



NEWSLETTER

October 2010

President's Comments

By: George Hackler

Doña Ana County Historical Society

Time marches on. The Doña Ana County Historical Society has been around for almost a half century. Our supporting volunteers are growing older along with the rest of creation. Attendance at our membership meetings and awards banquet is falling off. And last but equally important the average age of our membership is creeping up. None of these things are fatal by themselves but they are leading indicators of trouble down the road. I want to start a conversation on how we can meet these challenges and achieve our mission. .

The mission statement of DACHS is; "It shall be the purpose of the Doña Ana County Historical Society to encourage in every way possible a greater appreciation of New Mexico history, especially that of Doña Ana County, through aid and assistance, when practical, and as funds are available, for the following purposes: the publication of historical material; the marking of historical routes and sites, both public and private; the establishment of historical collections and museums; the preservation of historic documents; artifacts, and published materials of historic importance; the purchase and preservation of historic landmarks; and all other related activities." Any and all suggestions and ideas as to how we can best live up to our mission statement are welcome.

To collect ideas and to stimulate this discussion we are attaching a survey form with this newsletter. Please take the time to ponder our future, make suggestions, and answer the questions. If you have e-mail and are comfortable with it re-



Martha Shipman Andrews

MARTHA SHIPMAN ANDREWS BIOGRAPHY

—Native of Kansas City, Missouri

—Graduate of Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts with an A. B. in History of Art

—Began her career in the museum world of Washington, D. C. with stints at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Institution's National Collection of Fine Arts (now called the American Art Museum) where for many years she was coordinator of what was then one of the world's longest lists—an Inventory of American Paintings in both public and private collections throughout the world.

—After earning her Master's in Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh, she became Archivist of The Madeira School in McLean, Virginia - a boarding and day school for girls that was about to celebrate its centenary and needed the records of its pioneering founder, Mrs. Lucy Madeira Wing, organized.

See President on Page 2

See Martha on Page 2

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Calendar

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

Thursday, November 18, 2010 @ 7:00 pm
To Be Announced

December, 2010
No Program

All meetings of the Society are normally at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of the months of Feb. - May and Sept - Nov. in the Good Samaritan Auditorium at 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

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President from Page 1

ply by e-mail, if not fill out the form and mail it back to us.

With sadness we report, long time supporter and Secretary Judy Vaughn is suffering very serious health problems and has had to resigned as Secretary. Judy was very private about her problems and so I have been hesitant to share this news with you. However upon learning that she has undergone several threatening surgeries I'm compelled to share this news with you. ■

Martha from Page 1

—After her son and daughter had safely graduated from college six years ago, she sought adventure and new horizons and accepted an offer to become University Archivist of NMSU where she acquires, processes, and promotes the use of the records of New Mexico's first institution of higher learning. Articles on the early history of the school have earned her the Doña Ana County Historical Society's Gemoets and Stoes Prizes for outstanding historical writing. This past year she was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.

Among the papers of the College of Engineering she discovered the remarkable—and unique—collection of correspondence carried on by Dean Daniel B. Jett and former students of State College during World War II. Her resulting book, *THE WHOLE DAMNED WORLD*, has won several awards including the 2009 New Mexico Book Awards for Best History Book and Best Book About New Mexico. ■

**DACHS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
OCTOBER 21, 2010**

The collection of letters written to and from Dean of Engineering Daniel B. Jett during World War II and housed in the NMSU Archives is truly a local treasure. Few institutions are so lucky to have collections that perfectly and dramatically illuminate the life of an unsung but nonetheless extraordinary individual as they also bring alive the events of a monumental era in our State's history.

On October 21 in honor of the upcoming Veteran's Day, Martha Andrews, University Archivist, will be joined by Lt. Col. Stephen Groll, Dr. Richard Rundell, librarians Cindy Pierard, Molly Molloy, Theresa Westbrook, and Charles Stanford, and singer Daniel Sandino-Molloy as well as AFROTC cadets from New Mexico State University to present a reading of a small sample of the nearly 5000 letters contained in this remarkable collection. The selected letters will follow a few of Dean Jett's Aggie correspondents from advanced training through deployment in major actions in every theatre of World War II and from within every branch of the Services. ■

2010 Award Series

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



De La O Saloon circa 1907

See Award on Page 3

Award from Page 2

ENDANGERED BUILDING WORTHY OF PRESERVATION

This award is given to a building that is distinguished by its age and historical character; its historical significance, or that represents architectural character.

De La O Saloon, Cristo Rey Street, Doña Ana

Lying along the original El Camino Real in the historic village of Doña Ana, the De La O Saloon building served for years as a bar and a community gathering place, as well as a residence. Historians believe the one-story adobe was built sometime between 1845 and 1852, shortly after the founding of the village of Doña Ana.

For the last several years, the deteriorating condition of the building and its 150-year old adobe walls has forced it to become boarded up and vacant. In November 2009, the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance named the De La O Saloon to its annual listing of New Mexico's Most Endangered Places.

Recently acquired by Doña Ana County, along with the Henry Wertheim Store building next door, the De La O Saloon will soon become a centerpiece of a \$1 million project to restore and convert both buildings into the village's first visitor's center.

The Doña Ana Heritage Corporation is working with the county and the Santa Fe-based architectural firm Conron

and Woods Architects to develop a renovation plan that adheres to the building's historical identity while insuring public safety and accessibility.

Funded through capital outlay funding secured in 2007 by State Sen. Mary Jane Garcia, D-Doña Ana, a village historian and member of the Doña Ana Heritage Corporation, the project could be completed within the next two years. It is the latest phase in restoration projects, the most significant being the restoration of the historic Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria church that sits across the old El Camino Real from the De La O Saloon. ■



Boarded up vacant De La O Saloon circa 2009

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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 _____
Check # _____

Name(s) _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____ Newsletter via E-mail Yes No

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

**We wish to thank our
Corporate Sponsors**

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**We Welcome These
New Members**

Aaron & Elizabeth Basher



The Lily Fountain at New Mexico State University Campus circa 1960. Photo compliments of Physical Science Laboratory

At our last membership meeting on September 16, we were fortunate to have our program speaker come to us all the way from Santa Fe. Margaret Moore Booker discussed her recent publication entitled "The Santa Fe House: Historic Residences, Enchanting Adobes, and Romantic Revivals." Margaret used a very well done, informative slide show along with her presentation and talked us through the various periods of architectural styles. Her slideshow illustrated the overall styles with example photos as well as some of the intricate details that



Margaret Moore Booker with George Hackler after her presentation at our 16 September meeting

were unique to certain periods. After her presentation, Margaret had books for sale and signed books for those who purchased them. It was a very informative and interesting presentation enjoyed by all.

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SNMHR Co-chair: Martha Shipman
Andrews
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Education Chair: Frankie Miller
www.donaanacountyhistoricalsociety.org



SURVEY FORM

1. What do you think of our current Membership meeting time and place? (Good Sam's, 7:00pm Thursday evenings)

2. What do you think of our annual Awards Banquet time and place? (Hotel Encanto, evening late January)

3. Your evaluation of the Southern New Mexico Historical Review (SNMHR) this year. CD format? Etc.

4. Your evaluation of the News Letter

5. Any thing else on your mind?

**Mail completed form to: Dona Ana County Historical Society, PO Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004
OR e-mail to riburn@q.com**