



Newsletter

November 2007

Doña Ana County Historical Society

The next **regular monthly meeting** will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2007 at 7:00 PM at the Stuckey Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. The speaker will be Mr. Mark Santiago, Director of the Farm & Ranch Museum. Mr. Santiago's talk, "Mailed Fist in a Velvet Glove", will examine the conflict between the Spanish and various Apache groups in the American southwest and northern Mexico in the late colonial period.

Mark Santiago has served as the Director of the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Museum since November 2006. He was the Director of the New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo between 2000 and 2006. Previously, he worked for the Arizona Historical Society for 16 years at the Yuma, Tucson, and Tempe branches, as a Curator, Collections Manager



and Special Projects Manager. He has published two books, *The Red Captain* (Arizona Historical Society, 1994) and *Massacre at the Yuma Crossing* (University of Arizona, 1998). The latter was a finalist of the Western Writers of America—Nonfiction category. He received his master's degree in history and museum studies from the University of Arizona. His family consists of his sons, Edward age 22, twins Alexander, and Justin age 18, and his wife of 24 years, Dawn.



Plan to come to the GRAND RECEPTION at the AMADOR!

On Thursday, November 29 at 7:00pm, the Amador Foundation Board has scheduled a "grand reception" at the Amador to kick off the fund raising for the Amador museum project. The initial ribbon cutting and announcement will be a tour and cocktail party where we will honor the County Commissioners, the City Councilors and Mayor as well as the New Mexico State Legislators from this area. They have been very supportive and will be a major part of the celebration. The Dona Ana County Historical Society is being asked to provide docents to be available during the celebration to describe the history and various interesting parts of the building. We would hope to get these volunteers from the Historical Society Board and from the general membership. We plan to have an orientation for docents prior to the celebration. There will be a flyer with reservation form and details mailed soon. Tickets will be \$25.00 each, there will be hors d'oeuvres and a no host bar.

El Paso Historical Tour

In the quest for better understanding of our local and nearby history your newsletter editor and Frank Parrish, along with our wives on October 14th drove down to El Paso to participate in a guided tour of downtown El Paso. The "Mexican Revolution Historical Tour" is a bus tour designed to give the participants a deeper understanding of the significance of the Borderland during the Mexican Revolution and an introduction to the cultural and historical importance of the city of El Paso, Texas. The tour identifies important historical sites in the Downtown area and discusses their role both in the Battle of Juarez specifically and in the Mexican Revolution as a whole. The tour was designed by the Museum and Cultural Affairs Department's Cultural and Heritage Tourism division in collaboration with local historians. Tours are conducted on the second Sunday of every other month from May to November and reservations are required.

Ticket prices are \$ 12 for adults and \$10 for seniors 62 and over.

The Mexican Revolution was an extremely complex event that had a distinct impact on our borderland. This tour gave us a better understanding of how interrelated the cities of El Paso and Juarez were and still are not only by virtue of their close proximity but by their historical ties. We can highly recommend the tour, especially when taken during the cooler months.

**DONA ANA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2007 BOARD MEMBERS' TERMS**
(Terms begin in January 2008)

- President: Roger Rothenmaier – 2 year term – 1 year remaining
- Vice President: George Helfrich – 2 year term – 1 year remaining
- Treasurer: Xandy Church – 2 year term – 1 year remaining
- Secretary: Donna Eichstaedt – 2 year term – 1 year remaining
- Historian: Karen George – 2 year term – 1 year remaining

At Large Board Members:

- Marcie Palmer – 2 year term – 1 year remaining
- Buddy Ritter – 2 year term – 0 years remaining
- Felix Pfaeffle – 2 year term – 1 year remaining
- Leslie Bergloff – 2 year term – 1 year remaining
- Lorraine Southward – Filling the 1 year term of Barbara Jean Neal – who was filling the 1 year term of Wanda Tourney. (Will need to be elected for a new 2-year term in December if she chooses to run.)
- Frank Parrish – 2 year term – 1 year remaining
- *Prospective Board Members at Large –
- Richard Majestic
- Buddy Ritter ???
- Lorraine Southward???



DACHS Board establishes Scholarships and a Grant

The DACHS Board has approved establishment of three annual scholarships/grants as proposed by Leslie Bergloff, Chairperson of the Education

Committee. The scholarships will be for an NMSU history student (\$1,200), a research grant (\$500) for anyone working on an approved project, and a scholarship for a High School graduating senior who participates in National History

Day state competition and is continuing on to one of New Mexico's colleges or universities (\$250). The next newsletter will provide more details concerning this important use of the Society's resources.



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A Historic Day -Trip to Lincoln, New Mexico and Fort Stanton

By Donna Eichstaedt

A nice day trip from Las Cruces is the drive to Lincoln, NM. Just a few miles farther is Fort Stanton, the historic pre-Civil War military outpost that has recently become a State Monument. It's an easy drive from Las Cruces to Ruidoso, taking route #70 all the way. About 28 miles past Ruidoso, a left turn on picturesque route #380 brings you into the little 19th century western town of Lincoln, home of the Lincoln State Monument & Museum, site of the Lincoln County War (1878-1881) and former stomping grounds of Billy the Kid.

Only about a block long, the main street is lined on each side with 100 + year old homes, some still in use or being preserved. A torreon, a



“tower of safety” used by residents during Apache raids still stands near the museum, and the old mercantile store, open in the summer, looks

much as it did when “Billy” rode by. The jail and court house farther down have changed little since the “Kid” broke out and killed 2 lawmen. You can see the bullet hole in the wall at the bottom of the stairway he used to escape, and see a marker on the exact spot where his victim



fell. A few artists have made Lincoln their home, and two restaurants will soon be in operation. The museum, of course, is a must and the exhibits are well done.

Fort Stanton is fascinating too and only a short distance farther (continue on #380 to the airport sign at #220 and turn left). Established in 1855, it was briefly occupied by Confederate forces during the Civil War, just after they had taken over Ft. Fillmore in Las Cruces. In 1862, Union forces re-occupied the fort, with Colonel “Kit” Carson in command of 5 companies of New Mexico volunteers. Buffalo Soldier Cavalry and Infantry units occupied the fort from 1866 to 1896

and in 1878 it played a major role in subduing the factions in the Lincoln County War. Fort Stanton was home to General John J. “Blackjack” Pershing in 1887 and 1889 and in 1899 became the first federal hospital exclusively for the treatment of tuberculosis. About 10,000 Merchant

Seamen were treated for tuberculosis at the fort and more than 1500 were buried at the cemetery across the road.

During the Depression, the fort was the site of a civilian conservation corps camp and in 1941, it became home to a German cruise ship

crew. The 410 man crew of the “Columbia” scuttled the ship off the coast of Cuba in 1939 rather than letting her be captured by the British. The U.S. intervened and, once we were at war with Germany, moved the men to Fort Stanton, where they stayed until 1945.

In 1969, Fort Stanton was placed on the State Register of Historic Places and in 1973 earned a spot on the National Register of Historic Places. It is currently being used by the state corrections department as a residential drug treatment center and also houses a juvenile detention facility.

From the fort, route #220 takes you back to Ruidoso in short order. It is a most interesting and pleasant drive.

City to Open Important Exhibit Entitled "Las Cruces: Crossroads of History", the Museums Dept. of the city under the direction of Garland Courts will soon open the doors to this important, permanent exhibition at the Branigan Cultural Center. This exhibit will celebrate the rich confluence of cultures that started with the first hunter-gatherers and continued with the Spanish conquistadors, Mexicans and Americans that followed. Out of the many cultures that converged in the Mesilla Valley was born the nucleus of the City of Las Cruces that we know and live in today.



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 _____

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
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www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org

2007 BOARD MEMBERS

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