



NEWSLETTER

November 2024

Doña Ana County Historical Society

Dr. Jerry Wallace Will Talk About Rosedale Farms

On November 21, Dr. Jerry Wallace, the DACHS vice president, will present "*The Ideal Spot to Live is in the Valley*" -- *Rosedale Farms and the Making of an El Paso Midcentury Neighborhood*, at the monthly talk. The presentation will be in the Good Samaritan auditorium at 3011 Buena Vida Cir. and will start at 7 p.m. It is free and open to the public. The Zoom invitation will come in an email.

In 1922, Winchester Cooley converted his land into a modern subdivision calling it Rosedale Farms and by 1929 El Paso's newest neighborhood had over 200 one-to-three acre lots. Near the end of the 1920s, Cooley partnered with a local real estate agent M.L. Cadwallader and local developer Roy W. Carey, branding the new neighborhood as "The Ideal Spot to Live...."

What Cooley, Cadwallader and Carey did was create a rural refuge for El Pasoans in a rapidly expanding cityscape. In the early 1930s, new branding and marketing schemes billed Rosedale Farms as an experiment of farm living in the city.

The community, now centrally located in El Paso continues to operate as an oasis for its residents. This presentation will examine Rosedale Farms over a fifty-year period, 1922-1972 and explore architectural styles and the neighborhood's midcentury identity.

Jerry Wallace is the Director of the Public History program at NMSU. His forthcoming book examines the Trost & Trost architectural firm from El Paso that designed many prominent structures in west Texas, southern New Mexico and beyond.



To Celebrate The Las Cruces Anniversary, DACHS Sponsors A Downtown Walking Tour on November 14, From 4 To 5 pm

What better way to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Las Cruces than a walking tour through the streets downtown. The tour will be led by noted Las Cruces historian Christopher Schurtz - he designed the historical signs you see at various locations on the streets downtown.

The tour will begin at 4 p.m. at the down-

town plaza. It should last about an hour which will be perfect if you would like to get together with friends to have dinner in one of the restaurants downtown. Or maybe a drink in one of the bars. The choice is yours.

If you happen to have some insights into one of the buildings you will see, be sure and let Chris know what you know.

The Nov. 21 Meeting Will Also Include DACHS Elections

Your historical society will conduct a very short bit of business before Dr. Wallace's presentation on the 21st. First will be the vote to approve the revised bylaws for DACHS. These were sent out to the membership a couple of months ago.

Second, it is time to vote for people filling positions on the board of directors as at-large members and for officer vacancies. The president, Dennis Daily, will be accepting nominations until the 21st and is hoping some members will step forward to help out.

There are three vacancies for at-large members going into 2025. Leah Tookey and Nathan Japel have stepped forward and volunteered for two of those slots. One is still open.

The terms for the vice president, treasurer and secretary are expiring. Jerry Wallace has agreed to stay on as vice president. Garland Courts has also agreed to stay and is willing to continue as the treasurer. There are no nominees for secretary.

Want to help? Send an email to 19dachs63@gmail.com or call Dennis Daily at: 575-646-4756.

Two Out Of Three Photo Exhibits Still Available Downtown

In October, three great photo exhibits were showing at the Branigan Cultural Center and the Las Cruces Art Museum. The Emmett Booher display of White Sands National Park photos has packed up and is gone. The other two are still there.

First, in the Branigan, is a historian and photographer's delight. The exhibit is "The Ballard Photo Studio: A Portrait of Community," and features more than 200 portraits and other photographic works by Las Cruces photographer Jim Ballard.

These works offer a snapshot of the Mesilla Valley community between 1930 and 1950. The images are from the Ballard Photo Studio collection at the NMSU Library Archives. The exhibit runs through Saturday, February 15, 2025.

Jim Ballard operated his photo studio on Main Street, where he created portraits of more than 5,000 Mesilla Valley residents. If you know anything about our local history, you will find portraits of many of the people behind the names you know who shaped the Mesilla Valley. Even Lt. Col. Harold Turner, the first commander of White Sands Proving Ground sat for a Ballard portrait.

It is an intriguing and simple display that sucks you in. These are just people after all, but they were very real and you will find yourself wondering about them and what kind of life they each led.

Using a large-format camera on a tripod, Ballard captured his subjects on 5×7-inch negatives, resulting in clear, high-resolution images. The NMSU Library Archive holds over 25,000 portrait negatives from the Ballard Photo Studio, with more than 200 images selected for this exhibit. Additionally, Ballard photographed area businesses and community events, producing roughly 4,000 more negatives, which are also preserved by the Library Archives.



Joe Kahler, a visitor from Denver, enjoyed the exhibit and was fascinated by the variety in just looking at people's faces. Photo by Jim Eckles



Clyde Butcher's huge film camera on display along with his wonderfully huge nature images in the Art Museum. Photo by Jim Eckles

The other exhibit is a remarkable retrospective featuring 45 stunning large-format, black-and-white photographic prints, spanning over 50 years of Clyde Butcher's career. This exhibit will only be up through the end of December.

United Military Women Getting Ready To Lay Wreaths

Sal Patricolo, a DACHS board member and a member of Disabled American Veterans (DAV), informs us that the United Military Women of the Southwest, will soon be laying wreaths on the graves of local veterans in our cemeteries. According to the group's flyer, with donations from local businesses, military organizations and individuals, in 2023 they were able to buy and distribute 191 wreaths.

Sal indicates he will be representing DACHS and DAV when he helps place wreaths locally. Each wreath cost \$17. If you would like to donate, you can write a check to United Military Women of the Southwest (commnet that it is for wreaths) and mail to: UMWSW, PO Box 2534, Las Cruces, 88004.

If you have questions, contact Karen Woods at 575-639-1265 or via email at: 1wnvet@gmail.com.

DACHS Board Of Directors Still Looking For Award Nominations

The annual DACHS Awards Banquet is scheduled for *noon on Saturday, January 25* at La Posta, just like last year. Details on cost and how to make a reservation will follow in the next couple of months.

The board of directors is still accepting nominations for both people and place awards. Know someone who should be in the DACHS Hall of

Fame or some building that should receive recognition for its historical value, please email it to us at: 19dachs63@gmail.com. All of the award categories can be seen on the DACHS website at: <http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org/Awards/DACHSaward-slist.html> If you make a nomination, give us a little background.

It Is That Time Of Year Again - Dues Are Due - Still A Great Bargain

Members are reminded that dues for the upcoming year of 2025 are due at the end of the calendar year. The easiest way to renew or join, for that matter, is through the DACHS website. Just go to the homepage, click on the "membership" link in the top menu or scroll down to "quick links" where there are buttons for membership and donations.

Once "membership" is selected you'll go to a Paypal page where you can select your membership

level, enter your contact information (a good email address, physical address and phone number are essential), and then pay using your regular credit card or your Paypal account, if you have one.

You can also print out the full membership form available as a PDF, fill it out and mail it with your check. Finally, you can fill out the short form below and mail it with your check to the DACHS PO Box shown below. THANKS for your support.

 **Doña Ana County Historical Society, P. O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004-6045** 

Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates - attach your payment and mail to the above P.O. Box

Individual \$25 Family \$30 Student \$10 Contributor \$40

Benefactor \$150 Life \$300

NAME (S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

If you are unsure of your status or have questions regarding membership, please contact Susan Krueger, at 575 525-0654.

The Back Page



We just received this photo by Bob Gamboa of an informational monument that was recently erected at Stinking Springs by the "Billy the Kid's Historical Coalition." Bob and Dave Thomas of our local "Friends of Pat Garrett" attended the unveiling of the stone.

Stinking Springs is near Taiban, NM and is where Pat Garrett's posse caught up with Billy the Kid and his small gang on Dec. 23, 1880. In March 1881, Billy was then transported to Mesilla where he was convicted of murder and ordered to hang in Lincoln.

The BTK Historical Coalition is dedicated to educating the public and advancing research related to Billy the Kid and the historical sites, figures, and documents connected to his life.

www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org

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2024 Board of Directors

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