



NEWSLETTER

November 2011

Doña Ana County Historical Society

President's Comments

By: George Hackler

Holiday season

The Thanksgiving/Christmas season will soon be upon us. We have only one more Membership meeting, our November get-together, on the 17th. Our next assembly will be the Annual Awards Banquet, on the 28th of January next year.

Nominations for Board openings

The Board is having difficulty finding volunteers to run for office of President, and Vice President, so as of press time we have no nominations to put before our November membership meeting. Unlike the Republicans we can't get any candidates. Seriously please think about the future of your society.

Banquet plans

The Board after much research, has made plans to hold the Awards Banquet at Lorenzo's in Mesilla. The affair will be a luncheon. Starting at 12 noon with a social hour with a cash bar. Lunch will be served at 1:00pm followed by the awards ceremony. Jon Hunner of NMSU History Department has graciously volunteered to be our master of ceremony and to treat us with a reminder of how New Mexico became a state 100 years ago in January. The price will be \$30.00 for pre-registered members and guests. The banquet room is behind (south) of Lorenzo's Restaurant. There is plenty of parking in back. There will be no Silent Auction this year in order to give time for our membership to recuperate and collect items for a future auctions. Based on the difficulty of collecting items for past auctions we have exhausted our membership.

Thanks for Review Sponsors

The cost of the Banquet, the cost of printing the Review, and the cost of speakers are the three major expenses for our Society, in that order. Thanks to the number and generous contributions of Sponsors for the review, the costs of

printing the Review is almost covered. The DACHS and its officers are most grateful for their support. Our thanks to these sponsors as of press time.

Adam and Margaret Ditmore, Buddy and Margaret Ritter, Marcie Palmer, Martha Andrews, George and Alice Helfrich, Bob and Xandy Church, Dr. Gordon Owen, Bob and Pam Pick, Chuck and Zita Murrell,

Program for November

Irene Oliver Lewis, you may remember Irene. She was a program speaker at our April, 2005 meeting. She spoke on "Dichos de Mi Madre". She is going to share her "History of The Las Cruces Public School System."

Our November Program

According to Irene Oliver-Lewis, founder of Almaden Charter High School, the face of education in Las Cruces has changed considerably over the last century. She will be showing the literal changes in school faces with archival photographs that demonstrated that early area classrooms were almost all-white.



Irene Oliver-Lewis, seen here speaking at the Railroad Museum, will be the speaker for our 17 November meeting

Oliver-Lewis says access has become more universal and respectful of diverse cultures. She will show archival photos, that show a gradual increase in the number of "brown, Latino faces," though segregation of blacks continued until the 1950s in public schools.

She is expected to show photos of several long-gone schools and buildings, such as "the original Holy Cross, Loretto Academy, St. Genevieve's and early public schools including Lucero School, now the site of the library, and Union High School, which is now the district court-house."

Calendar

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Irene Oliver Lewis;

speaking on the History of the Las Cruces Public Schools System. You may remember that several years ago she presented a program on “Dichos de Mi Madre”

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 3001 Buena Vida Circle.

Field Trip to the Saint Joseph’s Apache Mission

On August 13th, we had our second field trip of the summer. Those members and guests who signed up for the field trip gathered in the east parking lot across from the Pan Am Center on the New Mexico State University campus. Plans were discussed, car pools were formed and off we went to Mescalero and the Saint Joseph’s Apache Mission for a guided tour.



**The inside of the Saint Joseph’s Apache Mission
Photo by Chuck Murrell**

Upon arrival, we were greeted by Mary Serna, who is overseeing the restoration work being done on the Mission. We started in the office trailer with a background/history briefing before proceeding to the Mission for the grand tour.

Mary explained that because of the condition of the Mission, an assessment of the building was done and an estimate of the cost was given. The cost to refurbish the Mission by a contractor was too high

to reasonably be expected to be achieved. After much discussion, the Apache tribe decided that it should send tribe members away to be trained to do the work to restore the building. After the trained tribe members returned, the restoration effort began. Although it is proceeding slowly, they are making progress.

After the tour, we all gathered at a picnic area and ate our lunch. Following lunch, we all proceeded to Las Cruces. The tour was enjoyed by all and was very informative.

The photos on these pages should give you an understanding of what the Mission is like.



**Saint Joseph’s Apache Mission, Mescalero, New Mexico
Photo by Chuck Murrell**



Photo by Chuck Murrell



Photo by Chuck Murrell



Photo by Chuck Murrell



Photo by Chuck Murrell

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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

We Welcome These
New Members

**Cindy Lucero
Sherry Fletcher and
Baxter Brown**

Last months new member was
misspelled, it should have been:

William Diven

October Meeting Program

At our last meeting on October 20, our speaker was Mr. Jim Eckles. Jim retired from the White Sands Missile Range Public Affairs Office. While working at the Missile Range, he had several occasions to be involved in one way or another in some of the searches for the Doc Noss gold that was supposedly hid-



Jim Eckles, our October meeting speaker

den in Victorio Peak located on White Sands Missile Range. The latest endeavor was conducted by a group known as “The Ova Noss

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Family Partnership.” Ova Noss was Doc Noss’s widow.

Jim showed several slides of the members of the Partnership and the operation as it proceeded without ever finding any of the gold. He discussed some of the “reality check” research that he had done which pretty much debunked most of the various claims made over the years concerning where the gold came from and how it got there.

The talk was well attended and Jim’s talk kept everyone’s attention. It was well received by the audience.

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