



# Newsletter

October 2007

Doña Ana County Historical Society

## From the President:

**September 6, 1853 — Believed to be the day José Manuel Gallegos, an Albuquerque priest, defeated Gov. William Carr Lane in a hotly contested congressional election. Gallegos became the first Hispanic delegate to the U.S. Congress from New Mexico.**

**September 11, 1821 — Mexico wins independence from Spain in the spring of this year but the news does not reach Santa Fe until this date. All local government officials swear allegiance to Mexico.**

I trust you all had a fine summer, a bit warm I heard, but it's cooling down real fine now. The Aggies are still trying to find out how to win, but the "Vball" team is playing real fine..

This year our picnic was held at the Church at Rodey, which is really now in Hatch. For years this was the parish church for all the missions in the north valley. Vincent and Mary Lou Chaves were very gracious hosts.

The weather was a bit hot but we camped under two very large Mulberry trees and managed quite well.

Connie Rodrigues and her husband came from California to be with us, and for Connie it was a homecoming, as she was born and raised in Rodey. Vincent and Mary Lou treated us very well, taking us on tours of the restored church and other sections of the buildings.

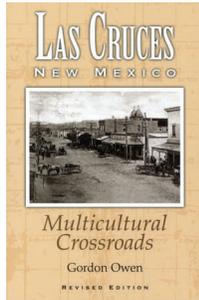
Leslie Bergloff has presented scholarship plans to the board, we hope to have something in place by our October meeting. She has presented several plans for us to pick and choose and bundle.

We placed an ad in the Bulletin describing this season's programs. That appeared on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully some newcomers made use of this information. Lorraine Southward had an information article placed in the Sun-News Community calendar.

The Amador Foundation reports that an Amador Ribbon Cutting and Grand Reception will be held at 7:00pm on Thursday evening, November 29th to formally recognize transfer of the Amador property from Dona Ana County to the City of Las Cruces. The Double Eagle will cater hors d'oeuvres. The charge will be \$25 per person and a no-host bar will be available.



**Gordon Owen's book reviewed  
by New Mexico Magazine**



After a long wait, the New Mexico magazine finally published a review featuring the revised *Las Cruces-Multicultural Crossroads* by our own Gordon Owen, beloved long-time member of DACHS. The piece can be found on page 30 in the November 2007 issue. It is hoped that this review in the 'definitive' New Mexico publication will cause the Las Cruces "diaspora" and others to order the paperback. We got plenty of copies to sell.

**OUR NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Stucky Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. The speaker will be Ms. Jean Fulton of

Cornerstones Community Partnerships. Ms. Fulton will present the results of the Condition Assessment involving investigation and documentation of the existing physical conditions of the historic Amador. Following the Conditions Assessment report, public discussion regarding adaptive reuse of the building to support creation of a City History Museum will be held.

Ms. Jean Fulton has been the Preservation Program Coordinator on the Amador Project. She joined Cornerstones seven years ago and has served as the Assistant Project Coordinator for the Socorro Mission Preservation Project. Ms. Fulton has 13 years experience in historic preservation and cultural resource conservation. In addition to the Socorro Mission, she has worked on the Acoma, Fountain Theater, Fort Stanton, Isleta Pueblo, Zuni and Village of Hatch Projects among others. Ms. Fulton holds a Master of Arts Degree in Public History from NMSU; a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Historic Preservation from Mary Washington College, and Bachelor of Arts Degrees in English and Anthropology from West Virginia University.

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**CALL FOR "WHITE ELEPHANTS!"**



Even though the weather is still summerish' with temperatures above 80F, fall has officially started and winter will be here before we realize it. Our annual DACHS Banquet will, once again, be the highlight of our efforts as a viable society. The popular Silent

Auction will, hopefully, provide for entertainment and a modest fundraiser for us. Please go to your "proverbial attic," book case or wherever you store your unwanted treasures and keep them ready for us to pick them up. Give us a call (at 382-8679) or let one of our board members know of your offer. We would be most happy to hear from you.

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**Submit an article for the SNMHR!**

Rick Hendricks, our editor for the Southern New Mexico Historical Review, would welcome your written observations of events, persons or objects of historical note for our annual publication to be ready for our next Banquet.

**Report on our DACHS Picnic Sept. 8, 2007**

About 30 people attended the annual DACHS picnic held on the beautiful grounds of St. Francis de Sales church at Rodey, NM. (See September newsletter for a history of the church, etc.) Everyone brought their own “picnic” and the society provided drinks and dessert. Mary Lou and Vince Chavez, owners of the church and manse, provided tours of the facility throughout

extraordinary! We met the Chavez family and after the picnic we gave them the map of Rodey, my Mom and I had worked on for two months. It was a map of Rodey between 1919-1921...and a genealogical book of our descendents who lived in Rodey.”



Connie is a faculty emeritus from Cal Poly, Pomona University, and has done extensive research on the pueblito and Fr. Andres Echallier, a seminarian who came to New Mexico and helped raise her grandmother. She also speaks of a wealthy rancher who was murdered in El Colorado (Rodey) and of the deaths of others in the village. Connie is presently teaching at Mt. San Antonio College and she and her husband plan to return to New Mexico for our January 26 banquet and continue research at Rodey.



“We also brought with us to the picnic Juan Jaramillo (75 years old) and Tomas Gonzalez (82 yrs.) who I discovered in Las Cruces after this book was written 10 years ago...they are my ‘primos,’ and their knowledge of this “pueblito” was priceless. On Saturday they walked me

the afternoon. Marcie Palmer, chair of the Architectural Award committee announced that the Chavez’ will be honored at the annual banquet, January 26, 2008 for their restoration of the church and manse in the “Noteworthy Restoration” category.

Connie Rodriguez, who grew up in Rodey, came from California for the event. I would like to quote from her email after she returned home from her trip.

“Our trip to New Mexico was

to the homes across from the church and showed me where our families had lived...the Jaramillo’s, the Fajardos, and the Benevidez’. We were all surprised, when they knocked on a door to find an elderly man named Daniel Benavidez (82 yrs.) who was related to us...we went into an empty adobe home which they clearly remembered visiting as young children, where their ‘Tio’s’ lived....”

*The three photos show our DACHS group on the grounds of the church, listening to Mary Lou Chavez inside the sanctuary, and Roger Rothenmaier addressing the gathering.*



**Welcome New Members: :**  
Carol & Collins Reynolds

**Southern New Mexico Historical Review (SNMHR)**

Time is growing short to submit articles for the 2008 Volume XV of the SNMHR. If you have material or want to discuss submitting an article please contact the SNMHR Editor, Mr. Rick Hendricks at 505-521-0398 or by e-mail at [rhendo3@comcast.net](mailto:rhendo3@comcast.net). Additional information related to the Review and submission details can be found on the Society's web site at [www.donaanscountyhistsoc.org/](http://www.donaanscountyhistsoc.org/)



## Membership Form

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

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

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

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### Membership Fees:

Individual	\$ 20	Student	\$ 8	Benefactor	\$ 150
Family	\$ 25	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.donaanacountyhistsoc.org](http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org)**  
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