



# NEWSLETTER

January 2012

Doña Ana County Historical Society

## President's Comments

By: George Hackler

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and are embarking on a Happy and Better New Year.

We had to cancel our November membership meeting because of program problems. We normally hold the election of Board members at this November meeting and so it is that this year's election will be by ballot. The nominating committee has assembled a slate of candidates to fill the vacant and expiring terms of the current Board. We owe our thanks to the committee for being able to find folks to volunteer and we owe our thanks to the volunteers willing to take on the offices and work. The Society will not survive without them.

If you haven't already, please complete the ballot by voting for each position of your choice. Return the completed ballot to the secretary: Linda Galloway 620 Abby Road, La Mesa, NM 88044. All ballots must be returned before the awards luncheon.

The Society can have as many as twelve Board members. We have been operating with less for many years. A full Board will allow the new President to spread the work out so no one member carries the load. In the past folks like Christine Myers and Donna Eichstaedt did the work of three people and we became spoiled.

The news letter of a Historical Society should not be all administration news but have a bit of history in every issue. With a membership of almost 200 people we should be able to supply the editor with at least one historical article for ever issue. If you have a personal project, have read an interesting book or article, write a condensed review or summary and submit it to the editor,

Doyle Piland. (dpiland@zianet.com) Use footnotes if applicable and always recognize your sources. If it won't fit in one issue Doyle can serialize it. Doyle can also handle photographs. Let's make our News Letter a reference to be kept and used for research. If you don't see your submittals right away don't despair. Doyle would love to have a backlog with which to plan and lay out issues in advance. ■

*Editor's Note: In the November Newsletter, there was an article on the Field Trip to the Saint Joseph's Apache Mission in Mescalero, New Mexico. The following article by George Hackler gives more information about the man behind the church.*

## Father Albert Braun

By George Hackler

On April 21<sup>st</sup> of last year Dorthy Cave, author of "God's Warrior" the biography of of Father Albert Braun, Order of Franciscan Monks (OFM), talked about Father Braun at our regular membership meeting.

This review is for the many of our membership who were not able to hear her talk or have not had a chance to read her book. The world needs more people like Father Braun, although a member of a Roman Catholic brotherhood, his embrace included the whole world he encoun-

**If you haven't already,  
Renew your Membership Today  
Form on Page 3**

tered during his 94 years of service to human kind. In our limited space we can only summarize the almost 600 pages it took Dorthy Cave to tell his story.

At the youthful age of 13, young impetuous Bud Braun, on a lark and dare from friend Willie went to Santa Barbara, California with Willie to enroll in Saint Anthony's seminary high school.

His first assignment upon completing his training

was as missionary priest at the Mescalero Indian Reservation. His first objective was to travel the entire reservation, which he did, by mule, donkey, horse, and shanks mare, sleeping on the ground with the Indians.

When the United States joined in the first World War in Europe, Father Braun enlisted in the Army as a Chaplin. He soon was in the mist of the battle of the

**See Father Braun on Page 4**

**A REMINDER**

If you haven't already made your reservations for the Luncheon, please do so now. Time is running out and we need your attendance to help us show appreciation for the award winners.

**You are invited to the Doña Ana County Historical Society's Annual Awards Luncheon**

**January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at Lorenzo's Mesilla  
12:00 noon**

Beginning at noon, we will have a social hour with a cash bar, and a buffet lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m. The 2 entrées on the buffet will be Baked Penne Lasagna with Beef and Spinach Artichoke Ravioli with Red Chili Alfredo Sauce. The cost is \$27.00 per person payable in advance or at the door. For your convenience, a reservation form is included in this email, and you may email your reservation directly to Xandy Church at [xbchurch@comcast.net](mailto:xbchurch@comcast.net) Or, if you prefer, you may print it, fill it in, and snail mail it to Xandy Church, c/o DACHS, P.O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004.

Following lunch, Dr. Jon Hunner from NMSU History Department has graciously volunteered to be the Master of Ceremony for our annual awards and to treat us with a reminder of how New Mexico became a state 100 years ago this Month.

If you have any questions, please call Xandy at 526-9774.

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**RESERVATION FORM due by Saturday, January 21, 2012**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$27.00 per person TOTAL enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Will pay at the door \_\_\_\_\_

# Doña Ana County Historical Society

45th Annual Banquet January 28, 2012

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### HERITAGE AWARD

David G. Chavez

### BUILDING ADHERING TO REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE

Rose and Larry Dwyer Residence  
2127 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla

### BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Newberry Farm - 1815 Shalem Colony Trail  
Owner - Virginia Taylor  
Purchased- 1912 by John W. Newberry  
and  
The Mark Thompson House 409 West Las Cruces Ave.  
Built in 1909 for Mark & Edith Thompson  
Owner - Dr. Thomas Gerend

### NOTEWORTHY RESTORATION OF A HISTORICAL PROPERTY

De La O Saloon  
Doña Ana, New Mexico

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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 Helfrich, at 522-3477.

### 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

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### Father Braun From Page 2

Argonne Forrest, the largest American action of the war and the deadliest. It was here that Father Braun, unarmed, participated in a charge against a heavily defended German position, was shot, wounded by a piece of shrapnel that tore through his jaw and was gassed to the point of searing his lungs. And these are only the things we know about from others because he would never talk about himself. His only concern

was caring for the dead and dying around him.

After the armistice Father Braun stayed in the border area between Belgium, Luxemburg and Germany at the church's request to help rebuild the decimated congregations. While there he studied church architecture. It was here that he developed the idea for the mission church at Mescalero.

Nine months after the Armistice was signed, the army of occupation was sent home. The padre returned to Mescalero with a Purple Heart, a Silver Star, a recommendation for a Distinguished Service Cross and a dream. He immediately set about to turn an architect in New York to draw the plans for his dream of a church for his parish. Over time

these plans would become Saint Joseph's Mission Church in Mescalero.

The years that followed his return were filled with his building project and ministry to his Mescalero Reservation growing congregation. The padre had too much adventure and mischief in him to let well enough alone. The years that followed the Mexican Revolution saw laws passed that first stripped the Church of all property except the church buildings themselves, this was followed by more laws that severely limited the activities of the church and finally, under the Calles government the Church was forbidden from holding any services at all.

**To be continued Next Month**

**2011 Board Members**  
President: George Hackler  
Past President: George Helfrich  
Vice President: Vacant  
Secretary: Linda Galloway  
Treasurer: Xandy Church  
Historian: Vacant  
At-Large Board Members:  
Marcie Palmer  
C.W. "Buddy" Ritter  
Martha Shipman Andrews  
Mary Lou Pendergrass  
Jim Eckles  
Doyle Piland  
Publicity: Jim Eckles  
Website: Mary Lou Pendergrass  
Newsletter Editor: Doyle Piland  
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www.donaanacountyhistoricalsociety.org

