



NEWSLETTER

October 2024

Doña Ana County Historical Society

Jim Eckles To Talk About Space Activities

Jim Eckles will speak at the October DACHS meeting on Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at the Good Samaritan. His topic will be a history of Space-related activities at White Sands Missile Range. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Many know the Space Shuttle Columbia landed at White Sands in 1982 but did you know most astronaut pilot training for the entire length of the Shuttle program was done at WSMR? German V-2 rockets were the first vehicles capable of sending instruments, cameras and experiments to the edge of Space. Those flights were conducted at WSMR from 1946 to 1951. Most don't know that the V-2s were the start of the "sounding rocket" program at White Sands which continues today. NASA-sponsored rockets continue to take university and government astronomy instruments 100 to 200 miles straight up over southern New Mexico. Jim will tell you how that old grade-school lesson about having 3 things for a fire has been modified because of some NASA sounding rocket flights.

He will also talk about WSMR's proposal in the 1960s for launching NASA's Apollo moon rockets from a pad area just a couple of miles north of Organ, NM. Las Cruces residents could have watched the moon launches from their homes.

Interestingly, there was also a proposal at that time to land the Apollo astronauts at White Sands on their return from the moon. The spot picked out was later used for the Space Shuttle runways and is currently being used by Boeing and their troubled Starliner vehicle.

Jim worked at the White Sands Public Affairs Office for 30 years. He was there when Columbia landed and has seen his fair share of sounding rocket launches.



The auditorium is at 3011 Buena Vida Circle. The lecture will be available on Zoom and invitations will go out a few days prior.



Border Archives Bazaar Will Be Saturday, Oct. 19 At Farm & Ranch

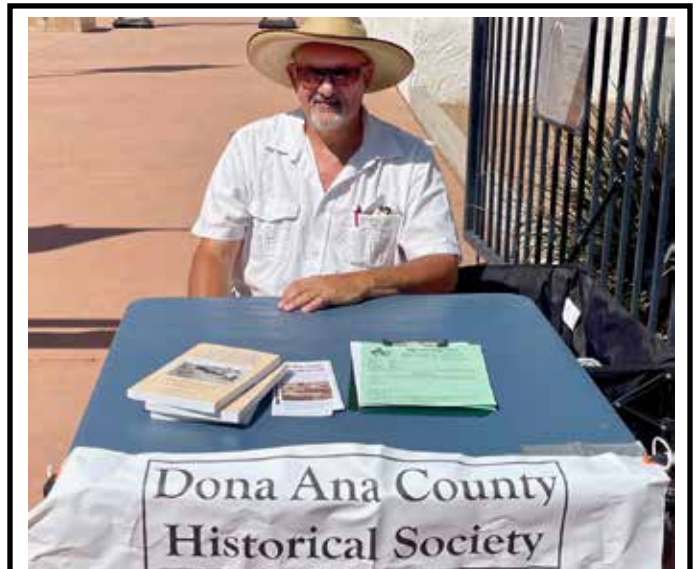
Lovers of borderland history will have a chance to see original documents, maps, photographs and other historical materials at the Border Archives Bazaar Saturday, October 19, 10am to 4pm at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces. Twenty archives from southern New Mexico and west Texas will showcase their materials from their holdings at the event, celebrating borderland cultures and Southwest history.

“This is a great chance for the public to see first-hand letters of famed lawman Pat Garrett, vintage 19th century photographs of El Paso and Las Cruces, original historical maps of the region, and so much more,” said DACHS president Dennis Daily, who works with the Border Regional Archives Group (BRAG) to sponsor the event.

“The event is kind of a cross between *Antiques Roadshow* and *History Detectives*,” said Daily. “In addition to the original historical materials, there will be two panels of presentations on topics related to borderland history.” Presenters will cover early Mesilla history, Black communities in the borderlands, and New Mexico’s Judaic history, among other topics.

The free public event highlights American

Archives Month and the work that archives do to preserve and disseminate history. More information at <https://www.facebook.com/BRarchives/>



DACHS board member Sal Patricolo has been making appearances at local events to solicit new members for the society. This is from a Saturday at the Las Cruces Farmers Market a few weeks ago. If you'd like to help by volunteering, email us at: 19dachs63@gmail.com

Dave Moeller's Review Of *The Three-Cornered War - A War For The West*

THE THREE-CORNERED WAR; The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West, by Megan Kate Nelson, 2020.

As an amateur military historian, I am very busy researching events occurring in the New Mexico-Arizona area from 1846-1900. This slice of time encompasses the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, and the Indian Wars. For example, when visiting Scotland, one could not throw a stone without hitting a site of historical significance. I humbly submit this publication is a great start point to understand the conflict between the Native Americans and soldier-settlers that traversed and encroached upon their boundless ancestral homeland. This book is seconded only by Dr Hutton’s, *The Apache Wars*, in my opinion.

The publication is an easy read. The author brought the story to me through the experiences of known (and unknown by me) military, civilian, and Native American personalities rather than just crucial events. She accomplished her goal by spending countless hours reading letters, reports, and

transcripts of these individuals in a specific block of time, 1861-1868. From the Confederate occupation to the abandonment of the Bosque Redondo. One or more of the selected individuals leads us through by relating their own trials and tribulations, accomplishments and failures. The main personalities also bring to light some people who were by their side, and just as instrumental to the telling of the story. Because I grew to know the person of each chapter, I could not help but become immersed in that block of time.

I was able to enjoy the book because I could read either a whole chapter or a specific piece(s) within the chapter. Like with Lego blocks I was able to build and retain the parts of the entire story to conclusion with ease. I now have a better understanding of the events of the past and their impact up to the present due to their portrayal by actual personalities of the time.

There are four easy to follow maps that assist the reader in keeping to the timeline of events. There are portraits of most of the people involved, as well.

Celebrating 175 Years

Las Cruces isn't doing anything to celebrate the city's 175th birthday. However, the Mesquite Street Amigos, a group of neighbors in the Mesquite Historic District, is doing this. See the schedule of events on **Back Page**.



KLEIN PARK

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024

9 AM - 3PM

(9AM-10:30AM REGISTER FOR YOUR PLACE ON THE PLAT MAP)

CEREMONIES BEGIN AT 11AM
WITH TRIBAL BLESSING

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**STEP INTO YOUR
PLACE IN HISTORY
ON A PLAT MAP
OF THE
ORIGINAL TOWNSITE
WITH
DON PABLO MELENDREZ
& LT. DELOS SACKETT**



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS (DAY OF THE DEAD) COMMUNITY ALTAR

BRING PHOTOS TO HONOR YOUR ANCESTORS OR HEROES



HONORARY ALTARS ON DISPLAY FOR MIGUEL SILVA AND DOÑA PAZ



REMINDER: ***The election of next year's DACHS board of directors and officers will be held during the November meeting at Good Sam on Nov. 21. Send nominations to: 19dach63@gmail.com. **Also, we will ask members to approve the revised DACHS bylaws at that meeting. **Finally, there are several volunteer jobs available with DACHS that do not require board membership. For example: 1) Putting together the monthly newsletter, 2) Putting together the Southern New Mexico Historical Review, 3) Maintaining the DACHS website, 4) Setting up the projector & computer at monthly meetings. Email us at 19dach63@gmail.com if you are interested.*

NOTE: *Peter Bradley is attempting to gather photos and history of the Las Cruces Police Department. He has dozens of pictures from NMSU but is looking for more, especially, around the 20s, 30s, and 40s. If you can help contact Lieutenant Bradley at: pbradley@lascruces.gov*

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Dia de los Muertos, Celebrating City of Las Cruces' 175th Anniversary

Klein Park, City of Las Cruces Saturday November 2nd

Program of Events 11AM to 1PM:

Welcome of Visitors, and Announcements	Dr. Adam Amador, Master of Ceremonies
Land Acknowledgement to First Peoples	Dr. Amador
Blessing for the Ceremonies	Ed Roybal, Cacique - Piro Manso Tiwa Tribe
Historical Retro-Perspective	Don Pablo Melendres, Alcalde of Doña Ana (Portrayed by Teddy Aspen Sanchez)
Reclaiming Your Place on the Original Plat	Dr. Amador
Grito-Invitation to Founding 1849 Citizens	Denise Chávez, Author
175-year History of Las Cruces	Dr. Amador
~ 25-Year Invite to Residents 1874-2024	
Closing Remarks - Saludos	Denise Chavez

2024 Board of Directors

President: Dennis Daily
 Vice President: Dr. Jerry Wallace
 Secretary, Newsletter, Review & Website: Jim Eckles
 Treasurer: Garland Courts
 Historian: Faith Hutson
 Past President: vacant
 At-Large Board Members:
 George Helfrich
 David Brown
 Heather Reed
 Dr. Susan Krueger
 Sal Patricolo
 Jim Eckman, SNMHR Editor
 Vacant, Farm&Ranch Heitage Museum Liaison
 Sean Shifano, NMSU Student Liaison

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