



NEWSLETTER

March 2011

President's Comments

By: George Hackler

If you have not already done so, drive out University Avenue past The Farm and Ranch Museum and look in on the new high school. It is going to be a large campus with a segregated ninth grade. Educators know that most student drop outs occur in the ninth grade. So the School Board decided to put the ninth grade in a separate campus to hold the students together as they make the transition to the more mature high school setting.

As you know we are approaching the centennial celebration of New Mexico statehood. There is a Mesilla Valley Centennial Planning Committee collecting and planning a series of celebration events. You are invited to add any suggestions that you think would add to the celebration. The Committee meets at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum at 2:00 pm every third Wednesday of each month. You are welcome to join them.

At 1:35 in the afternoon of January 6, 1912, in Washington, D.C., President W. H. Taft signed the proclamation making New Mexico the 47th state in the USA. Five previous efforts to transform the New Mexico Territory into the State of New Mexico had failed. Finally, at 11:35 local time, January 6, it was official! **STATEHOOD!**



At left, President W. H. Taft at the signing ceremony making New Mexico the 47th state.

Photo from Mesilla Valley Centennial Committee Brochure.



Our March 17 speaker, McKinney Briske, Park Ranger with Prehistoric Trackways National Monument

McKinney Briske graduated from the University of Arizona with a BA in Classics. She has a MA in Heritage Education and Interpretation from the University of Newcastle

upon Tyne in England. She has worked in the Heritage field with the National Park Service, non-profits or Bureau of Land Management for the past 10 years.

The Prehistoric Trackways National Monument, the United States of America's newest national monument, is right in Las Cruces' backyard. Step back into a fossilized, 280 million year old landscape, and learn about all the exciting new scientific discoveries taking place in the Monument. From fossilized trackways, to scorpion body-prints and petrified wood, the Robledo Mountains hold a unique view into the Earth's ancient history.



Prehistoric Trackways National Monument - The Rosetta Stone of the Robledos

Calendar

Thursday, March 17, 2011 @ 7:00 pm

McKinney Briske – **Prehistoric Trackways National Monument - The Rosetta Stone of the Robledos**

Thursday, April 21, 2011 @ 7:00 pm

Dorothy Cave - **God's Warrior, Last of the Frontier Priests** - her book, a Biography of Father Albert Braun, who among other accomplishments built St. Joseph's Church in Mescalero

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.

2011 Award Series

At the Annual Banquet held the 29th of January, the Society's Awards Committee presented several awards. With this issue, we start featuring some photos and the award stories for various people and/or places honored with awards.

HALL OF FAME AWARD 2011

Allan Holmes

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 Doña Ana County Historical Society and the community at large.

Since 1985, Allan Holmes and his wife Victoria have lived in and preserved the historic McBride-May House. During the same period, Holmes remained active as an historian, obtaining his master's degree in history from NMSU and recently publishing a book based on his master's thesis.

Allan was raised in Anthony, New Mexico and graduated from Gadsden High School in 1954. After serving 30 years in the U.S. Army, which included two tours of duty in Vietnam, Holmes taught history at Gadsden High School for 12 years. In 1995 he was able to get the school's original building placed on the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties.



Allan Holmes, on the right, receives Hall of Fame award from Marcie Palmer

Holmes has focused on the Civil War period in New Mexico, teaching a course on it while at GHS and publishing an article in 1994's *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* on the controversial Civil War-era general James Carleton. More recently, he turned his master's thesis into *Ft. Selden 1865-1891, The Birth, Life, and Death of a Frontier Fort in New Mexico* published in 2009 by Sunstone Press as part of the New Mexico Centennial Series. The Ft. Selden Visitors' Center uses an orientation video made by Holmes and historian Darlis Miller. ■

YOU CAN HELP

New Mexico Centennial SalsaFest

Downtown Las Cruces Partnership
575-525-1955 downtownlascrucespartnership.org

A Century of Statehood

New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum
575-522-4100 nmfarmandranchmuseum.org

The Centennial Ball

Amador Museum Foundation
575-522-1232 amadormuseumfoundation.org

New Mexico Centennial Events

New Mexico Centennial 505-984-2012 nmcentennial.org

YOU CAN BE IN THE PARADE!

- Do you have an antique car?
- Do you enjoy reenacting historic events?
- Do you belong to a group that began in Las Cruces in the last 100 years?
- Was your grandmother a witness to something historic in Dona Ana County?
- Do you have a great idea for a fun float?

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2012

There will be a parade on the day that New Mexico has been a state for one hundred years and a day. It is being planned for late morning with the first section of the parade traveling along the historic Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, now known as Mesquite Street. Newly reopened blocks of Main Street and the north roundabout will also be included. ■

Southern New Mexico Historical Review

The 2011 edition of the Historical Review will be off the press and ready for members to pick up at our March 17th membership meeting. Both the printed version and the CD version will be available. So depending upon the version you ordered please pick up your copy. For those who listed the website or "No Preference," the web version will soon be available at the Society's website at URL <http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org/>. ■

Meet Linda Galloway

Secretary, Doña Ana County Historical Society

Linda was born in Las Cruces and lived here most of her life. Her first job was with the Las Cruces Public Schools in the Administration Office where she was fortunate to make many lifelong friends and to receive an education in people skills.

Linda attended NMSU and went on to establish her own business, Pipe & Steel of New Mexico, which she ran for 10 years. From there she moved to the Gila Wilderness where she built a lodge and discovered nature at its best.

Grey Feathers Lodge was famous for its hummingbirds and attracted people literally from all over the world. When Linda sold the lodge 4 years ago, she returned to Las Cruces and began learning the lost art of making jams and jellies (which she now helps sell at the local Farmers Market).

Linda says she has always loved history and enjoys listening to stories of "how it used to be." ■

**If you haven't already done so,
renew your membership today.
Form Below!**

-----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
- 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



Dr. Jon Hunner, on the left with Marcie Palmer prior to his presentation.

At our membership meeting on the 17th of February, Dr. Jon Hunner gave a great talk about the long struggle for New Mexico to become a state. Dr. Hunner, who is the Academic head of the History Depart-

ment at New Mexico State University, is the author/co-author of numerous books dealing with history in our state. Books include *J. Robert Oppenheimer, the Cold War, and the Atomic West, The Mesilla Valley: An Oasis in the Desert, Las Cruces (NM) (Images of America), Inventing Los Alamos: The Growth of an Atomic Community*, among others.

Dr. Hunner discussed the long struggle and political considerations that continually sidetracked and delayed the New Mexico territory's efforts to become a state. All the wait and effort finally paid off on January 6, 1912, when President W. H. Taft signed the proclamation making New Mexico the 47th state. The presentation was very enjoyable and informative.

Dr. Hunner is very involved in the

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**We Welcome These
New Members**

Marty Rennert

events leading up to the state's Centennial celebration. He has partnered with the Las Cruces Public School district to involve LCPS students with his University students to help raise awareness of the Centennial events. Several of these events are shown at various places in this Newsletter. ■

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 Historian: Vacant
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 Martha Shipman Andrews
 Mary Lou Pendergrass
 Jim Eckles
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