



NEWSLETTER

April 2014

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Susan Krueger

At the DACHS Board meeting on March 14, board members discussed plans for two projects. First, to spotlight a particular history book, which the Society has in its collection, that is available for a donation at the Society's monthly membership meeting. Carl Eichstaedt will announce the book and give a brief review before the beginning of the meeting. Carl is in charge of DACHS book sales and the book table is located in the hallway across from the cookies and punch. March's book was *Bloody Skies: B17s Over Europe* by Mel McGuire, and copies are still available.

Second, Mary Kay Shannon finalized plans for the Saturday April 26, 2014, field trip and BYO picnic to tour the Radium Springs Inn. Flyers were available at the March 20th membership meeting and an article follows in this newsletter with all the details. Mark your calendars!

Many thanks to Dwight Pitcaithley for his presentation on the alleged secession of southern NM. As Professor Pitcaithley mentioned, there is a fascinating research project within the allegation: to identify who was involved and to find both what they said and what was reported about this event.

Finally, at the next Board meeting on April 11, 2014, board members will begin discussing possible candidates for two of the awards to be given at the Society's Annual Awards Banquet in January 2015, the Hall of Fame and the Heritage Awards. The Hall of Fame award recognizes an individual who is known for exceptional contributions to the preservation of the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley, and the Heritage Award is given to a person or persons whose actions or deeds have contributed to the historical or cultural heritage of Dona Ana County and who is/are not professional or avocational historian(s). We need your help; if you have someone in mind who might fit either category, please share it with me, Jon or Mary Kay and thanks. ■

April Membership Meeting

by Susan Krueger

We are scheduled to meet on Thursday, April 17, at 7 p.m., in the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle; however, at present, the Department of Health has closed Good Samaritan to the public until further notice. We anticipate that it will reopen before April 17, and we will meet in the auditorium as usual. BUT, if it does not reopen, you will receive a CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION NOTICE to the Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., same day and time. Please, call me if you need clarification: 525-0654.



Richard Sims with Native Americans in Colorful Costumes. Photo courtesy of Richard Sims

Our speaker will be Richard Sims, Director

See Sims on Page 3

Tour of historic Radium Springs Inn

By Mary Kay Shannon

Archives Photographic Collections

ImageNo: 00140507



Description: Lodge at Radium Springs
Location: Radium Springs, New Mexico

Facilities at Radium Springs date back to the 1880s when it was known as Fort Selden Hot Springs. In 1912, the Fort Selden Hot Springs Resort, National Spa and Improvement Co. was formed to develop the springs. The site had long been a water stop for the railroad which is just a few yards from the inn. Quality lodging for passengers was an important part of the Santa Fe Railway system during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The inn was built in 1928-31 as a tourist



Current facility under renovation
Photo by Bob Gamboa

destination.

The old inn is undergoing renovations. It is a

See Tour on Page 3
Page 2

2014 Awards

At The Historical Society's Annual Awards Luncheon on January 25, 2014, the Heritage Award was presented to Janet and David Clements of Mesilla Park.

Janet and David Clements are committed to historic preservation. They have lived in historic homes in numerous places, including in Illinois, Ohio, and now Mesilla Park. Having lived in southern New



Janet and David Clements
Photo by Jim Eckles

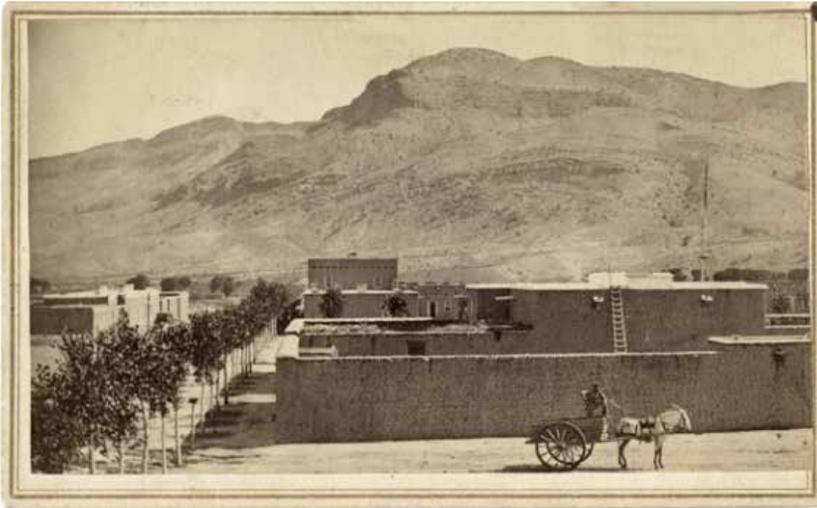
Mexico for almost a decade, they became key participants in the preservation of Mesilla Park three years ago. Working with then City Councilor Dolores Connor and now Greg Smith, they have organized the Mesilla Park Branding Committee, Clean Neighborhood Committee, and conducted the initial research at the Doña Ana County Assessor's office into the real estate records of the buildings in Mesilla Park. This research provided an invaluable foundation for the survey of Mesilla Park begun last fall in preparation for a district nomination to the state and national registers of historic places. They commented that they "get something out of a renovated home that you don't get anywhere else." For their decades' long commitment to preserving our past and their recent work focusing on Mesilla Park, Janet and David Clements have earned this year's Heritage Award. ■

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

Sims from Page 1

of the State Monuments Division of the NM Department of Cultural Affairs. Mr. Sims' appointment was announced on May 23, 2012. He brings to New Mexico an impressive background of management of historic sites and museums, including Director of the Sharlot Hall Museum and Prescott Historical Society in Prescott, Arizona; Director of the Museum of Western Colorado in Grand Junction; and Operations Manager in the Department of Anthropology at the Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff. He has a BS degree in Anthropology from the University of Oregon and a MA in English from Northern Arizona University.

We have invited Mr. Sims to speak on the State Monuments in southern New Mexico, which include Fort Selden. Built in 1865, this Fort was once home to cavalry units of Black troops nicknamed "Buffalo Soldiers," and the preservation of its ruins has been a goal of the DACHS since the Society's formation in 1963. ■



A horse and wagon outside of Ft. Selden, which is dwarfed by the surrounding countryside. Negative #001742

Tour From Page 2

work in progress. Guestrooms are being combined to create spacious rooms, and all new bathrooms are going in. What the future holds for this historic inn is yet to be determined. Owner Paz Dhody of Austin, Texas, has not yet decided what to do with the property. It may become a personal vacation home, or a private club, or a special events venue, or an exclusive bed and breakfast. Time will tell.

The Historical Society has made arrangements for a tour of the inn on Saturday, April 26, 2014. Participants will meet in the KMART parking lot (1900 Bataan Memorial, Las Cruces, NM). A car caravan will depart no later than 10:30 for the short drive to Radium Springs. Bring a sack lunch, folding chairs, and wear (or bring) bathing suits and towels as participants will be able to enjoy the spring waters, even though the tubs have not yet been renovated. The Society will provide bottled water. The owner has asked that no photographs be taken and that participants not wander the facilities independently.

Preregistration is not required but is encouraged. Contact tour coordinator Mary Kay Shannon at marykayshn@earthlink.net, (915) 539-3381. ■

-----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.

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Dwight T. Pitcaithley

and the various processes that different states followed and the varying documentation from those processes. He also discussed the almost total lack of documentation compared to most of the 11 states, which led the audience to ask a host of interesting questions. ■

At our March 20, 2014 meeting, Professor Dwight T. Pitcaithley gave a very interesting and informative presentation on the New Mexico Territory's effort to secede from the Union and join the confederacy in 1861. He discussed the 11 states that seceded

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