



NEWSLETTER

March 2014

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Susan Krueger

I want to share with you two items that have been brought to the Board's attention and were discussed briefly at the DACHS Board meeting on February 14th. If you are interested, you can pick up more information on line and I encourage you to bring any thoughts or suggestions to the board. The first is an alert asking preservation minded organizations to help stop the looting of our history and heritage. Their complaint is against the Nat Geo Diggers programming which can and does encourage metal detecting and looting at historic landmarks on both public and private lands. They cite three programs: the National Geographic Channel's Diggers, the Travel Channel's Dig Wars and Spike TV's American Diggers, saying that these programs promote the idea that our history is for sale to anyone with a metal detector, that artifacts are mere trinkets and only have value when dug up, turned into a commodity and sold. In New Mexico and Arizona, the NM archaeological council and the NM Heritage Preservation Alliance along with the Arizona Historical Society are supporting this alert. The original email to the DACHS came from Lynda and James Sanchez, diamondjnl@pvtnetworks.net.

The second is a series of prestigious, national awards offered by the American Association for State and Local History. Two examples of awards are contemporary history projects that actively engage the community and historic preservation projects for landscapes, buildings, etc. with interpretation. Their

Our March Program

Our March 20th meeting will begin at 7:00 PM at the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. The program will feature Dwight Pitcaithley with a presentation titled "Did Southern New Mexico Really Secede in 1861?: A Comparative Analysis."

The presentation will examine the alleged 1861 secession of southern New Mexico from northern New Mexico and the United States in light of secession movements in the eleven Confederate states. It will examine the available evidence and a comparison of the players involved. ■

Dwight T. Pitcaithley

Dwight T. Pitcaithley is College Professor of History at New Mexico State University. He retired from the National Park Service in 2005



Dwight T. Pitcaithley

Photo courtesy Dwight Pitcaithley

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as Chief Historian, a position he held for ten years. He is the co-editor of *The Antiquities Act: A Century of American Archaeology, Historic Preservation, and Nature Conservation* (2006), and has contributed chapters to *Becoming Historians* (2009), *Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory* (2006), *Preserving Western History* (2005), *Public History and the Environment* (2004), *Myth, Memory, and the Making of the American Landscape* (2001), *Seeing and Being Seen: Tourism in the American West* (2001). He was elected as a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 2013, received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of North Carolina in 2011, and in 2005, the Organization of American Historians awarded him its Distinguished Service Award. ■

2014 Awards

At The Historical Society's Annual Awards Luncheon on January 25, 2014, several awards were presented. This month we will feature the following award:

Old Timers Award:

Fabian Garcia Science Center

The Fabian Garcia Science Center has been an integral part of the land grant mission of New Mexico State University for over 100 years. Experimental agricultural research has occurred here dating back to 1906 when Fabian Garcia worked at the site. Garcia, a professor of Horticulture from 1906-1945, was named the first director of the State Agricultural Experiment Station in 1913. As a horticulturist, Garcia was hailed as the "Luther Burbank of the Southwest", when he produced the first reliable chile pod. This standardized the plant for easier harvest and was the beginning of the hot "Sandia" pepper. Garcia provided rooms on this farm to house Mexican-American students during their studies at New Mexico College of Agriculture & Mechanical Arts. The Garcia Center has played an important role in the development of agriculture in the Mesilla Valley and indeed, all of New Mexico, it continues to be a vibrant station for the experimentation and development of crops from chile to cotton, from grapes to pecans, and from onions to shrimp.

The Fabian Garcia Science Center is an important part of the Mesilla Park neighborhood and is recognized with an Old Timer Award. Accepting the award was Dr. Tracey Carrillo, Assistant Director of Campus Farms Operations, NMSU Ag Experiment Station. ■



Dr. Tracey Carrillo

Photo by Jim Eckles

Editors Note: Adapted from the Awards Luncheon Program by Mary Kay Shannon

Southern New Mexico Historical Review

The 2014 edition of the Southern New Mexico Historical Review was published and available for distribution at our January 25, 2014 Annual Awards Banquet at the Double Eagle in Mesilla. The Review is available in three different formats. First, there is the printed version, second it is available in "pdf" format on a CD for viewing on a computer, and third it is available on the society's website. The website is at URL <http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org/>. Scroll down to the "Special Publications" where you will see links to editions from 2008 through 2014. Some of these may not work with all Browsers that have not implemented the full link capability of Adobe's "pdf" documents. More recent versions of Microsoft Internet Explorer work well.

The printed versions and CDs are available for those who haven't received theirs, at our monthly meetings.

Those from out of town or who are unable to attend meetings and pick theirs up, the printed version will be mailed unless you have requested a CD or indicated you wanted to use the website. ■

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website is www.aaslh.org and their phone number is 615-320-3203. We are too late to submit this year, but it is something to keep in mind.

The DACHS Board meets on the second Friday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Branigan Cultural Center. You are welcome to join us.

THANKS TO TONI AND KARL

Together, Karl Lumbach, who is a principal archeological investigator for Human Systems Research Inc., and Toni Lumbach, the Chief Curator and Programs Director for the Farm and Ranch Museum, gave the Society's February presentation on the Cañada Alamosa project. The project exhibit continues at the Farm and Ranch Museum through May 4, 2014, so there is time to see it for the first time, or second or even a third time, since it is one of those ongoing learning experiences. Our many thanks to Karl for the site visit, complete with maps and history, and to Toni for a tour of the physical tools of archeology.

NEW LIAISONS JOIN THE BOARD

Two new liaisons have joined the DACHS Board, one from the Farm and Ranch Museum and the other from NMSU: Leah Tookey, Curator of History at the Farm and Ranch Museum, and Julie Wojtka, NMSU History Department student working with Jon Hunner on the project to nominate Mesilla Park as an historic

district. Welcome to both.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

This month, on March 20, Dr. Dwight Pitcaithley, NMSU Department of History, will present a historical look at the alleged secession in 1861 of southern NM from northern NM. On April 17, Richard Sims, Director of the NM Department of Cultural Affairs, will share with the Society what part we can play in the effort to save Fort Seldon. Then on May 15, Buddy Ritter will expand on his research into how the Town of Mesilla came to be. ■

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Dona Ana County Historical Society is looking for original articles concerning Southern New Mexico history for its next annual Review (Volume XXII, January 2015). Biography, local and family histories, oral history, student papers and articles focusing on the history of the Southwest and Northern Mexico will be considered. Small monetary awards are available for some pieces.

The editors are Becky Young and Mary Kay Shannon. They prefer submissions electronically as Word or simple text documents. Other formats can be negotiated. To submit an article or to ask questions, contact them by email at snmhistory@gmail.com or by phone at 915-539-3381.

The deadline for final articles is October 1. ■

-----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, Rebecca Slaughter at 575-523-1845 (during business hours) or the President, Susan Krueger at 575-525-0654.

Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates

Individual \$20 Family \$25 Student \$8 Contributor \$40 Benefactor \$150 Life \$300
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Is this a change of information? Yes No A check for \$ _____ is enclosed. Date _____
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How would you like to receive your copy of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* (SNMHR)?
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“Team Laumbach,” Karl in left photo sharing a laugh with Society Member Bob Pick and Toni chatting with Bob on the right, gave a very interesting and informative presentation on the Cañada Alamosa Project. Karl covered mostly the geographics and findings while Toni talked about the Project Exhibit at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. Toni also gave a talk on the tools and techniques used by Archeologists. A very enjoyable program. ■

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www.donaanacountyhistoristsoc.org

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