work and postage fees.

We are pleased with the ad the Bulletin designed for us. We got good press from the Sun news and the Bulletin regarding the Banquette and the awards. I hope this finds you all in good health. We are getting away for a short vacation to Panama, so I am filing this a tad early. See you at the Rio Grande.

*Roger*

## FIRST GRINGO DOWN EL CAMINO REAL



Two distinguished authorities will describe, with illustrations, how Zebulon Pike (Lt., US Army) as a Spanish prisoner got to travel El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro through Southern New Mexico and

write about it!

Dr. Leo E. Oliva of Woodston, KS, historian and prolific author on Pike, will speak on "Zebulon Pike's Southwestern Exploration."

Dr. Hal Jackson of Placitas, NM, author of the first guidebook to the whole El Camino Real (Santa Fe to Mexico City), past president of the Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA), will speak on "What Did Pike Know and When Did He Know it?"

The timing of this program is propitious: Pike camped just north of present Las Cruces on March 18, 1807, traveling under Spanish military escort southward into present Mexico. He had set out the year before to explore the headwaters of the Arkansas River, and wound up snowbound, in present southern Colorado (hence, Pike's Peak), Spanish territory. He was rescued and conducted to Santa Fe with the survivors of his small command. He was not a very successful explorer, nor a "spy" according to present usage. But he was historically important because he wrote in detail of his travels and provided the first descriptions in English of a great expanse of territory unknown in the United States.

This program is co-sponsored by the Doña Ana County Historical Society (DACHS) and El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association (CARTA) and the Branigan Cultural Center of Las Cruces. Free admission.

Refreshments will be provided by

DACHS as at its regular monthly meeting.

### RED DOT ALERT ●

If there is a red dot on your mailing address label, it is a reminder that our records indicate that your 2007 dues have not been received. If you have questions regarding membership status, please call George Helfrich at 522-3477. For those who receive their newsletter by e-mail a reminder will be sent by e-mail. Society dues are handled on an annual basis and are due in January.

### FRANK H. PARRISH

*We are happy to introduce one of DACHS's newest Board members:*

Frank was born and raised in El Paso, Texas and the love of the desert came as early as his first memories. He grew up with an intense interest in the natural world and science in particular. He graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with degrees in the biological sciences and geology. He worked for Mobil Oil Company in Dallas and eventually gained work experience in the various aspects of the oil industry including exploration, research and production.

After some years he returned to El Paso, obtained a teaching certificate and worked there as a teacher in the sciences for a number of years. While employed later with Texas Parks and Wildlife, he picked up a camera for the first time and began to do what he always wanted to do – "to pass on a moment, an experience, to those who love the natural world". Shortly thereafter he moved to Las Cruces and married his wife, Priscilla.

Frank is best known for his nature photography, free-lance writing and as author of the children's book "Pancho and the Power". Frank is a history buff and is particularly interested in the earliest Americans, the Paleolithic peoples.



### ***Did you know that? (Events of the Past)***

**March 7, 1539** — Fray Marcos de Niza and Estevan the Moor leave Culiacan, Mexico, to explore New Mexico. Zuni Indians kill Estevan, but de Niza returns with false stories confirming the Seven Cities of Cibola. The Indians distrusted Estevan because he wore jewelry depicting serpents and, also, because he demanded women from the pueblo.

**March 10, 1862** — The Confederate army marches into Santa Fe to find that the Palace of the Governors has been abandoned. Troops raise the Confederate flag over the Palace.

### **FUTURE PROGRAMS**

**April 19, Pat Beckett:** *"Las Cruces 1912"*

Patrick H. Beckett, archaeologist, ethnohistorian, bookstore owner, and publisher. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in geography from New Mexico State University, and a Master of Arts degree in anthropology from Eastern New Mexico State University. He has written over 80 archaeological and historical articles, reports and books. While director of the Cultural Resources Management Division at New Mexico State University, he was the principal investigator of 209 archaeological projects. He served ten years as chairman of the Cultural Properties Review Committee for the state of New Mexico, served six years on the New Mexico Historical Archives and Records Advisory Board, is a former president of the New Mexico Archaeological Council, former president of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico, and currently he is president of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (CARTA). Honored for his works in the archeology and history field and DACHS Hall of Fame inductee in 1991, His will be a presentation everyone will want to hear.

**May 17 Frank Parrish:** *"George Griggs and The Billy the Kid Museum."*

Frank, (see his biography on page 2) discusses the impact of George Griggs, author, historian and collector on the development of the Mesilla Valley. Included is a film featuring many local artifacts which tell the story of our area over the past two centuries.

**June and July,** No regular programs during the summer.



*Amador Hotel Omnibus in a 1940's parade*

### **Amador Foundation Committee**

The Amador Museum Foundation held the February 21st Meeting at the Double Eagle in Mesilla. George Helfrich, treasurer, Deb Dennis, secretary, and myself, president, were the Board members in attendance. Chuck Murrell, vice president was out of the country. Dr Harold Skramstad and Will Ticknor, ex-officio members were also in attendance. City of Las Cruces Museum Director, Will Ticknor conveyed the positive attitude of the City of Las Cruces officials and their desire to cooperate with the Foundation. He happily reported that the City had officially accepted the Amador from the Dona Ana County and that the necessary paper work was in Santa Fe for the State approval of the property transfer between governmental agencies. He said the City is looking forward to utilizing the facility and working with the Foundation. Nationally recognized Museum authority Dr. Harold Skramstad spoke at length about the work ahead for the Foundation and the City. After considerable discussion the Foundation Board unanimously approved the selection of Dr. Skramstad to prepare a interpretive planning process and overall timeline to be presented at our next Board meeting to initialize a contract between the parties.

*submitted by Buddy Ritter*

**We Welcome these  
New Members:**

Roberta Haldane  
Jack & Ingegerd Phillips  
Art & Lois Gilcrease  
Lori Miller & Leonard Gambrill  
J. C. Ortega  
Harold and Carol Foreman  
Jack Tilley  
Vincent and Mary Lou Chavez



**New Mexico Trivia**

In the early 1900's Tom Mix and film producer Romaine Fielding made a New Mexico city a focal point for many movies. What city? see below-



Las Vegas

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)**

**2007 Officers:**

President – Roger Rothenmaier  
Vice President – George Helfrich  
Secretary – Donna Eichstaedt  
Treasurer – Xandy Church  
Historian – Karen George  
Board Members-at-Large -  
    Marcie Palmer  
    Felix Pfaeffle  
    Buddy Ritter  
    Frank Parrish  
    Barbara Jean Neal  
    Leslie Bergloff  
Newsletter Editor – Felix Pfaeffle  
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