



NEWSLETTER

October 2012

DACHS Board Member Mary Kay Shannon



Mary Kay Shannon
Photo Courtesy Mary Kay Shannon

Museum work is a perfect fit for Mary Kay Shannon. Born in Fort Stockton, Texas during the infamous drought of the 1950's, Mary Kay is a child of the desert Southwest. She grew up and learned to love history listening to the stories of her family, from indentured Irish ancestors arriving in the New World in the early 1700's and of those who received Mexican Land Grants

in Texas in the 1820's. Her great-grandfather's adventures as a cowhand and later the cook on the Goodnight-Loving Trail ended with him becoming a successful rancher in Pecos County. Her grandparents ranched north of Magdalena and various relatives hunted for gold in California and found oil in Texas.

Mary Kay was not even ten years old when she started taking art lessons from noted artist Willie Reed Rowe at Annie Riggs Memorial Museum in Fort Stockton. By the time she was in 7th grade, Mary Kay spent her summers volunteering as a docent at the Riggs Museum.

After earning a B.S. degree in Art Education from Texas State University (then Southwest Texas State University) in San Marcos, Mary Kay began teaching art (and math) at Crosby Elementary School in El Paso, Texas. She thought she would have a long career as a teacher, but just three years later a phone call from the President of the Fort Stockton Historical Society changed her life. Mary Kay moved back to Fort Stockton to begin work as the Curator of the Annie Riggs Museum in 1981.

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Our October Program October 18, 2012



Dan Aranda
Photo Courtesy Dan Aranda

Our speaker for October is Dan Aranda. Dan is a retired firefighter from the NASA White Sands Test Facility who published his first article in the early 1970's. He regards himself fortunate in having good and talented friends who mentored his interest in history. Numbered among them are Eve Ball, Dan

Thrapp, Ed Sweeney, Adlai Feather, Lee Myers, Keith Humphries and above all, Jim Brito. Dan's interests span a broad range of topics, but he specializes in Apache history, writing, camping, backpacking and gardening.

His interest in history is augmented by membership in many history-oriented groups including the Order of Indian Wars.

Dan's topic at our meeting will be, **Death at Tres Castillos**. The presentation will deal with the death of the great Warm Springs Apache Chief VICTORIO and many of his people. The outcome of the fight signaled the end of this independent Chiricahua Apache group as well as the end of major warfare with the Apaches of northern Mexico and the USA. ■

Sagebrush & Sand Dunes

An Anthology of Southern New Mexico History

On the occasion of the Centennial of New Mexico Statehood, the Doña Ana County Historical Society has just published an anthology of outstanding articles from the society's annual journal, *The Southern New Mexico Historical Review*, which began publication in 1994. Over the course of its nineteen year history, the Review has published many fine articles that have become difficult to access because of its relatively limited circulation. *Sagebrush and Sand Dunes*, edited by Martha Shipman Andrews and

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Calendar

Thursday, October 18, 2012

Dan Aranda;

His topic will be “An anatomy of the Battle of Tres Castillos,” which took place in the fall of 1880 in Mexico.

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Rob Hinton;

His presentation is a Living History Character, a chautauqua, on Fred Harvey—“The Man Who Civilized the West.”

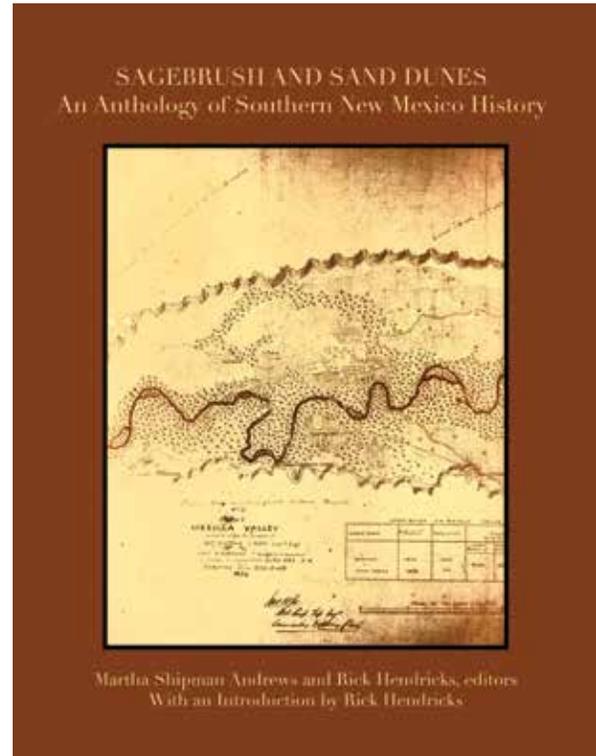
All meetings of the Society are normally at 7:00pm on the third Thursday of the months of Feb. - May and Sept - Nov. in the Good Samaritan Auditorium at 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

Mary Kay from Page 1

she developed the first professional museum standards for that local history museum, housed in an 1899 adobe hotel. She created a catalog of the collection as well as more cohesive informative displays. Working closely with the City of Fort Stockton, she helped first acquire, and then restore the post-Civil War Fort Stockton (1867-1886) opening the Fort Museum in 1991. In 1995 Mary Kay moved to El Paso where she served as the Superintendent of the Magoffin Home State Historical Site for eleven years. During her tenure, five rooms of the historic homestead were restored to the late 1890s period which included custom carpets and hand printed reproduction wall papers. Seeking the ambiance of small museum again, Mary Kay moved once more, this time to Las Cruces in 2006. As the Education Curator at the Branigan Cultural Center, she was actively involved in the opening of the Crossroads of History Exhibit that details the history of Las Cruces. While there she lead the popular cemetery tours and established the History Notes Lecture Series. She resigned in August 2010 to pursue her own interests.

She began working with the FAT Boys Historic Research Group founded by Eric Fuller, Daniel D. Aranda, and Emilio Tapia. They are now publishing a series of area travel guides: On the Road with the FAT Boys. The first two volumes cover I-25 between Las Cruces and Socorro, and the Jornada del Muerto. Volume III, a guide of 1-10 between Arizona and El Paso, is soon to hit the shelves. Some of her other publications include: Sheriff A J Royal with Bill James, in 1984; co-edited Magoffin Home: A House Where Spirits Dwell in 2000, and has had articles published in Fort Concho Report; Pecos County History Volumes I & II and Password (El Paso County Historical Society). ■

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Sagebrush and Sand Dunes Front Cover

Anthology from Page 1

Dr. Rick Hendricks, State Historian of New Mexico and a former editor of the Review, is intended to make accessible to a much wider audience some examples of the many scholarly contributions—reminiscences, biography, oral history and edited documents—that have illuminated aspects of our lively regional history.

The anthology has been arranged topically and includes seven parts: the United States Military in the Southwest, Settling Southern New Mexico, Personalities, New Mexico Statehood, New Mexico at War, the Church in Southern New Mexico, and Agriculture in the Mesilla Valley. Authors include Richard Wadsworth, Walter E. Pittman, Lee Myers, Rhonda A. Jackson, John B. Colligan, Roger D. Walker, Dan Scurlock, Mark Thompson, Karen Keehr, Nancy Shockley, General Hugh M. Milton, Marie Tighe, Frankie Miller, Theresa M. Hanley, and Jane Loy O’Cain, with additional contributions by both editors. Dr. Richard Melzer, noted New Mexico historian and professor at the University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus, has contributed an article chronicling life in New Mexico during the transition from a territorial government to statehood. The New Mexico State University Library’s Archives and Special Collections Department has contributed photographs to accompany the articles.

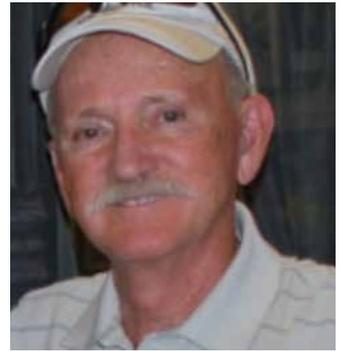
Sagebrush and Sand Dunes, published by the Doña Ana County History Society, retails for \$15.00 and is available from local booksellers and at www.amazon.com. ■



Cal Traylor standing in front of the Hearse that carried Sherrif Pat Garret to his final resting place. Cal and Bob Gamboa worked hard to obtain the Hearse and bring it back to Doña Ana County. Photo Courtesy Bob Gamboa

In 1894 it first appeared in the minutes of a meeting of the Womens Improvement Association (W.I.A), Las Cruces. It was the only hearse in the county until 1912 and the arrival of Graham's Mortuary. Prior to this hearse, coffins were carried to the grave on any conveyance drafted for a few hours. The women stored the hearse at the Amador Livery and Hotel, on Amador Street. They rented it for \$8 in town, or \$10 out of town; charity free. With the rents they purchased a city block of land from the railroad and created a park

now known as Pioneer Park. They purchased a water wagon to sprinkle the dirt streets, to reduce dust. They built the W.I.A. building still in use, it was the first library. They also had other fund raising events, but the hearse was the most innovative.



Bob Gamboa
Photo Courtesy Cal Traylor

In 1908 when Pat Garrett's body was buried, it must have traveled on this hearse; thus the title Pat Garrett Hearse. Graham's also offered a motorized Buick hearse, and slowly the market went to Graham's. The hearse was sold to Hal Cox, who removed the top and used the remainder as a farm wagon. Again, the hearse was abandoned in favor of motorized vehicles, the pieces were heaped aside. An antique Dealer from Silver City bought the heap, and moved it to Silver City.

Frank Tastch (Tash) had a museum in Pinos Altos, he bought the heap and "reconstructed it as close to original as possible." Frank died, and his son Dink inherited it. Antiques were not for Dink

This year the hearse was purchase by Cal Traylor, and same day delivered and donated to the Doña Ana Sheriff's Museum, south end of the government building. Bob Gamboa was vital to this process, and his 66 photos of the transfer are of historic importance. There were many other helpers, too many to name here. ■

-----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 fees 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 575-526-9774 (May-Sept. 575-536-9728) or the President, Marcie Palmer, at 575-496-4736.

Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates

Individual \$20 Family \$25 Student \$8 Contributor \$40 Benefactor \$150 Life \$300
Southern New Mexico Historical Review Sponsorship \$50

Is this 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 <i>Southern New Mexico Historical Review</i> (SNMHR)? Printed Version <input type="checkbox"/> Society Website Version <input type="checkbox"/> PDF on CD Version <input type="checkbox"/>

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Banquet Reminder

Mark your calendars now for the DACHS 46th Annual Banquet to be held on Saturday, January 26, 2013, at the Picacho Country Club. We will be celebrating the fiftieth year of the Society and the twentieth year of the Southern New Mexico Historical Review, making this banquet particularly special. Again this year, the banquet will be a luncheon and the cost is \$20/person. The Butterfield Overland Trail and Picacho Peak will highlight the awards for historically significant properties. If you have photographs or anecdotal stories about either, please contact Susan Krueger 640-4266 and thanks. ■



Frank Parrish

Our many thanks to Frank Parrish for his presentation at the September meeting. He is an outstanding speaker on one of the area's most fascinating topics: Billy the Kid. He set the scene for the George Griggs' Billy the Kid Museum, explaining who was involved, when and how. Then he showed a DVD with voice over details of Billy the Kid artifacts once in Frank's possession, each one as interesting as the next. ■

~ Buffalo Roast ~

Explore the past so we can continue to do so. Enjoy this educational, fun-filled dinner reminiscent of New Mexico's unique past. The fundraiser supports Human Systems Research and helps continue the organization's exploration into the rich archeological history of southern New Mexico.



**Dinner, Live Music, Silent Auction
Saturday, Oct. 13**

5 p.m. - Human Systems Research and Silent Auction open
6-8 p.m. - Dinner served. Cash bar with beer and wine

**Beverly Hills Hall,
150 N. Hermosa Ave., Las Cruces
\$30 per person**

**For tickets & information,
call 524-9456, 640-0201 or 649-4396**

Catered by
Carol Hoening of Celebrations, Juan Morales of Santa Fe Grill

Live Entertainment:
Original Ballads by Bob Diven
Folk Music by The Nobody Fools (Chris and Holly Schurtz)
Songs of the New Mexico Landscape by Lillis Urban

DJs:
Tara and Justin Hubbard
Playing vinyl classics of country, blues and jazz

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