



# NEWSLETTER

February 2010

Doña Ana County Historical Society

## President's Comments

By: George Hackler

Very preliminary reports and audience comments on the Annual Awards Banquet indicate that it was another resounding success. Many thanks, to the Awards Committee chaired by Marcie Palmer, assisted by Donna Eichstaedt, Susan Krueger, Ruth Brown and Joyce Macorie. The awards, given in recognition of people and places that encapsulate the history of the area, are the main purpose of the Banquet. The power point slide show supporting the presentations proves that a picture is worth a thousand words. Many folks make the Banquet the success that it is, but the editor tells me I'm out of time. More on the Banquet next month. ■

## National History Day

The Southwest Regional Contest for National History Day will again be hosted at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum this year on Wednesday, March 3. Contest coordinator Cameron Saffell is seeking individuals interested in serving as a judge. No experience is needed—just an appreciation of history and a willingness to speak with junior high or high school students about their projects. Lunch is included with much appreciation from Cameron and state officials from the New Mexico Humanities Council.

Cameron describes the competition as a science fair for junior high and high school students interested in history. The students may compete individually or as teams with as many as 5 stu-

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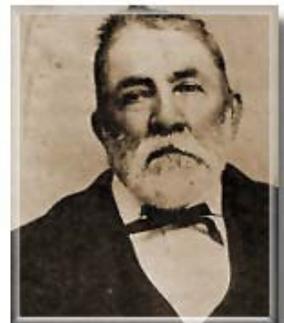
## Judge Roy Bean, the Law West of the Pecos (Living History)



Randy Milligan as Judge Roy Bean

At the Society's February 18 meeting to be held at 7:00 PM at the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces, Randy Milligan will assume the role of Judge Roy Bean and give us an insight into what it was like for the legendary judge in the 19th century. Randy is an instructor at New Mexico State University at Carlsbad, and president of the Carlsbad Arts and Humanities Alliance. He will present:

Judge Roy Bean, the Law West of the Pecos, was a man who took advantage of being in the right place at the right time. Frontier justice is his story. If some fancy lawyer would out-manuever him in court using a law book, the Judge would rip out the page and say it didn't matter any more, because it wasn't in any of his law



Judge Roy Bean

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## Calendar - 2010

Thursday, February 18, 2010 @ 7:00pm  
Randy Milligan – **Judge Roy Bean**

Thursday, March 18, 2010 @ 7:00pm  
Karl Laumbach – **Battle at Round Mountain**

Thursday, April 15, 2010 @ 7:00pm  
Lynda Sanchez – **Eve Ball**

Thursday, May 20, 2010 @ 7:00pm  
Enrique Lamadrid – **Chautauqua - Rafael Chacon?**  
**Uncertain at deadline**

June thru August - No Meeting

Thursday, September 16, 2010 @ 7:00pm  
**Pending**

Thursday, October 21, 2010 @ 7:00pm  
Martha Shipman Andrews – **Letters**

Thursday, November 18, 2010 @ 7:00pm  
Ed Sweeny – **Apache Warfare**

December, 2010 @ 7:00pm  
**No Program**

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.

### Judge Bean from Page 1

books. How one man could have had so much power and territory and yet keep the wild, untamed, rough and mean territory west of the Pecos under some sort of law and order is a unique and lively story.

Of the many colorful characters who have become legends of the Old West, “Hanging Judge Roy Bean,” who held court sessions in his saloon along the Rio Grande River in a desolate stretch of the Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas, remains one of the more fascinating. Calling himself the “Law West of the Pecos,” he is reputed to have kept a pet bear in his courtroom and sentenced dozens to the gallows, saying “Hang ‘em first, try ‘em later.” Like most such legends, separating fact from fiction is not always so easy. Roy Bean was born in Mason County, Kentucky about 1825 and died in March 1903 in Del Rio, Texas. ■

## 2010 Award Series

At the Annual Banquet held the 30th of January, the Society’s Awards Committee presented several awards. Starting with this issue, we will be featuring some photos and the award story for various people and/or places honored with awards.



Marcie Palmer, on the left, after receiving Hall of Fame Award from Donna Eichstaedt (Photo by Doyle Piland)

### HALL OF FAME AWARD 2010

#### Marcie Palmer

*The Hall of Fame Award is designed to recognize an individual who is known for exceptional contributions to the preservation of the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley. The contribution should be of a substantial nature and be evidenced by enduring and observable worth to the Dona Ana County Historical Society and the community at large.*

It is quite possible without Marcie Palmer, those who attended the banquet would not have had the informative programs. As a DACHS board member for the past 11 years and current chairperson of the Historical Society's Awards Committee, Marcie Palmer has played a pivotal role in putting together the program for the DACHS annual banquet.

Born Marcelene Hester in the Sandhills of West Texas, Marcie went on to live in Roswell, Fort Worth,

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## History Day from Page 1

dents. The entry may be a paper, an exhibit, or a performance. The Southwest Region includes: Las Cruces, Alamogordo, Silver City, Deming, Lordsburg, and Animas. This years' theme is "Innovation in History." The Dona Ana County Historical Society will continue to award a \$250 scholarship to a senior student who advances to the state level of the contest. George Helfrich, who has been a judge for several years, says that its fun, not work, if you enjoy the company of enthusiastic children. Call Frankie Miller at 646-4431 if you would like to try your hand at being a judge. Call Cameron Saffell for more information at 522-4100. ■

## The 2010 Southern New Mexico Historical Review

For those of you who attended the Banquet on the January 30, you got to hear from Rick Hendricks and Martha Shipman Andrews, co Editors, and see a short preview of the electronic version of the *Review*. This is going to be a whole new experience for those who will get the *Review* in electronic form, be it from a CD (recommended) or from the Society's website. ■

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and Amarillo before moving to the Las Cruces area in 1991. Marcie started getting involved with history in 1998 as a volunteer at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, traveling the state interviewing farmers and ranchers, including those who employed prisoners of war as laborers during World War II.

At the urging of Bob Hart, Marcie started volunteering for the awards committee for DACHS. She has recently volunteered as a docent with the City of Las Cruces' Branigan Cultural Center Abraham Lincoln exhibit. In addition to working as a real estate agent for Steinborn GMAC, Palmer finds the time to volunteer for the Doña Ana Arts Council, Friends of the University Art Gallery, the Symphony Guild, and the steering committee of the YWCA, among others.

Marcie has two brothers and one sister, as well as four daughters and one son, all married, eight grandchildren, a great granddaughter and great grandson expected any day now. She is also a member of Well-spring Church, and enjoys bridge, gardening, beading, quilting, and painting gourds and fabric.

It was our great honor to present the Hall of Fame Award to Marcie Palmer. ■

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Doña Ana County Historical Society, P. O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004-6045

### 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 Hackler, at 521-4458.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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How would you like to receive your copy of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* (SNMHR)?  
Printed Version  Society Website Version  PDF on CD Version  No Preference



**La Cella Bella on stage performing during the January 30 Banquet (photo by Doyle Piland)**

At the Society's January 30 banquet, we were entertained by La Cella Bella, a cello quartet that specializes in arrangements of popular songs. Formed about 4 years ago, the members are four very talented ladies: Alison Reynolds, Alicia Dolan, Debbie Eckles, and

Tatianna Dickens. Their music was unique and satisfied the tastes of just about everyone. They played a wide selection of tunes which were enjoyed by the entire audience. We all enjoyed the variety of the arrangements. It was hard to believe that what we were hearing was coming from four cellos instead of a much larger selection of instruments.

**We wish to thank our  
Corporate Sponsors**

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