



# NEWSLETTER

April 2009

Doña Ana County Historical Society

## President's Comments

By: George Helfrich

We had a good turnout for the March meeting and enjoyed the New Mexico Humanities Council sponsored Chautauqua presentation by Rosalia de Aragon of La Llorona. The board is considering ways to enhance the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review (SNMHR)* so look for a separate article on that in this newsletter. Now is the time to be working on your own article to be submitted for consideration for next year's *Review*.

Included also in this issue will be an update on what is happening with the former Doña Ana County Courthouse as well as announcement of a social function in support of the Amador Museum Foundation. I had hoped to have the Volume XVI issues of the *SNMHR* mailed by now to all out of town members and to those local members who have not yet been able to attend a meeting. We should have them mailed in several weeks, so if you have not sent in your dues, you may still be able to make the mailing. A number of DACHS members participated in the recent National History Day competition held at the Farm and Ranch Museum on the sixth of March. I was happy to see some participation of local Las Cruces schools this year. George Hackler has two very interesting speakers lined up for the remaining spring meetings, so mark your calendars and bring a friend. ■

### New Ideas Concerning the *SNMHR*

In an attempt to improve distribution and quality of the *Review* and to address ever increasing costs of producing the publication, Rick Hendricks and Martha Andrews, Co-Editors, have recommended that DACHS publish it in electronic format and make it available on the Internet. The board is interested in receiving comments from the membership regarding this new approach. One of the concerns that has been addressed is how to make it available to members that do not have a computer or would have difficulty downloading articles of interest. We have discussed making printed copies available to

## April Meeting

Following the regular monthly meeting of the Doña Ana County Historical Society the program will be;

### A History of Fort Stanton by

Lynda A. Sánchez

Lynda is a retired educator, (K thru College level), and an active author, and historian. She has spent time in South America with the Peace Corps and done archaeological field work in Mesa Verde, Mexico, and worked on the Blue Creek Maya Research Project in Belize. She collaborated with Eve Ball on the book *Indeh: An Apache Odyssey*, a



Lynda Sánchez speaking at book signing in Lincoln

collaborated with Eve Ball on the book *Indeh: An Apache Odyssey*, a

**See Fort Stanton on Page2**

those members who could not otherwise receive it. This raises questions about the quality and format of printed copies and whether or not a charge should be imposed for what has been provided free to members for the last several years. It should be remembered that there was a charge for the *Review* for many years even though printing and mailing costs were significantly lower then. Below are some comments provided by Rick and Martha:

“As we begin planning for the 2010 issue of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*, we would like to begin to move the *Review* from paper to electronic format. There are a number of reasons why we think this is a good idea and why we think now is an appropriate time to initiate this change. We believe this change will

- Substantially reduce or eliminate ever-

**See SNMHR on Page3**

## Calendar

Thursday, April 16, 2009

Lynda Sanchez - *History of Fort Stanton*

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Bob Alexander - *Deming Train Robbery*

The Fall program will be announced when the speakers and dates have been finalized. All meetings of the Society are normally at 7:00pm on the third Thursday of the months of Feb. - May and Sept - Nov. in the Good Samaritan Auditorium at 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

The Board of Directors of the  
Amador Museum Foundation invite you to:

## A Toast to the Amador

Thursday, April 23, 2009

An Open House, 5:30—7:30 pm

At the Pollard Home in the Historic Alameda District,  
520 W. Court, On Pioneer Park

\$25 donation per person

Join us as we celebrate history  
in the making!

Historical Period Actors

Hors-d'oeuvres, Wine, Desserts

Visit with our Museum Consulting Team to learn about their initial findings and recommendations for this beautiful downtown treasure.

Your donation and attendance at this event will allow you to be part of this historical restoration!

You can mail your check for tickets to:

**Amador Museum Foundation**  
**PO Box 1268**  
**Las Cruces, NM 88004-1268**

If you are interested in the ongoing work of the Amador Museum Foundation but cannot support this event, please email [AmadorMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:AmadorMuseum@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list. ■

**Award Series** - This third in a series of articles from the Banquet Program features one of the awards presented at the 2009 Banquet.

### THE OLD TIMERS AWARD 2009 "Historic Green Bridge"

*This award identifies a cherished object, natural phenomena, or cultural tradition prominent in Mesilla Valley heritage. Selection should be confined to that which deserves public attention and that which would otherwise escape recognition as an important part of the physical character of this region. Persons are excluded.*

The Historic Green Bridge is the second oldest highway bridge in New Mexico (1902); oldest steel highway bridge and oldest Pratt truss bridge. The bridge is listed on both the state (1997) and national (2008) registers of historic places. This is a prime example of local government and resident-responsibilities for building and maintenance of roads and bridges in the Territorial Period and of later state policies to relocate and reuse older steel bridges to sec-



The Historic Green Bridge over the Rio Hondo near Picacho, New Mexico.

ondary roads, circa 1930s-1950. Used by rural agricultural interests in Chaves County (1902-1943) and the Picacho/Rio Hondo area of Lincoln County (1944-1989).

Originally part of a three-span structure over the Pecos River in 1902, it was relocated to the Rio Hondo near Picacho in 1943. The bridge was relocated to its present site at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces in 2007. It was restored in accordance with consultations with the State Historic Preservation Division and strict preservation standards, including return to all-wood 4x4 deck material, historic color matching of paint, and exact duplication of replaced materials utilizing 1943 Highway Department blueprints. ■

### Fort Stanton from Page 1

masterpiece of oral history of the Apache people. She has published over 100 articles on Southwest history topics. Lynda's latest triumph is the successful organized effort to preserve and protect Fort Stanton. Lynda has worked tirelessly writing e-mail and letters to anyone she thought would help. Lynda says "I eventually got an e-mail from the governor's office saying 'Lynda, we hear you loud and clear—we don't need any more letters.'" ■

**SNMHR from Page1**

growing production costs fueled by increasing costs of printing and postage

- Improve quality of text and images
- Offer the ability to increase the size of the text for easier reading
- Provide a much greater visibility for DACHS and enhance our outreach through the Internet
- Give greater exposure to our authors
- Follow the lead of many major newspapers and journals
- Conform to emerging standards for print media”

Please email your comments or questions to ghelfrich505@aol.com or mail them to DACHS, P.O. Box 16045, Las Cruces NM 88004, or call George Helfrich at 575-522-3477. ■



**Meet the Newsletter Editor - Doyle Piland**

Doyle was born and raised in southcentral Missouri near the small town of Ava, where he went to high school. After a couple years working as a welder in Tulsa, Oklahoma he joined the Army. Twenty Two and a half years later, he retired from the Army, having earned his BSEE degree along the way. In 1980, Doyle was hired by White Sands Missile Range and worked another Seventeen and a half years and retired with 40 years total federal service. In retirement he has kept himself busy as the volunteer Archivist for the White Sands Missile Range Museum for almost ten years. He also volunteers with the Sun Country Striders, a walking club, the WSMR Historical Foundation, and as the DACHS Newsletter Editor. ■

**Old Doña Ana County Courthouse**

**Renovation is Underway**

On the 12th of March, John Hoffman, the new owner of the courthouse, invited two Historical Society representatives to take a look at the work being done on the old Doña Ana County Courthouse. A lot has been done, but there is still lots to do. John says that all the asbestos removal has been completed, and



**Old Courtroom, part of which was last used as the Commission Chambers, will be used as an Event Ballroom.**

they are currently foaming the roof over the jail part of the building. The contractors have removed all the old airconditioner units and are in the process of removing the plumbing associated with the heating system in preparation for installing a new Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system. He plans to offer space for offices and to use the courtroom as a multifunction event ballroom. ■

-----Cut along dotted line-----

**DACHS Membership Form**

Please renew/enroll my/our membership in the Doña Ana County Historical Society. Memberships are active for the calendar year of enrollment and are deductible within legal limits for Federal and State income tax purposes. If you are unsure of your status or have questions regarding membership, please contact the Treasurer, Xandy Church, at 526-9774 (May-Sept. 575-536-9728) or the President, George Helfrich, at 522-3477.

**Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates**

Individual \$20  Family \$25  Student \$8  Contributor \$40  Benefactor \$150  Life \$300   
Southern New Mexico Historical Review Sponsorship \$50

**This is a change of information** Yes  No  A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter via E-mail Yes  No

**We Welcome These  
New Members**

**Michael & Veronica Beckett**

**Robert Keiffer**

**Martha Andrews**

**Steve & Mary Jane Ropp**



Visitors booth at the former Doña Ana County Jail.

**We wish to thank our  
Corporate Sponsors**

***Bank of the Rio Grande  
Double Eagle Restaurant  
Insta-Copy***

**La Llorona Visits the  
March Meeting**

At right, Rosalia de Aragon, actress and musician, has assumed the role of La Llorona – The Wailing Woman, at the Society’s March meeting. Rosalia portrayed a version of the La Llorona folk story and later discussed several variations of the story. Based upon the questions and response from the audience, everyone enjoyed her presentation. ■



Photo by Morris Southward

**RED DOT ALERT** – It is time to renew your annual dues if you have not already done so. If you have questions about your membership, please contact Xandy Church at 526-9774.

**2009 Board Members**  
 President: George Helfrich  
 Past President: Roger Rothenmaier  
 Vice President: George Hackler  
 Secretary: Judy Vaughan  
 Treasurer: Xandy Church  
 Historian: Karen George  
 At-Large Board Members:  
 Donna Eichstaedt  
 Marcie Palmer  
 C.W. "Buddy" Ritter  
 Martha Shipman Andrews  
 Mary Lou Pendergrass  
 Jim Eckles  
 Publicity: Lorraine Southward  
 Website: Mary Lou Pendergrass  
 Newsletter Editor: Doyle Piland  
 SNMHR Editor: Rick Hendricks  
 BCC Liaison: Garland Courts  
 Education Chair: Frankie Miller  
[www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org](http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org)

