



NEWSLETTER

February 2013

DACHS Board Member and Newsletter Editor Doyle Piland



Doyle was born and raised in south central Missouri near the small town of Ava, where he went to high school, graduating in 1955. After a couple years working as a welder in Tulsa, Oklahoma he joined the Army to complete his military obligation before being drafted. Twenty Two and a half years later, he retired from the Army, having earned his BSEE degree, from New Mexico State University, along the way.

During his Army career, Doyle was stationed in Arkansas, Maryland (2 times), Texas, Alabama (3 times), New Jersey, and New Mexico (2 times). He also served overseas tours in Germany (2 times), Okinawa, Kwajalein, and Korea. His career focused mostly on Air Defense Missile Systems with primary specialty being radar. His radar assignments were repair of malfunctions and as a classroom instructor at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

In 1980, Doyle was hired by White Sands Missile Range as an Electronics Engineer and worked another Seventeen and a half years then retiring with 40 years total active federal service. At White Sands his work was with Research and Development of Air Defense missile systems and design of instrumentation and software for testing various military and civilian systems.

In retirement he has kept himself busy as the volunteer Archivist for the White Sands Missile Range Museum for over 12 years. He also volunteers with the Sun Country Striders, a walking club, the White Sands Missile Range Historical Foundation, and as a Doña Ana County Historical Society board member and Newsletter Editor. ■

Our February Program

Our February meeting will feature a presentation by members of the "FAT" Boys. The group has developed a series of three guides pointing out and detailing the historic places along three highways we normally travel. They will present some highlights about things that we have been passing by for years without knowing the historic significance of them. As usual, the meeting will be on the third Thursday, 21 February at the Good Samaritan Auditorium at 7:00 pm.



Dan Aranda, Emilo Tapia and their Guide (at right)

In 2012 the FAT Boys received a small research grant from the Dona Ana County Historical Society to complete a guide to the famed Jornada del Muerto. The February program, will be presented by Dan Aranda, Emilo Tapia, and Mary Kay Shannon, and will share highlights from the guide that resulted. Fuller will be on hand and have copies of all three guides for sale and Lopez will make every effort to attend.

The FAT Boys definitely are skilled with knife and fork, but the name does not necessarily describe them.

Eric Fuller is a life- long rock hound who loves to explore the back country in his four wheel drive.

Dan Aranda is a well- known published historian and authority on Apaches.

See FAT Boys on Page 2

FAT Boys from Page 1

Emilio Tapia grew up working the land and is proud of his Native American ancestry.

These three men are joined by artist and old west historical illustrator “Mesilla Joe“ Lopez and Mary Kay Shannon, a museum curator/historian and artist.

Put all of their talents and passions together and you have the FAT Boys.

They are authors and artists of a series of travel guides focusing on southern New Mexico. *On the Road with the FAT Boys* explores the highways and byways of our desert region. There are three titles in the series: I-25 between Las Cruces and Socorro, Jornada del Muerto, and (recently released) I-10 from Texas to Arizona. The guides point out the mountains, valleys and villages, a little history, some geology, and odd bits of trivia. They also share compelling stories of survival and failures and of explorers, scalawags and settlers. ■



DA: Dan Aranda MK: “MK” Shannon ET: Emilio Tapia

Notice of Board Member Election

At our February meeting there will be an election to fill the four open Board positions. The positions of Treasurer, Secretary, and two Board Members at Large will be nominated and voted on. The Board has received notice from the current positions holders that they are willing to continue to serve. If anyone would like more information about being a Board member or about a particular position, please call Marcie Palmer at 496-4736. Nominations from the floor will be welcome prior to the vote. ■

Awards Luncheon

On Saturday, 26 January we held the Society’s Annual Awards Luncheon at the Picacho Hills Country Club. The Master of Ceremony was Scott Green, from the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, who assumed the identity as a Stage Coach Driver (see page 4). For those who were unable to attend, the awards presented this year were as follows:

- Property of Historical Significance, Endangered Historic Property, and Property Worthy of Preservation
- Old Timer Award
- Heritage Award
- Hall of Fame

For this issue, we’ll give some details about the Property of Historical Significance, Endangered Historic Property, and Property Worthy of Preservation and cover the rest in the next three issues.

This year the Property of Historical Significance, Endangered Historic Property, and Property Worthy of Preservation selected for the award was the **Butterfield Trail**.

Editor’s Note: Much of the following information came from the Awards Luncheon Program by Mary Kay Shannon.

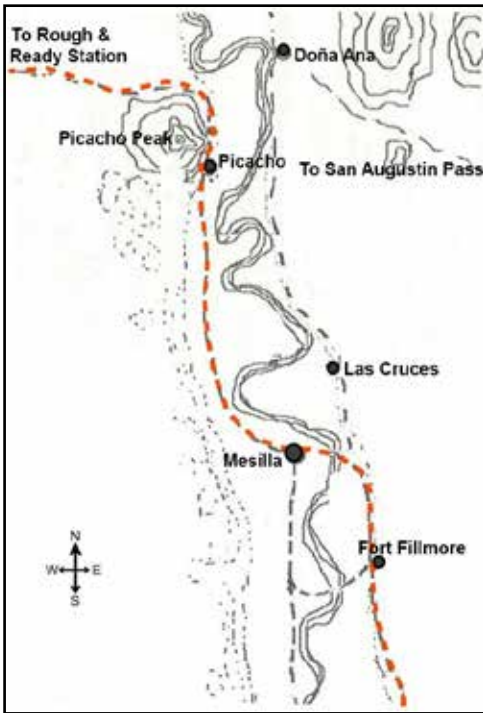
In 1857, the U.S. Congress contracted with John Butterfield to provide mail and passenger service, in 25 days or less, between St. Louis, Missouri to San Francisco, California. The contract stated that there would be two runs per week in each direction and there would be no exceptions for bad weather, breakdowns or hostile attacks.

Butterfield set a southern route to avoid harsh northern climates. Stations were established and spaced about 15 to 20 miles apart; water sources were secured; new roads were surveyed and old roads were improved. Supply bases and repair shops were set up. 1200 horses and 600 mules were procured and distributed along the route. The Butterfield Overland Stage provided the nation with regular mail delivery and passenger service until

If you haven’t already renewed your membership for 2013, Please renew your Membership Today. See form on Page 3.

the approach of Civil War and it ceased service in 1861.

The Butterfield Trail passed through New Mexico and through Doña Ana County. George Hackler, former president of the Doña Ana County Historical Society, researched the Trail in New Mexico and wrote a book titled *The Butterfield Trail in New Mexico*. His book is currently in its second edition and is available from Amazon. The Trail route as it passed through our area is depicted in the map below adapted from *The Butterfield Trail in New Mexico* by George Hackler. ■



Guest Speaker Gretchen Ward



Gretchen Ward

Gretchen Ward is currently the Chief of Planning for the National Park Service's National Trails Intermountain Region in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Gretchen gave an update on the NPS special resource study to evaluate the feasibility

and suitability of designating the Butterfield Overland Trail as a national historic trail. The Park Service expects the plan will be sent to congress next year and possibly acted on by the end of 2014.

Gretchen pointed out that within sight of the Picacho Hills Country Club Clubhouse, was a part of the original Butterfield Trail as it made its way toward Picacho Station and then around Picacho Peak before heading on to the west to Rough and Ready Station.

She discussed the type of coaches that were used on the trail and the seating arrangements along with the number of passengers that could be accommodated. There was an illustration of the normal sleeping arrangement. Since the trip took around 23 days, sleeping was a necessity and the space was limited. So, togetherness was the key word for that arrangement. ■

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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 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.

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Scott Green (above), from the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, assumed the role of a stage coach driver as he acted as the master of ceremony for the Historical Society's Awards Luncheon. As the driver, he gave us some insight into what it was like on

those 23 day trips from St Louis or Memphis to San Francisco. He talked about the rules set by John Butterfield for both his employees and the passengers. He explained the procedures followed as they approached the stations and once they arrived at the station. ■

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