



NEWSLETTER

April 2011

President's Comments

By: George Hackler

THE SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW

Martha Shipman Andrews is the editor of the the Review and this year she had to put the Review together without the help of co-editor Rick Hindricks who moved away to Santa Fe to head the State museum system . Martha and her contributors did a masterful and professional job. The Review is a much requested and used research source by serious history scholars. Many thanks to Martha.

Printing costs have been steadily rising every year for the last several years. The Board agreed that we will have to return to the policy charging members \$5 for the printed copy of the review next year. The Board has not yet discussed what if any charge will be assigned to a CD. Thanks to Doyle Piland the cost of producing a CD is less than half that of the printed copy. Our efforts to cut printing costs last year by offering the Review on a CD were only marginally successful. Ninety eight percent of the members who indicated a preference said they wanted a printed copy this year.

The 2011 Southern New Mexico Historical Review has been released from the printers. Printed copies are available, free of charge to members, and may be picked up at our Monthly membership meetings. CDs are also available for those few members that expressed a preference for a CD. Reviews that have not been picked up by the end of April will be mailed to members that have renewed their membership.

The Review is also available, free of charge, on our web site at URL <http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org/HistoricalReview/>

Our thanks to Bob Gamboa for the large inventory of history books he offered to the Doña Ana County Historical Society. ■

Doña Ana County Historical Society

Program for the 21 April 2011 Meeting

Ms. Dorothy Cave, will give an overview of her book, "*God's Warrior, Last of the Frontier Priests.*" Depending upon the release date, Dorothy may have copies for sale at the meeting.



Dorothy Cave

The program will comprise a few highlights in the life of an extraordinary priest, and the many arenas in which he served.

Father Albert Braun became a priest by accident—or a bit of divine irony—because of a prank only he thought funny. "I've been in trouble all my life," he often joked. A superior

chastised him as "an adventurer." Yet one bishop called his ministry "the greatest modern apostolate in the Southwest"; another called it "just short of a miracle." His beloved Mescalero Apaches called him "God's Warrior."

He often admonished lazy priests—and a few bishops—to "get off your butts and out among your people." He was hard-headed, stubborn, impatient. His humor—often testy but never unkind—bubbled from some inner spring, and it boosted many through war, POW camps, sickness, loss, and the Great Depression. He waved aside all obstacles with a jaunty "Insignificant!" He enjoyed good whiskey—'Irish holy water' he

See Frontier Priest on Page 2

Calendar

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. Joesph's Church in Mescalero

Thursday, May 19, 2011 @ 7:00 pm
Doug Hamilton - A talk with PowerPoint slides on the "**Apache Kid.**" An outlaw more dangerous than Billy the Kid, with a tragic background as sad as Billy's

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.

Frontier Priest from Page 1

called it. His greatest fear was of idleness. He wrecked several cars with his notoriously terrible driving.

And he loved all mankind, from the lowest field worker to such dignitaries as Barry Goldwater, General Jonathan Wainwright, and Albert Fall (for whom he testified in Fall's sensational trial).

Cave will cover portions of his life among the Mescalero Apaches, his cloak-and-dagger action as a secret agent for the Catholic underground during the bloody Marxist revolution in Mexico, his highly decorated combat service in both World Wars, his time as a Japanese POW, his work for the 8,000 poverty-stricken braceros in South Phoenix, for whom he raised dust in the barrios and hell in the city council, his ringside seat at the birth of the H-bomb, his building of churches, chapels, schools—and lives.

Dorothy will close with the padre's death and his burial in Mescalero, where his heart had always been, among his dearest people, in what is still called his 'Apache cathedral.' ■

BIO SKETCH: DOROTHY CAVE

Background

Education: Agnes Scott College, Universities of Colorado and Wyoming. BA, MA, history. Cave has danced with the Atlanta Ballet, and taught history until resigning to write full time.

Publications

Articles:

New Mexico Magazine

- "Return from Bataan," September 1995.
- "Pecos Valley Scarecrows," July 1996.
- "First Thanksgiving—Where?" November 1997.
- "Bat Bombs Away," September 1999.
- "Restoring Faith," December 2000.

The Way

- "To Light Their Lives Forever," May-June 2001.
- Victory in World War II: The New Mexico Story, ed. Gerald W. Thomas et al, 1994. "*Beyond Courage: Men of Bataan.*"

Books in Print:

- Beyond Courage. Yucca Tree Press 1992, 1996, 2001. Sunstone Press 2006. Winner of New Mexico Presswomen's Zia Award 1994. History.
- Four Trails to Valor. Yucca Tree Press 1997. Sunstone Press 2007. History.
- Mountains of the Blue Stone. Sunstone Press 1998. Novel.
- Song on a Blue Guitar. Sunstone Press 2002. Novel.

Soon to be Released:

- God's Warrior: Father Albert Braun, OFM, Last of the Frontier Priests. Biography.

Honors and Awards

Dorothy Cave's literary credits include two Southwest Writers -Awards, the Manuscript International Award for Short Fiction, the Simon Scanlon Award, and the New Mexico Presswomen's Zia Award. She has served as historical consultant for two film documentaries: COLORS OF COURAGE, produced by Scott Henry and E. Anthony Martinez for the University of New Mexico's Center for Regional Studies; and Aaron Wilson's award-winning A NEW MEXICO STORY, based largely on her *Beyond Courage*. She appears in both films as narrator/commentator. *Beyond Courage* also inspired composer Stephen Melillo's musical opus of the same title, acclaimed on two continents.

Speaking Activities

Dorothy Cave speaks frequently to civic, historic, and writers' groups, has presented papers at scholarly sessions and participated in historic and literary symposia. She is listed in the New Mexico Historical Society's Speakers Bureau.

Groups to whom she has spoken include New Mexico State University, Clovis Community College, Eastern New Mexico University, Cannon Air Force Base, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico National Guard, the Wheelwright Museum, and the New Mexico and Arizona Historical Societies. ■

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.



Marcie Palmer, left, presents the "Noteworthy Restoration of an Historic Property" Award to Al and Vicky Holmes

NOTEWORTHY RESTORATION OF AN HISTORIC PROPERTY

The McBride-May-Holmes House

Al and Vicky Holmes have assumed a sense of responsibility to preserve their home at the west end of Townsend Terrace off North Alameda Boulevard. The 11-room, Territorial-style adobe home dates to at least the 1890s and was once part of the Alameda Ranch Resort, a turn-of-the-century tuberculosis sanitarium operated by Dr. Robert E. McBride. In 1924, Vicky's great uncle and aunt Vincent and Mirian May purchased the home. DACHS honored it in 1977 as a structure worthy of preservation. It was passed down to the Holmeses, who have restored or preserved features like the original wood floors, unusually high doors, interior cabinets, metal roof, and most of the windows. They also hired a local artist to carve a statue of St. Francis out of a century-old mulberry in front. ■

Southern New Mexico Historical Review

The last chance to pick up your copy of the 2011 edition of the Historical Review will be at our April 21st 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. If you don't pick it up, the society will have to go to the trouble and expense of packaging it and mailing it to you. The web version is available at the Society's website at URL <http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org/HistoricalReview/>. ■

-----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 _____
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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



McKinney Briske holding a photo of one of the prehistoric trackways found in the Monument

At the Historical Society's monthly meeting, we normally have speakers who give talks and slide show presentations on various subjects with an historical theme. Well,

compared to the presentation by McKinney Briske at our March 17, 2011 meeting, the previous presentations were "current events." Her talk was about the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument, just a little northwest of Las Cruces. The history McKinney presented was roughly 280 million years ago. Now, that is real history.

The Prehistoric Trackways National Monument is not easily accessible and so, many of us will never be able to navigate the terrain to see the Trackways within the Monument. So, with McKinney's slide show, we were able to see many interesting locations and with her easy to understand interpretations, we now have a much better understanding of the historical significance of the area now

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within the Newest National Monument.

The slide show featured things like fossilized trackways, scorpion body-prints and petrified wood. Also, there were slides with quotes from scholars and researchers from around the world talking about the significance and importance of the discovery by Jerry MacDonald, of the Trackways in the Robledo Mountains with specimen from the Permian Period, 280 million years or so ago. ■

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