



NEWSLETTER

November 2010

President's Comments

By: George Hackler

THE FUTURE. Please take the time to study your reply and fill in and return the survey form in October's News Letter. The future of The Doña Ana County Historical Society may well depend on your replies. If we continue on our present course we could just fade away like the old soldier, for the same reason. We need to attract and enlist some younger soldiers. We sent the survey form to almost 200 people and as of this writing we have only received 4 replies.

We were just treated to the best program of the entire year and yet had the lowest member turn out. What kind of programs do you like best? Do we need a program every month or would a meeting/program every other month work better? Or maybe just meet every quarter. The survey form is meant to provoke responses to these kind of questions.

We are aware that there are many more opportunities and demands on your attention. The farm and Ranch Museum has excellent programs. The Oral history group continues to have interesting programs and Branigan Cultural Center presents good programs every month. The new, larger home for The Museum of Natural History will soon be ready allowing for greater displays and programs.. And lets face it, old age places more demands on our attention too.

The Doña Ana County Historical Society is the same sound organization we have always been. We have an excellent treasurer and accounting system. We are fiscally responsible and conservative and not rich, but in sound condition financially. Our membership base is large and has always been supportive. However the world in which we operate has changed around us. HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIT IN? Let us know.

One final word, the Treasurer reminds us that 2011 membership dues are payable any time now. ■

November 18th Program

LeRoy Unglaub will give a PowerPoint presentation titled: "**Jornada-Mogollon Iconography** – The Rock Art of Southern New Mexico and West Texas." It is a survey of the Jornada-Mogollon rock art style, petroglyphs and pictographs, found at various sites in Southern New Mexico and West Texas with emphasis on the Three Rivers Petroglyph site. ■



LeRoy Unglaub armed with his camera and tripod at a Rock Art location

LeRoy Unglaub is a retired electronics engineer who got bitten by the rock art bug about 18 years ago and lives in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He is currently a member of three archaeological societies (Doña Ana Archaeological Societies, El Paso Archaeological Societies & NM Archaeological Societies) and three rock art associations (the American Rock Art Research Association, the Utah Rock Art Research Association and the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association). He has participated in the documentation of rock art sites, has given lectures on rock art to archaeological societies, rock art associations, and many other clubs and organizations, and has led field trips to rock art sites in southern New Mexico and west Texas. This presentation is on Jornada-Mogollon rock art, the predominate rock art style found in southern New Mexico and west Texas. ■

Doña Ana County Historical Society

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Calendar
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Thursday, November 18, 2010 @ 7:00 pm
LeRoy Unglaub - **Jornada-Mogollon Iconography – The Rock Art of Southern New Mexico and West Texas**

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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2010 Award Series
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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.

NOTEWORTHY RENOVATION OF A HISTORIC PROPERTY

This award recognizes a renovation (interior and exterior) of an historic home or building in Doña Ana County. Residential homes and commercial/industrial buildings in the county are eligible and owners may also nominate. (Homes or buildings renovated expressly for the purpose of selling them will not be considered).

Thomas Tate House
603 W. Las Cruces Ave.
Alameda-Depot Historic District

The Thomas Tate House represents one of the most deliberate and attentive renovations of a historic structure in Las Cruces. Homeowner Cliff Schlothauer began working with builder Kevin McGinley in 2008 on an extensive renovation of the Tudor Revival house, built in 1907 for Thomas Tate,



owner of the Las Cruces Lumber Company.

Designed by builder Chris Hansen, a native of Denmark, the house's many distinct features include a multi-paned Palladian window with a Keystone arch facade and a Dutch Colonial-style parapet over the side bay window. In 1950, the original rock, open-air terrace, with views of Pioneer Park, was converted into a glass-enclosed sunroom.



Schlothauer and McGinley sought to recreate and adhere to the house's Tudor character, ordering fixtures like a French Empire chandelier dating to 1865, and a large Victorian mirror from a mansion in Maine. Carpenters replaced damaged woodwork, archways, and the living room mantle, and virtually all of the windows.

The upstairs loft, a barely functional space before restoration, was transformed into an expansive study and library. To access the loft, the original narrow staircase was replaced, with McGinley incorporating much of a black walnut staircase that Schlothauer saved from a house, since torn down, built on Court Street in 1870. ■

NOTEWORTHY RENOVATION OF AN HISTORIC PROPERTY

Narciso Alvarez House and Studio
622/624 Mesquite Street
Mesquite Street Historic District

Narciso Alvarez was a postmaster and highway builder, and began constructing this adobe on Mesquite Street more than 110 years ago. Like many vernacular adobes, the house evolved over time, with rooms added on as families grew, and the wall thickness varied with each



See Award on Page 3

Award from Page 2

cycle of construction. The building's most significant feature, the parapet, was believed constructed after the building's full 75-foot length was complete.

Two separate structures comprise the property, a home and a studio. It is listed as a significant structure within the National Historic Register listing for the district, and the mother of former New Mexico governor Jerry Apodaca was born in the north side in the early 1900s.



The building was in disrepair when purchased in 1998 for \$14,000. Over the next five years, Todd Coberly carefully restored the building's northern structure, using a lime base for the walls and taking into account its historical character. Electrical and plumbing systems were

replaced. Double-hung windows were rebuilt and materials were matched and incorporated, including a deep green paint that had originally been used to trim windows, doors, and posts.

In 2005, local adobe builder Bob Pattison began the renovation of the second structure on the south side, reinforcing existing walls and adding rooms, including a second story bedroom. Once again, plumbing, electricity, floors, and the roof were replaced. Old wood flooring was used to build kitchen cabinets and homemade doors, and a new wood stove warms the home during cold winter nights. Owner and sculptor Rachael Stevens believes the Alvarez House stands as a community landmark building, "solid and strong." ■

BUILDING OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE 2010 Jacobco Chavez House Alameda-Depot Historic District Owner, Cliff Schlothauer

As one of only a few Adobe Vernacular buildings in the Alameda-Depot Historic District, the Jacobco Chavez House is also one of its most unique. Its construction pre-



ceded the coming of the railroad to Las Cruces in 1881, which led to the development of what became the Alameda-Depot neighborhood. Believed to have been built some-time around 1865, and altered in

phases over time, the building originally served as a travelers' stop and livery stable for those stopping along the *El Camino Real*. Heavy lintels are set above its windows and doors, and the interior *sala* houses two beehive fireplaces.

Long and rectangular in shape, with numerous exterior doors that hint at its multiple uses as a residence and commercial space, the Chavez House also boasts a Spanish-Pueblo Revival courtyard enclosed within a high adobe wall. ■

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

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
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October 21st Program

As George Hackler mentioned, we had a great program at our October 21st meeting. Our programs usually consist of one presenter and a slideshow covering their subject. This time, Martha Shipman Andrews brought a stage full of people and a slideshow, to tell a very meaningful story about Dean Daniel B. Jett and his former students who had graduated and gone off to war. From a collection of Dean Jett's letters housed at the University Library Archives, selected

letters were read by Charles Stanford, Col. Stephen Groll, Dr. Richard Mundell, Derek Gallardo, Daniel Sandino-Molloy, Cindy Pierard, Theresa Westbrook, Molly Molloy, Cadet Joel Martin, Cadet Quaid M. Honaker, and Cadet Kyle Vincent. And, there two musical interludes with Vocalist Daniel Sandino-Molloy, accompanied by Martha Andrews on the piano, featuring period appropriate songs. After a very interesting presentation, a



Group photo of those who read the letters of Dean Jett and his former students. Martha Andrews is at far left and vocalist Daniel Sandino-Malloy in Red Shirt.

highlight of the evening was the introduction of Daniel B. Jett Jr., the son of Dean Jett, who received a standing ovation from the audience to cap off the evening. ■

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