
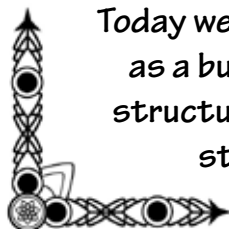




**Doña Ana County Historical Society**  
**Annual Awards Program**

Saturday, January 25, 2020  
New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum



*Today we recognize the old Las Cruces Country Club clubhouse as a building worthy of preservation. This Trost and Trost structure was erected in 1929 and is in danger of being destroyed. NMSU Archives and Special Collections*

# **Doña Ana County Historical Society 2020 Board of Directors**

President: Dennis Daily  
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Historian: Sally Kading

## **At-Large Board Members**

Daniel Aguilera, Bob Gamboa, Dr. Susan Krueger, Sim Middleton  
Luis Rios, C. W. “Buddy” Ritter, and Sara Wagner

## **Committees**

*SNM Historical Review* Editor: Leah Tookey  
Website / Publicity / Newsletter / Review: Jim Eckles  
Education/Scholarships: Luis Rios  
Book Sales: Susan Krueger  
Liaison to City Museums: Garland Courts  
Liaison to Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum: Daniel Aguilera  
Liaison to NMSU History Department: Clara Roberts

*If you would like to help out on a committee or with some other aspect of the Society, by all means, volunteer. Just contact one of the officers above and offer your assistance. Our email address is: 19dachs63@gmail.com Thank you.*

# Doña Ana County Historical Society 53rd Annual Awards Program

1-2 p.m. Informal Mingling

Enjoy the variety of hors d'oeuvres offered in our meeting room.

2-3 p.m. Our Formal Meeting

Welcome ..... Dennis Daily, President  
Installation of 2020 Officers and Board Members .... Dennis Daily & Susan Krueger

## Program

Practicing Preventative Conservation on Historical Artifacts ..... Holly Radke

## Awards

Hall of Fame Award..... Jean Fulton

Pasajero Del Camino Real Award ..... David Thomas  
for *Killing Pat Garrett, The Wild West's Most Famous Lawman - Murder  
Or Self-Defense*

Gemoets Prize..... Jim Eckles  
for *Catch A Falling Star In Las Cruces - 1950: Meteor Photography Sta-  
tions Now In Ruins*

Property Worthy of Preservation .....  
*the Las Cruces Country Club clubhouse*

Heritage Award..... Historic Preservation Ad Hoc Committee  
*for working diligently as volunteers to build the new Las Cruces Historic  
Preservation Ordinance*

# Awards & Recognition for 2020

## Hall of Fame Award

*The Hall of Fame Award is designed to recognize an individual who is known for their exceptional contribution to the preservation of the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley.*

## 2020 Hall of Fame Inductee

### Jean Fulton

Jean Fulton, an architectural historian who owns TimeSprings, Inc. in Mesilla, is dedicated to working with individuals, agencies, and community advocates to preserve historic buildings and cultural resources. Fulton's considerable experience includes the completion of Historic Structure Reports, Historic American Buildings Surveys (HABS/HAER) including large format (4"x5") photography, Conditions Assessments, Preservation Treatment Recommendations, National Register nominations and determinations of eligibility. In other words, Fulton is usually behind the scenes in small and large projects performing the necessary historic research and evaluation tasks that lay the groundwork for the successful completion of preservation projects.



Fulton is also involved in hands-on work including adobe conservation, lime plastering, and restoration of historic elements, e.g. wood doors and windows.

Examples of Fulton's work range from documenting more than 100 WWII And Cold War-era buildings at Holloman Air Force Base to devising the preservation plans for the historic Fountain Theatre (Mesilla, NM), the Taylor-Barela-Reynolds home (Mesilla, NM), the historic Amador Hotel (Las Cruces, NM), the Folsom General Store (Folsom, NM), the Fort Selden bakery (Radium Springs, NM), Phillips Chapel (Las Cruces, NM) and the Socorro Mission (Socorro, TX).

The Mesilla Valley is fortunate to have Fulton as a resident since her expertise is in demand all over the Southwest. For instance, she has served as the Principal Investigator on more than twenty projects for the National Park Service in places like Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Grand Canyon National Park, and Death Valley National Park.

## **Pasajero Del Camino Real Award**

*This award is given to author(s) of a significant historical publication about events, persons, places or issues in Doña Ana County or the nearby area.*

### **2020 Pasajero Del Camino Real Award Recipient**

**David Thomas** for

*Killing Pat Garrett, The Wild West's Most Famous Lawman - Murder Or Self-Defense?*



David Thomas is a familiar face to those interested in the history of the Mesilla Valley. In the past few years, the Dona Ana County Historical Society has honored Thomas with this award for his continuing series on local history. His first three books looked at La Posta restaurant, Giovanni Maria de Agostini, and movie theaters in Las Cruces.

In 2017, Thomas came out with *Billy The Kid's Grave: The History of the Wild West's Most Famous Death Marker*.

This book on the killing of Pat Garrett came out just in time for Christmas 2019. For this book, Thomas asks three

questions that have begged for cogent, well-researched answers for years. They are: 1) Who killed him? 2) Was it murder? 3) Was it self-defense? The answers are in the book. An added attraction is that Thomas found and has published many photos that have never been published before.

In addition to his writings on New Mexico history, David is the author of [lascrucesblog.com](http://lascrucesblog.com) where he posts notes on his ongoing historical research. He is the founder of WindowDOS Associates, cofounder of Friends of Pat Garrett, a filmmaker, screenwriter, author, historian, and travel writer. In addition, he gives talks about his research.

Last year, he, with associates from Friends of Pat Garrett, and the Rio Grande Theater pulled off the very successful Pat Garrett Western Heritage Festival - an event with music, movies, lectures and reenactments. They are actively planning a second festival for Feb. 29, 2020 with new presentations.

## Gemoets Prize

*This \$100 prize is awarded to the author of the “Outstanding Article” in the current issue of the Southern New Mexico Historical Review as determined by the Editor.*

### 2019 Gemoets Prize Recipient

**Jim Eckles** for

***Catch A Falling Star In Las Cruces - 1950: Meteor Photography Stations In Ruins***

Jim Eckles is retired from the Public Affairs Office at White Sands Missile Range where he worked for 30 years. At White Sands he wrote and spoke extensively about the missile range mission and the local history – both in house and downtown. When he retired, he was informally called “WSMR’s historian.” He has probably been to Trinity Site, where the first atomic bomb was tested in 1945, more than any other living human being. He saw the space shuttle Columbia land in 1982 and has climbed inside Victorio Peak where the Doc Noss gold bars are supposed to be hidden. One of his talks is “Victorio Peak: 100 Tons of Gold Or 100 Tall Tales?” In addition to his duties with the Dona Ana County Historical Society, he is on the board of directors for the White Sands Missile Range Historical Foundation and has been the editor of its quarterly newsletter for the past 15 years. He expanded his horizons greatly when he published *Camp Cody: A World War One Training Camp* in 2017. The book tells the story of Deming, NM, a town of 2,500 people hosting a training camp with up to 30,000 men in 1917-18.

This *Review* article is the solution to a long standing mystery. Decades ago Eckles rode by the Dona Ana Mountain ruins on his mountain bike, wondered



what they were but couldn’t find an explanation. He finally dug into it two years ago and discovered a fascinating history of basic astronomical research done by Harvard University. There were also ties to local astronomer Clyde Tombaugh and to experiments at White Sands Proving Ground. It turns out, Las Cruces, in 1950, was the epicenter for some world class research featuring some the biggest names in science.

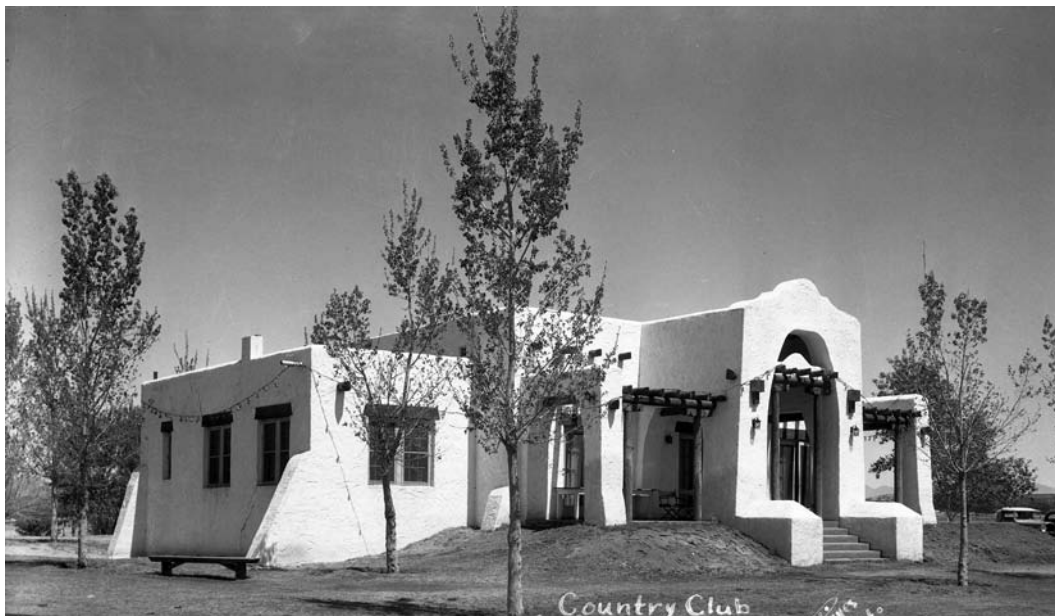
## **Building Worthy of Preservation**

*This award is given to encourage an owner to preserve the uniqueness of a building in Doña Ana County that is distinguished by its age and historical character, its historical significance, or that represents historical architectural character. Residential, commercial, and industrial buildings are eligible.*

### **2020 Building Worthy of Preservation The Las Cruces Country Club Clubhouse**

The old Las Cruces Country Club clubhouse was designed by the architectural firm of Trost and Trost in El Paso, Texas with construction in 1929. The company is noted for its bold, early 20th century designs and many of its buildings have been maintained and still can be seen in Las Cruces and El Paso. Trost and Trost is highly acclaimed for incorporating Southwestern styles into their work, which resulted in some wonderful and unique buildings – distinctive structures that stand out from the typical boxes next to boxes so commonplace today. We should take pains to preserve any Trost structure still standing. Henry Trost is to our area what Frank Lloyd Wright is to Chicago.

We think that, with proper restoration, the building could be a wonderful historic island in the midst of all the modern buildings that will surround it.



## **Heritage Award**

*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 a vocational historian.*

### **2020 Heritage Award Recipient Las Cruces Ad Hoc Historic Preservation Committee**

This award is to recognize the extended effort and dedication put forth by numerous Las Cruces community volunteers to advocate for the city to hire a staff Historic Preservationist and to write the city's first Historic Preservation Ordinance. Collectively the group was known as the Ad Hoc Historic Preservation Committee.

The group was established in 2015 by city councilman Greg Smith and, over the years, had several members come and go. The city council unanimously passed the new ordinance in December 2019. The group was chaired by Kelly Jenks and Beth O'Leary. At the time of passage the group included Dolores Archuleta, Ernie Campos, David Chavez, Robert Cruise, Kassandra Gandara, Faith Hutson, Sandy Marshall, Jackye Meinecke, Clark Myers, Martha Rodriguez and Allison Smith. Some members of the Dona Ana County Historical Society served on the committee over its lifetime. The group worked closely with the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division.

The action by the city council approved two ordinances. One added a chapter to the city code establishing the mechanisms for preserving historic buildings. The other created a historic preservation commission that currently is being formed. More work is needed to survey, evaluate and create an accompanying handbook. According to Troy Ainsworth, the city's historic preservation specialist, Las Cruces must now, as public policy, use historic preservation in its planning process.

The Ad Hoc Historic Preservation Committee and all those who served as members are commended for their diligence. The community as a whole owes you a sincere thank you.



*Southern New Mexico Historical Review*  
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The Doña Ana County Historical Society (DACHS) was founded in 1963 to encourage and foster a better understanding of the County's far reaching history for future generations. Emphasizing research, education, and preservation, the society encourages a greater appreciation of New Mexico history, especially that of Doña Ana County.

### **Founding Members**

John Altshool, Betty Bowen, Helen Caffey, Laiten Camien, Martin Campbell, Ira Clark, George Adlai Feather, Louis Freudenthal, Dorothy Mechem, Hugh Milton, Thomas Mitman, Helen Shomer, David Streeter, J. Paul Taylor, and Mark Thompson

*On the web at: [www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org](http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org)*

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