



NEWSLETTER

November 2014

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Susan Krueger

Election of Officers and Board Members At-Large

At the November 20, 2014, DAC Historical Society membership meeting, we will elect three officers and four at-large board members, each to serve a two year term. The following people have submitted their names to the nominating committee for consideration: Jim Eckles for Secretary; Lutisha Piland for Treasurer; May Kay Shannon for Historian; and Buddy Ritter, Doyle Piland, Bob Gamboa and Garland Courts for board members at-large. Also, prior to voting, the Society will accept nominations from the floor. Please take a moment to visit with the Board members, new and continuing, and if there is a project you are interested in or a program you would like the Society to consider, tell one of them.

Annual General Membership Meeting and Awards Luncheon

Take a moment to mark January 31, 2015, at noon, Double Eagle Restaurant on the Mesilla Plaza, on your 2015 calendar. That is the date, time and place for the General Membership meeting and Awards Luncheon. Along with savoring great food and sharing good company, the Society will install the Board members elected in November and enjoy a program featuring a local historical preservation accomplishment. We will also honor several individuals who are known for their contribution to the historical or cultural heritage of Doña Ana County, among them Bob Gamboa and C. W. "Buddy" Ritter.

Reading Opportunities and a Call to Writers

Two books written by members of the Doña Ana County Historical Society will be available this month and both would make particularly special gifts this holiday season. Reading *Pocketful of Rockets: History and Stories Behind White Sands Missile Range*, by Jim Eckles, is as if Jim invited the reader to join him on a personal tour of the Missile Range, sharing the legends, mysteries,

See President on page 2

Our November Program

Our November 20th meeting will begin at 7:00 PM at the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. The program will feature a presentation by Nathan Brown. Nathan is the Digital Projects Librarian at the New Mexico State University Library. ■

Tradition and Controversy: The Swastika at NMSU

This presentation will examine the history and controversy behind the New Mexico State University yearbooks. It's likely that few other college yearbooks have dealt with controversy and acquired such an interesting history simply because of the name. Selected in 1907 through a student contest, the yearbook became known as the Swastika. As the years went on, as one might imagine, questions began to be raised regarding the name. However, attempting to maintain a long tradition, NMSU held on to the yearbook name for nearly 40 years after the end of World War II, when it was eventually renamed The Phoenix. Come hear this unique and interesting story and learn about one of the lesser-known aspects of NMSU history. ■



Nathan Brown

Photo courtesy Nathan Brown

Nathan Brown

Short Biography

Nathan Brown is the Digital Projects Librarian at the New Mexico State University Library, where he has been employed since August 2013. Born and raised in Idaho Falls, Idaho, upon finishing his undergraduate degree in history, Nathan first

See Nathan on page 2

President from page 1

great deeds and humorous mistakes of those who were involved with the operations of the Range. It is available at Coas, the Mesilla Book Center, Hastings and Amazon and the price is \$25.00. At the January 2014, DACHS Awards Program, Jim received the Society's Pasajero del Camino Real Award for his book.

Mesilla Comes Alive: A History of Mesilla and its Valley, by C. W. "Buddy" Ritter with Craig Holden, has been eagerly awaited since an article adapted from the work-in-progress was published in the 2014 Southern New Mexico Historical Review. With the benefit of extensive and thorough research, Buddy has challenged several long held beliefs about Mesilla's beginnings. Some of his conclusions are thought provoking while others are eye openers. Release date is planned for Thanksgiving and it will be available from Amazon. The price is \$14.99 for a copy printed in black and white and \$24.99 for full color. A hardback version will be available early in the new year.

A call to others writers: if a Society member has recently written and published or is about to publish a historical book about events, persons, places or issues in Dona Ana County that you would like the DACHS to considering featuring, email the information to Susan Krueger at skrueger575@msn.com. ■

Nathan from page 1

came to Las Cruces to pursue a Master of Arts in History at New Mexico State University, specializing in Public History. As part of NMSU's Public History Program, Nathan interned with the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, helping research and develop an exhibit on rural schoolhouses in New Mexico, and also did volunteer work at the Branigan Cultural Center. Nathan graduated from NMSU in May 2010 and later completed a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Oklahoma in 2012. Nathan was very excited to return to NMSU the following year and loves working to provide digital access to the University's rich historical collections. Nathan lives in Las Cruces with his wife Marie and two children, Lilly and Carter. ■

Buffet Luncheon Menu

Fresh Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings
Tomato, Cucumber, Onion Vinaigrette Salad
Cherry Tomato Mozzarella Salad
Medley of Fresh Vegetables
Green Chile Cheese Enchiladas
Beef Burgundy over Noodles
Freshly Baked Dinner Rolls and Butter
Assorted Desserts
Ice Tea and Coffee

Page 2

Final Report on repair of Stagecoach wheels

By George Helfrich

The repair and restoration of all four wheels of the DACHS "Stagecoach" on display at the Farm and Ranch Museum has been completed. The rear wheels were painted and mounted on the coach shortly after the last Historical Society meeting in May where one wheel was on display. The cost to repair the rear wheels was \$1,736.00 making the total cost to rebuild all four wheels \$3,270.00. Repair efforts involved complete disassembly of the wheels, replacement of most spokes with new hickory spokes and replacement of the felloes (the wood sections bolted to the steel rims) with new sections made of ash wood. The steel rims and the composition hubs were cleaned and tightened as needed. Discussions with Mrs. Toni Laumbach, NM Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum Chief Curator, concerning placement of the stagecoach in the display area in such a way to facilitate very brief removal of the coach for its possible display in community events was raised.

Brief History of the Coach:

The coach is believed to have been used to carry passengers from El Paso (Franklin City), Texas to Parral, Mexico from 1852 to 1871. Hugh Milton believed that the coach was used on the Santa Fe to Chihuahua route.

The coach was bought by Dr. Paul Jones after it was found in an old Army Garrison south of Chihuahua, Mexico around 1972

The coach was restored prior to its appearance in the 1976 Las Cruces bicentennial parade with monies raised by the high school student bodies of both Las Cruces and Mayfield.

The coach was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Paul Jones to DACHS in December 1975

The coach was inspected by Mr. Kenneth Wheeling, editor of the Carriage Journal in 2010 who identified it as a modified "Hack Passenger Waggon, Model 209" in the Abbot-Downing catalog. ■



On the left (photo courtesy G. Helfrich) is the Society's Stagecoach, on loan to the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. George Helfrich and a Wheel on Right

We're still looking for articles for the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. To submit an article or to ask questions, contact the editors by email at snmhistory@gmail.com or by phone at 915-539-3381 by November 15, 2014. ■



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

January 31st, 2015, Double Eagle Restaurant on the Mesilla Plaza; 12:00 noon

Seating for the Annual Awards Luncheon will begin at noon with the buffet lunch to be served at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$25.00 per person payable in advance or at the door. For your convenience, this reservation form is included, and you may email your reservation directly to Susan Krueger at skrueger575@msn.com Or, if you prefer, you may print it, fill it in, and snail mail it to Susan Krueger, c/o DACHS, P.O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004.

Following lunch, there will be the awards program and the installation of new Board members.

If you have any questions, please call Susan at 525-0654.

RESERVATION FORM due by Saturday, January 24, 2015

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

\$25.00 per person TOTAL enclosed

Will pay at the door

If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2015, Please renew your Membership Today. See form below.

-----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 President, Susan Krueger, at 575 525-0654.

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 _____ 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



President Susan Krueger on the left, Mary Kay Shannon and our October guest speaker, Eric Liefeld. Mr Liefeld discussed the basic styles of the Trost & Trost Architectural firm, from the beginning of the 20th Century. He showed photos of several buildings in the Las Cruces area designed by Trost & Trost. This included some new finds that had been overlooked for many years.

Thanks to our 2014 Corporate Sponsors

We encourage our Members to patronize their businesses

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Doña Ana County Historical Society
gratefully acknowledges the accounting assistance of Beasley, Mitchell & Co.
for tax preparation.

www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org

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 Past President: Marcie Palmer
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 George Helfrich
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 C.W. "Buddy" Ritter
 Mary Kay Shannon
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