



NEWSLETTER

May 2011

Doña Ana County Historical Society

President's Comments

By: George Hackler

The responses to the survey last year indicated that the membership wanted more field trips. The board has discussed this and produced a number of ideas. The first comes from an informal poll conducted at the last membership meeting. A number of members have never been to Fort Cummings. A smaller number did not know where Fort Cummings is located. So our first field trip will be to Fort Cummings. The fort is located a few miles north of highway 26 between Hatch and Deming.

The fort was established in 1862 and construction started the next year. The fort was located near Cooke's Spring to quell Indian depredations in the vicinity. Indeed the area around the fort and on the Butterfield Trail was the most dangerous in the whole 2900 miles of the trail. A Butterfield station was built near the spring in 1858. The foundation remains of the station and part of the fort can still be seen. George Hackler will give a short talk about the history of the area.

We can drive to the location. Four wheel drive is not required however more clearance than the family sedan has, will be needed. On June 11th at 9:00am, the caravan will assemble at the Pan American Center in the east side of the east parking lot. Wear a brimmed hat, good walking shoes, bring a lunch and extra water. The important remains can be see within a short level walk.

Please fill in and return the form at the bottom of the next page page so we can see how many people need rides and how many have extra seats.

After our last meeting and program on Father Braun, folks were heard saying it would be nice to do a field trip to see Saint Joseph's Church in Mescalero. This will be our next field trip. Details will follow, as we need to contact the director of the refurbishment project to see when we might go. ■

Program for the 19 May 2011 Meeting

Our program will be a talk with PowerPoint slides on the "Apache Kid" by Doug Hamilton.



Doug Hamilton

Doug Hamilton received the Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University, and was for 30 years Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of Arizona. His research included digital circuit design, integrated circuit design and fabrication, and electronic packaging engineering.

Since retiring he has been doing research on Southwestern history. He was a member of the team that rephotographed Gustaf Nordenskiöld's scenes at Mesa Verde National Park, for the *Nordenskiöld Centennial* in 1990.

Doug is co-author of several textbooks, of *Photographing Mesa Verde: Nordenskiöld and Now*, a book in the Mesa Verde Centennial Series, and the monograph *Military Debacle in Cottonwood Wash: the Apache Ambush of Captain Frank Millar and Assistant Surgeon Benjamin Tappan, Jr*. He is currently working on a series entitled *It Happened Here*; video documentaries and history slide shows filmed at the locations of historic events. His video *Escape of the Apache Kid* will be shown on the Pinal County cable channel.

Doug is a member of the Tucson Corral of Westerners International.

THE ESCAPE OF THE APACHE KID

The Apache Kid was a highly respected First Sergeant of Scouts with the Army. Unfortunately,

Calendar

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.

Apache Kid from Page 1

in 1887 he and other scouts were involved in a fracas at the army post at San Carlos, Arizona Territory. They were arrested, tried in court in Globe, and Kid was unjustly found guilty of assault with intent to commit murder. With 8 other prisoners he was being taken by stagecoach from Globe to Casa Grande; all would then be taken by train to Yuma Territorial Prison. Gila County Sheriff Glen Reynolds and Deputy Holmes escorted the party. About 60 miles north of Tucson and four miles west of Riverside, the prisoners attacked and killed Reynolds and Holmes, and escaped into the desert. All except the Apache Kid were eventually killed or captured.



Apache Kid

In this presentation Doug describes events leading up to the trial, and discusses the escape, the events that occurred afterward, and what became of the Kid. Images of the principal participants and the escape site are shown. ■

Martha Shipman Andrews is an At-Large member of the Historical Society Board of Directors and the Editor of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. She is also the New Mexico State University Library archivist.

In 2008, the NMSU Library in collaboration with Rio Grande Books published the book "*The Whole Damned World: New Mexico Aggies at War 1941-1945*" by Martha Shipman Andrews.

In January 2011, the New Mexico Book Co-op announced their list of the 100 Best New Mexico Books, in time for the New Mexico Centennial in 2012. Included on that list

was "*The Whole Damned World*" edited by Andrews, with an introduction by Richard Melzer of the University of New Mexico-Valencia.



Martha Shipman Andrews celebrates inclusion of her book in 100 Best New Mexico Books

"*The Whole Damned World*" consists of approximately 250 letters written to NMSU Dean of Engineering Daniel B. Jett by former students serving in all branches of the services and every theater of World War II. The entire collection of 5,000

letters is held by the Archives and Special Collections Department of the NMSU Library.

"*The Whole Damned World*" was previously awarded the New Mexico History Book Award, the first-ever Best New Mexico Book Award, and the Caliente Award from Reading New Mexico. ■

FORT CUMMINGS FIELD TRIP

June 11th, 9:00am Departing from East Parking Lot at Pan American Center

Names of those driving and names of passengers _____

Number of extra seats _____. Phone number/e-mail address where you can be reached in case of bad weather.

Name(s) needing a ride _____

 Phone number/e-mail address where you can be reached in case of bad weather

Mail completed form to George Hackler, 3202 Thunderbird, Las Cruces, N.M. 88011

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.

THE OLD TIMERS AWARD

Identifying a cherished object, natural phenomenon, or cultural tradition prominent in the Mesilla Valley. The Las Cruces City Hall Lions "E.J. and Mable"



Guarding the entrance to the New City Hall complex at 700 N. Main Street, is Mable on the left and E. J. on the right

For more than 40 years, two bronze lions have guarded Las Cruces' City Hall, first at the original location on Church Street and now at the parking entrance of the new City Hall downtown. They are one of many lasting legacies of Las Cruces philanthropists E.J. and Mable Stern.

E.J. Stern was born in Hungary and married his wife – she preferred the "Mable" spelling - in 1913. The Sterns moved to Las Cruces in 1917 and established the Popular Dry Goods store on Main Street. In 1926, the Sterns opened the White House, which they ran until retiring in 1946. Stern then focused on farming 1,600 acres of land and various charitable efforts. Every year at Christmas, the Sterns bought new dresses for 250 needy local girls, with Mable wrapping each gift. They gave thousands to local churches, established loan and scholarship programs for dozens of NMSU students, and donated \$60,000 toward debt and a clubhouse for the Boys and Girls Club.

In August 1968, with a new Las Cruces City Hall near done, E.J. Stern donated to the city the lion statues he had commissioned in Mexico City. The formal dedication did not occur until July 26, 1969. "I did it because I wanted to do something for the community as a whole," Stern told the Sun-News that July. The lions sat on the west entrance of City Hall, overseeing Urban Renewal, numerous parades, and the Whole Enchilada Fiesta before being rededicated in 2010, along with a time capsule from 1976, at the new City Hall. ■

CORRECTION: In the President's Comments section of the April 2011 Newsletter, there was a statement that included "Rick Hindricks who moved away to Santa Fe to head the State museum system." This statement was in error. It should have indicated that Rick had moved to become the "New Mexico State Historian."

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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



Dorothy Cave (left) and Mary Serna

At our 21 April meeting, we enjoyed a very informative and interesting presentation by Dorothy Cave, who gave an overview of her book, *“God’s Warrior, Last of the Frontier Priests.”* The book chronicles the life of Father Albert Braun, who among other things

built the Saint Joseph’s Church in Mescalero, New Mexico. Anyone driving along US Highway 70 through Mescalero on the way to Ruidoso has seen the church standing prominently on the hill above the highway. Although Dorothy’s book had been released when she was here, she had not received a shipment in time to offer them after the presentation.

Dorothy was joined by Mary Serna, who is overseeing the work restoring the Saint Joseph’s Church. Mary augmented the presentation with a photo slideshow which made the presentation more enjoyable and

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meaningful. Dorothy took the audience through the highlights of Father Braun’s life, to include two interruptions to serve as an Army Chaplain during World War I and World War II, receiving the Purple Heart and two Silver Stars for his heroic service.

He was also a prisoner of war for 40 months in the Philippines during the Bataan Death marches. Dorothy’s book will be an interesting read when available. ■

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