



# NEWSLETTER

October 2016

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dr. Jon Hunner

Since May, I have traveled over 10,000 miles and visited over fifty National Parks. My road trip to celebrate the National Park Service continues as I now head down the East Coast and then through the South.

I am glad that the DACHS is back in business this fall with lectures and activities, and I look forward to returning to Las Cruces in a month and seeing you all.

### From the Vice-President

Kimberly Miller

It's that time of year again! As the weather teases us with occasional glimpses of cooler temperatures to come, please consider becoming a member of the DACHS Board. The Nominating Committee is currently accepting nominations, which will be approved by the Board and then presented to the membership for a vote at our general membership meeting in November. We will also accept additional nominees from the floor during that meeting. If you are interested in becoming a more active member of DACHS and serving on the Board, please contact one of the current Board officers.

### October Meeting Speaker

The October meeting will be about the Civilian Conservation Corp recreation camp located at Ropes Spring which is northeast of Las Cruces at the base of San Andres Peak. The old camp is located on a strip of property within White Sands Missile Range, the San Andres National Wildlife Refuge, and the Jornada Experimental Range - making the coordination more difficult when setting up visits.

Mara Weisenberger, the wildlife biologist at the refuge, will give a presentation

The Doña Ana County Historical Society's next meeting will be at 7:00 pm. on October 20, 2016, at the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces.

on the recreation camp. The old swimming pool, picnic tables and water distribution system are still there, crumbling into rubble. At one time there was a 4-seat wooden outhouse that has collapsed but the smaller stone one with a castle-like parapet is still standing. Mara has worked at the refuge since 1992 and has compiled much of its history.

In addition, Jim Eckles will follow up with a few slides about the old missile range tram that carried men up to the top of San Andres Peak in the late 1940s. The base of the tram is just up the hill from the CCC camp. The tram was needed to carry camera operators up and down the mountain to an optics site put in place by Clyde Tombaugh when he worked at White Sands..



Mara Weisenberger and friend  
Photo compliments of Mara Weisenberger

See Mara on page 2

## Mara from page 1

Mara Weisenberger has been a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at San Andres National Wildlife Refuge for the past 24 years. During this time she has served on temporary assignment as the Science Coordinator for the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative, on Kodiak Island, Alaska, for a Brown Bear study, in Tanzania, the Refuges Division in Washington, D.C. as acting regional biologist for the Southwest Regional office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and at refuges in Colorado and Arizona. A published author in scientific literature of the field, she holds a B.A. degree in Psychology with a concentration in animal behavior and a M.S. degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Arizona. She currently resides in Las Cruces, New Mexico with her husband and has two grown children who share her passion for wildlife and the outdoors.

Aldo Leopold is her conservation hero because of his landscape scale approach to wildlife management and the importance for considering all components of the ecosystem rather than single-species management. Mara's favorite quote by Leopold is "Only the mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of a wolf." After working at the same field station for 24 years, she feels she is only starting to understand the natural processes, interactions of species and their habitats over time and under various climate regimes, and the integrated effects of human actions on the landscape. The San Andres NWR is surrounded by White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) which contains 2.2 million acres—the same size as Yellowstone National Park—National Park Service (NPS) White Sands National Monument, and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Jornada Experimental Range. She has the good fortune to work with great environmental staff at WSMR, NPS, and ARS where landscape scale management approaches and strong collaborations are employed. While bearing in mind Leopold's guidance to manage the various parts of the system we still have the responsibility to meet the missions of the various partners. ■

## NMSU Celebrates the National Parks

The College of Arts and Sciences at New Mexico State University is sponsoring a speaker series this fall commemorating the centennial of the National Parks Service.

The up-coming speakers are:

- October 13th: "A New Park for the New Century: the Making of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park" by Dr. Ellen McGehee, Archaeologist and Historian at Los Alamos National Laboratory.
- October 27th: "Facing the Future: The Fate of

Our National Parks in the Twenty-First Century" by Dr. William C. Tweed, author of *Uncertain Path: a Search for the Future of National Parks*.

- November 3rd: "Achieving Relevance: a Vision for the Next 100 Years of National Park Service Interpretation and Education" by Ms. Julia Washburn, Associate Director for Interpretation and Education for the National Park Service.

- Each of these talks is on a Thursday, 6:00-7:00 pm, in Room 111 of O'Donnell Hall (1220 Stewart Street) on the NMSU campus. There is a large parking lot next to O'Donnell at the corner of Williams and Stewart. Parking is free after 4:30 p.m. ■



## DACHS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2016 THROUGH JANUARY 2017



- October 20, 2016: Mara Weisenberger, Wildlife Biologist, San Andres National Wildlife Refuge, speaking on Ropes Springs, the old CCC Camp located at the Refuge. Good Samaritan Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. A field trip to the camp is planned in the weeks following the talk. More information to follow.

- November 17, 2016: Sally Kading, DACHS Historian and Board member, speaking on genealogy and history. Good Samaritan Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

- January 28, 2017: DACHS Annual Awards Banquet, Double Eagle Restaurant on the Mesilla Plaza, 12:00 noon.

- For more information, contact Susan Krueger 525-0654.



## CALL FOR PAPERS

In addition to original articles, we are looking for book reviews and museum reviews. If you'll look at the last issue of the Southern New Mexico Historical Review (<http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org/HistoricalReview/2016/2016HistoricalReview.pdf>), you will see we included several book reviews - as usual - but also included a museum review. It would be nice to get another local museum review for the upcoming Review. The deadline is rapidly approaching.

Your input will appear in the next annual Review (Volume XXIV, January 2017). Biography, local and family histories, oral history, student papers and articles focusing on the history of the Southwest and Northern Mexico will also be considered. Small monetary awards are available for some pieces.

The editors prefer submissions electronically as Word or simple text documents. Other formats can be negotiated. To submit an article or to ask questions, contact Jim Eckles by email at 19dachs63@gmail.com or by phone at 575-521-8771. ■



The V V Ranch crew gather round the Chuck Wagon

**At the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum on the 10th of November from 7:00 to 8:00 pm Dan Jones will give a talk on the V V Ranch. Mark your calendar**

Angus V V Ranch cattle once ranged over the lush-est pastures of Lincoln County, from Salado Creek in the north to the Ruidoso River in the south; from the slopes of the Sierra Blanca in the west to Glencoe in the east; close to 300 square miles; including the present-day communities of Ruidoso, Ruidoso Downs, Alto, Angus, Bonito, Capitan, Glencoe, Nogal, Sierra Vista, Sun Valley, and Villa Madonna.

Dan Jones tells the story of the "V V", from its founding in 1882 as a small operation by soon-to-be Lincoln County Sheriff John Poe; its expansion by devious means by Poe and ex-Sheriff Pat Garrett (who became its first manager); its sale to mysterious Brit Brandon Kirby; its bankrolling by wealthy Scottish liquor merchant James Cree; the difficulty they had in importing purebred Angus bulls from Scotland; conflict between Kirby and Garrett; the resignation of Garrett and hiring of Poe as manager; the ousting of Kirby; the death of Cree; and eventual return of the ranch to American control.

**The DACHS has received an invitation from Dennis Daily, the new head of Archives and Special Collections at NMSU, to learn more about the Border Regional Archives Group.**

My name is Dennis Daily and I'm the new head of archives and special collections at the New Mexico State University Library. I'll soon be joining your organization as a member and hope to meet many of you soon.

I'm currently writing on behalf of the Border Regional Archives Group.

Some of you may recall this organization was formed 10 years or so ago to promote the use of archival resources for research into the history of our region. I've recently been in contact with Claudia Rivers, head of special collections at the UTEP Library, regarding updating the group's email list and reactivating the group. The Doña Ana County Historical Society was listed in a brochure published by BRAG called Guide to Archives of El Paso, Ciudad Juárez and Mesilla Valley. Is there someone there at DACHS who might be interested in being a part of the Border Regional Archives Group? We might consider informally getting archivists, museum curators and others with an interest in archives together to talk about ways we can work together to promote archives.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Daily

-----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 Past 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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



In the photo at left, George Hackler, on the left, talks with Gary Esslinger about his presentation. Note the photos of the Elephant Butte dam and Irrigation District in the display. An audience member talks with Jim Eckles as he waits to talk to Gary.

Gary Esslinger, our speaker in September, provided copies of an invitation from the Bureau of Reclamation to celebrate the 100 year Anniversary of Elephant Butte Dam on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 11 a.m. at the base of the dam. The site is 4 miles east of Truth or Consequence on Highway 51. There will be refreshments and tours of the dam. If you plan to attend, please send a RSVP to mcarlson@usbr.gov with RSPV as the subject line.

### Thanks to our 2016 Corporate Sponsors

We encourage our Members to patronize their businesses

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