



Newsletter

Doña Ana County Historical Society

December 2007

AMADOR MUSEUM FOUNDATION "Opening Night" a Great Success

I'm sure most of our Society membership read the two fabulous articles in the Sun News this weekend regarding the Gala Ribbon Cutting party that occurred on Thursday the 29th at the Amador. We had a great crowd of approximately 175- 200 attendees that toured the Amador and peeked into some of the results of Cornerstone's work on the Condition Assessment. The ribbon cutting ceremony allowed the Amador Foundation Board to thank the County, City, and State officials who have helped this project become a reality. Richard Majestic put together two DVDs on the history and Cornerstone's condition assessment of the Amador that were popular with the people present. There were openings into the walls, floors, ceilings, and other structures that gave a

Continued next page



Photo Courtesy Las Cruces Sun-News



Call for Silent Auction Donations!

Donation of suitable items for the silent auction are being accepted between now and January 21. Please call Roger Rothenmaier at 521-7531 or Chuck Murrell at 521-7833 to make arrangements for delivery or pickup of items.

January 26, 2008 Banquet Program

The annual banquet will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2008 at Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, starting at 5:30 pm. As usual, there will be the Silent Auction, a no-host bar, dinner, presentation of awards and entertainment which this year will be provided by cowboy poet "Cactus Chris" Bueche. Meal selections this year are Honey Dijon Chicken or Grilled Salmon. Vegetarian meals can also be provided if requested when making reservations. The cost of the meals this year are \$28.00 for members and \$30.00 for guests. When making reservations, please provide the first names of each person attending, a phone number, and be sure to indicate your meal selection.

A Side Trip to Monticello

On a recent overnight stay in Truth or Consequences your newsletter editor and spouse soaked in the relaxing hot springs of the Fire Water Lodge, which offers the luxury of in-room tubs large enough to experience near nirvana conditions. On a whim, we decided to make a side trip to Chloride via what we thought was an "easy loop" by way of Placitas and Monticello. We should have consulted the "New Mexico Road and Recreation Atlas" instead of one of the typical tourist pamphlets with their oversimplified maps.

Consequently, upon reaching Monticello on well maintained highway 142, we decided against going further on the unexpected dirt road that looked suspiciously washed out in places. The fall day was glorious, so we decided to look around Monticello and environs. Chloride would have to wait for another outing.

MONTICELLO was established as *Canada Alamosa* (Cottonwood Canyon) in 1856 by farmers from early villages along the Rio Grande searching for new and fertile farmland. It was close to the Warm Springs Apache territory, with whom the early settlers of this community

learned to trade; then, as headquarters for the Southern Apache Agency, the town was

actually home to 500 Apaches in 1870.

In 1881, the first postmaster - Aristide Borguet - renamed the community Monticello for reasons that just aren't clear.

The town is laid out in traditional Spanish style, with a church, stores and businesses surrounding a central plaza. The outer walls of the perimeter buildings were thick adobe with gunsight holes for defense, and remains of the old adobe town walls are



still visible.

Today the plaza is a small community park, and the 1867's San Ignacio Catholic Church still stands sentinel on the north side, where it is used regularly. The old cemetery, with graves dating back to the 1700s, is nearby as well. There are no stores or facilities available, and all buildings are on private property. Although we did not make the "loop", the drive through the rolling hill country under the azure New Mexico sky with autumn colors around us, was a memorable experience. *Felix Pfaeffle*

Las Vegas

Amador continued from page 1

glimpse of construction of the building and how the building has changed over the years. Members of the Dona Ana County Historical Society Board acted as docents and gave background information on the history of the building. Martin Campbell of the Amador family provided a history of his family and some of the accomplishments of Martin Amador who built the hotel in 1866. He also related to the Sun News reporter, Steve Ramirez, personal stories about his history of the building and growing up in the hotel. The Foundation Board is encouraged with the enthusiasm of the local and state officials and feel that we are off to a good start. The road will be long, however, we will need to start serious fund raising and planning for the preservation and restoration of the building, as well as researching how it can be developed into a world class history museum. The community of citizens who value history and are proud of their heritage will be called on to contribute to this effort. We hope to include local fund-raising with state and national level support. It is a fact that any public funding will be dependent on proving local support and enthusiasm. We feel there is a pent-up need for this type of museum and if it is planned and executed properly it will showcase our southern New Mexico heritage and give generations of citizens a deep pride in how this area has developed over the centuries. *Chuck Murell*

2008 Program Plans

An interesting lineup of speakers for the first half of 2008 has been arranged along with a field trip scheduled for April.

Saturday, January 26, 2008 5:30pm Banquet

Thursday, February 21, 2008 7:00pm John Bloom – “New Mexico & the Mexican War”

Thursday, March 20, 2008 7:00pm Paula Moore – “The Cricket Coogler Murder”

Thursday, April 17, 2008 7:00pm Kathryn Flynn – “New Deal Art & Architecture in NM”

Thursday, May 15, 2008 7:00pm Donna Eichstaedt – “Silver City’s Bear Mountain Lodge – The Untold Story”

Saturday, April ??, 2008 Field Trip, WSMR Museum, Missile Park, and the Desert Ship at Launch Complex 35

June, July and August – no monthly meetings



Buddy Ritter emcees the evening’s proceedings



Mayor Myagishima cuts the ribbon

DACHS Education Program



The Doña Ana County Historical Society, at its regular meeting on November 15, 2007, announced the availability of two scholarships and a research grant. The awards will be available annually beginning in January 2008. A \$1,200 scholarship available to a history student in the Department of History at

NMSU will be funded from general revenue until such time as interest from a newly established DACHS Endowment Fund will provide sufficient funds. This scholarship is named "The Mary and J. Paul Taylor Scholarship" in recognition of contributions made by the Taylor family to the historical records and cultural enhancement of Doña Ana County. Members of the Society and others in the community are encouraged to make tax-deductible contributions to the DACHS

Endowment Fund through cash donations, memorials, or provisions for an estate distribution.

Checks should be made payable to "DACHS Endowment Fund," and sent to DACHS, P.O.Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004.

The second scholarship in the amount of \$250 is available to a graduating high school senior who participates in the New Mexico State National History Day competition and who continues his or her education at one of New Mexico's colleges or universities.

The \$500 Research Grant is available to professional, amateur, independent, or student researchers who are involved in research about the history, archeology, anthropology, or ethnohistory of Doña Ana County. Decisions on awardees will be made by the DACHS Scholarship Committee. The various criteria for eligibility and application forms are available soon on the Society's website: donaanacountyhistsoc.com.

For copies of eligibility criteria and other requirements and application forms, or for further information, please call Leslie Bergloff at 635-0837 or George Helfrich at 522-3477.

We Welcome New Members:

Jean Fulton

New Mexico Trivia

In the early 1900's, Tom Mix and film producer Romaine Fielding made what New Mexico city a focal point for many movies?

Answer on bottom of page 2

To support the DACHS sponsored "Mary and J.Paul Taylor Scholarship", contributions may be made by sending a check payable to the DACHS Endowment Fund to
DACHS, P.O.Box 16045,
Las Cruces,,
NM 88004

Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone/Fax _____

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

Las Cruces, NM 88004

www.DonaAnaCountyHistSoc.org

2007 Officers:

President – Roger Rothenmaier

Vice President – George Helfrich

Secretary – Donna Eichstaedt

Treasurer – Xandy Church

Historian – Karen George

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