



NEWSLETTER

September 2015

Doña Ana County Historical Society

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Susan Krueger

Welcome to our fall membership meetings and the soon to be cooler weather. Our first membership meeting is on September 17, at 7 p.m. in the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. Peter Kopp, Assistant Professor and Director of Public History at NMSU, and the Murals of Las Cruces Project team have documented more than 250 murals throughout Las Cruces, each sharing something of the history of the community and its people. Join us on the 17th to find out what else the Project team has planned and how you can become a part of it.

On October 15, at 7 p.m. in the Good Samaritan Auditorium, Karl Lumbach will take us on a lecture tour of the history of the Hembrillo Basin, located on White Sands Missile Range. The Basin is the site of the 1880 battle between Chief Victorio's Warm Springs Apache and the Army's Buffalo Soldiers. Carl's presentation will serve as an introduction to a field trip into Hembrillo Battlefield, to be led by Karl, and scheduled for October 17th. If you would like more information about the field trip and how to sign up, see Jim Eccles' article in this Newsletter.

Jon Hunner, Vice President and Program Chair, has arranged with Paul Ward, to be our speakers for November 19th. Paul is a graduate student at NMSU and will give a talk titled "The Transformation of Lorenzo Torrez" based upon his research of the leader of the Communist Party, a staunch yet quiet spoken fighter for union rights and Mexican American equality.

Doña Ana County Historical Society Meeting at 7:00 PM at the Good Samaritan Auditorium on Thursday September 17th.

The program for the evening will be:

Murals of Las Cruces

Dr. Peter Kopp and his team of researchers will present the results of their effort to locate and document all the Murals in the Las Cruces area. ■



From left to right: Jerry Wallace (NMSU history professor), Norma Hartell (NMSU museum studies graduate student), Jason Weisensell (NMSU museum studies graduate student), Peter Kopp (NMSU history professor), Meg Freyermuth (local artist and NMSU graduate).

The Murals of Las Cruces Project is a community-based initiative that brings artists, historians, and the public together to document

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For November, mark Nov. 14-15 on your calendar; this is the weekend of the NM Jewish Historical Society's 2015 Regional Conference titled: "Legacies of the Jewish Communities of the Southern Southwest; Celebrating 30 Years of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society." The conference will be held at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. If you would like to know how you can help, please see Sarah Wagner.

Selection of a Historian

On the agenda of the September 8, 2015, DACHS Board of Directors meeting will be the nomination of a candidate to fill the position of historian which was vacated by Mary Kay Shannon in May 2015.

Sally Kading, has offered her name as a candidate for the position. You may remember Sally as the recipient in 2013 of the DACHS Hall of Fame award. Sally was honored for her work with the Mesilla Valley Pioneer Project, translating and transcribing church records of marriages, baptisms, deaths and burials into a searchable database. The database goes beyond lists of names and dates to provide sketches of the lives of the people who came to live in the villages of the Mesilla Valley.

Anyone else who is interested in the historian position, please email Jim Eccles at 19dachs63@gmail.com and he will forward a description of the historian's duties to you.

Then, at the Membership meeting on September 17, 2015, the Society will consider all nominees, along with any nominations from the floor, and select a historian who will take office immediately. ■

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and preserve murals in the greater Las Cruces area. It was born in Dr. Peter Kopp's public history seminar in the spring of 2015, when two NMSU graduate students, Jason Weisensell and Norma Hartell, proposed the idea as part of their term project. Initially, the two envisioned a self-guided tour of the city's murals. Since then, the project has expanded. We are currently surveying neighborhoods across the city in an effort to better appreciate public art and engage

the community in conversation. A self-guided tour is still in the mix, but, prior to that, we are developing a searchable multimedia database so that the public and scholars can explore the multitude of murals in our community. ■

October Field Trip to Hembrillo Battlefield

We are going to try the Hembrillo Battlefield trip on Oct. 17. We seem to have enough high-clearance vehicles to give it a try but we are still dependent on the condition of the mining road and the missile range's schedule. Karl Laumbach, the man who wrote the book on Hembrillo, will be going along to explain things. Also, he will be our monthly speaker at Good Sam on Oct. 15 and will summarize the battle there.

We will depart the Kmart in Las Cruces at 7:30 a.m. and return late in the afternoon. This will be a most-of-the-day affair with about 150 miles of driving. Be warned that there are NO gas stations on route and no toilets anywhere - there will be lots of creosote bushes for cover.

You run out of gas and your car may stay there for a few days, until you can work with WSMR Security to extract it. Also, at the battlefield itself, there is a quarter of a mile, cross-country climb up some ridges to get into the heart of the place.

The missile range is limiting us to only 10 cars and 30 or so people.

Because of the limited numbers allowed, we will be taking "reservations" on a first-come, first-served basis. I need names and contact information - in case we have changes. Also, all names will be turned over to Security at White Sands Missile Range before the event.

I know we already surveyed members about 4X4 or high-clearance vehicles but now that we have set a real date, potential drivers need to provide me with your name, vehicle type and carrying capacity. Also give me names and contact information.

Jim Eckles - email is nebraska1950@comcast.net and phone number is 575-521-8771. ■

Call for Papers

Southern New Mexico Historical Review

The Doña Ana County Historical Society is looking for original articles concerning Southern New Mexico history for its next annual *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* (Volume XXIII, January 2016). 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.

We 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 nebraska1950@comcast.net or by phone at 575-521-8771.

The preferred deadline for final articles is October 1. However, if you can't make it by then, later deadlines may be arranged.

Membership Meetings

Doña Ana County Historical Society

The DACHS membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month during September, October, and November. We take December off for the holidays, and in January, the Society holds its

annual banquet. The membership meetings begin again in February and continue through May. The meeting location is the Good Samaritan Auditorium 3011 Buena Vida Circle. They are free and open to the public. Please email questions or comments to 19dachs69@gmail.com or send them to DACHS PO Box 16045 Las Cruces, NM 88004.



Somewhere in Doña Ana County ca. 1936
Photo from Library of Congress

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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 President, Susan Krueger, at 575 525-0654.

Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates

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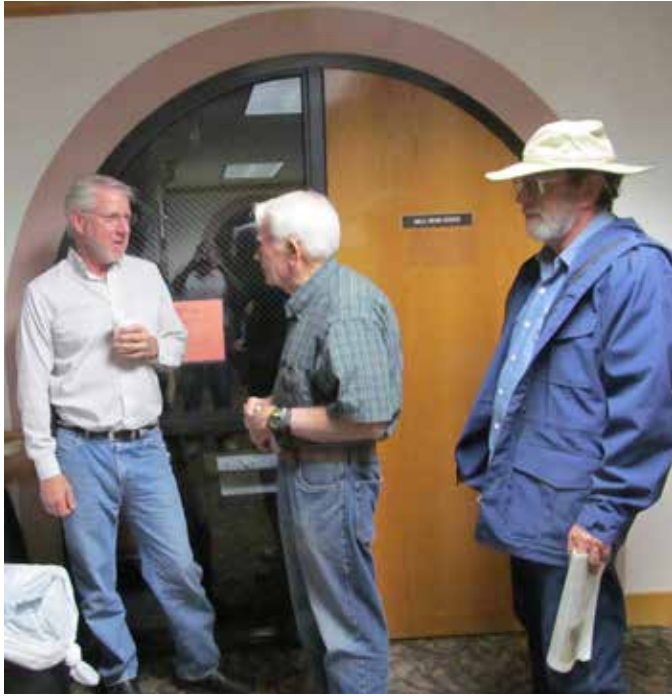
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Bill Godby, on the left, talks with Bill Madden after his presentation on May 21st as another audience member waits his turn.

The speaker for our May meeting was Bill Godby, archaeologist and cultural resource manager at White Sands Missile Range. Bill discussed the optics program developed by Dr. Clyde Tombaugh, famous for discovering Pluto. Also, he talked about the layout of the vast facilities in the upper range area by Dr. Ernst Steinhoff. Dr. Steinhoff was one of the original German Paper Clip Scientists who came to the US with Dr. Wernher von Braun after World War II. Dr. Steinhoff later became the Chief Scientist at what is now Holloman Air Force Base. A very interesting Program. ■

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