



NEWSLETTER

December 2018

Doña Ana County Historical Society

Annual Awards Luncheon To Be Held Jan. 26

It is that time of year again to think about attending the Dona Ana County Historical Society's annual awards luncheon. It will be held on Jan. 26, 2019 at the Double Eagle restaurant in Old Mesilla. Check in will begin at 11:30 a.m. and we will eat at noon. The cost is \$26.50 per person. The menu is:

Green Chile Cheese Enchiladas
Cactus Barbeque Brisket
Oven Roasted Red Potatoes
Seasonal Fresh Vegetables
Freshly Baked Rolls and Butter
Spinach Salad w/ Cranberries, Almonds, Feta
Tomato, Cucumber, Onion Vinaigrette Salad
Macaroni Salad
Chefs Assorted Dessert Table
Ice Tea and Coffee

Please make your reservation by January 23 so we can provide the restaurant with an accurate count. Note that if you decide to pay at the door, this is a buffet so the DACHS is on the hook to pay for the number of reservations made - whether you attend or not.

The board of directors has approved a number of awards including a writing award for the upcoming *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. We will list all of the awards in the January Newsletter.

To make a reservation, you can clip the form on the back page of this newsletter and mail it in - make sure it gets to us by the 23rd. Or, you can call Susan Krueger at 575-525-0654 and provide her with all your details.

See you all in the New Year.

Picacho Cemetery Providing Interesting Stories

Sally Kading and her group of volunteers have uncovered dozens of names of people buried in the old Picacho Cemetery now owned by the DACHS. But who were these people? Kading has the group digging for biographical information that might shed some light on the community and its residents.

Luis Rios and Kading made an interesting find when they discovered the tragic end of Juan Marquez, a Picacho resident who was buried in the cemetery on Sept. 18, 1938. According to news stories in the *Las Cruces Sun-News*, Marquez, 85 years old, died all alone in the rugged San Andres Mountains while looking for "his gold mine."

The articles, published on Sept. 17 and 18 at the end of a search for Marquez, make vague reference to a mine he worked occasionally in the mountains. Apparently, some-

time earlier, he had acquired a pony to use as a packhorse for his trip into the mountains. The horse got sick before he got too far and then died when Marquez returned to town.

Marquez then convinced his neighbor, R.P. Arnold, a Picacho farmer, to drive him to the east side of the San Andres and drop him off on Sept. 6. Arnold promised he'd pick up Marquez on the following Tuesday, Sept. 13. Marquez planned to hike to his mine.

Former Dona Ana County sheriff Felipe Lucero reported that he encountered Marquez on Sept. 10, soon after Marquez had left the home of one of the Lucero cowboys on their ranch. Lucero said the man had no water, food or blankets and was concerned for him. He tried to convince him to return. Marquez refused and continued north.

See Sun-News Fears Prove Right, page 2

The Missile Range Offers Ranch Tour To DACHS

Gerry Veara and Jim Eckles, under the sponsorship of the White Sands Missile Range Museum, are going to start tours to some of the historic ranches found “uprange.” Most of them are ruins but there are a lot of folks interested in visiting these sites.

To kick off the series of tours, they want to use a small group of DACHS members as guinea pigs to see how it goes. In addition, White Sands security limits the number of vehicles allowed on a tour so, by definition, this will be a small group.

The plan is to go onto the missile range on **Saturday, Jan. 19**, if there are no military missions. The caravan of visitors will be **limited to only five vehicles**.

This is where it gets complicated. White Sands doesn't care how many people are in those vehicles, they want to make sure the number of cars is small enough for the escorts to easily maintain control.

So this is how we are going to do it. We need members with high capacity, high-clearance vehicles to volunteer to drive. Four-wheel drive is not needed. Then, we fill them with as many members as we can. For example, if we have five vehicles each capable of carrying four people in addition to the driver, we'll be able to haul 25 folks on the tour. We figure there are some big old Suburbans and other beasts out there that can haul more than that.

If you have a big vehicle and want to go, contact

Jim *by email at: nebraska1950@comcast.net* Provide your name, contact information(email address and phone #), kind of vehicle and how many people you can carry beside yourself. This will probably require a bit of back and forth communication so email is preferred over telephone, especially at this time of year. It also provides a timestamp on when your “reservation” came in for placement on the list. ***He'll take info until Dec. 21.***

If you don't have a big rig but want to go, contact Jim by Dec. 21 and he'll put you on the list. Depending on what we get, he will then ***assign people to those five vehicles based on “first come, first served.”***

Gerry and Jim figure the tour will take pretty much most of the day - probably getting back into Las Cruces mid afternoon. We will drive a couple of hundred miles to see cattle and angora goat ranches on the flats and in Rhodes Canyon.

Each ranch is loaded with hazards that visitors will have to be VERY cautious around. The amount of wire scattered on the ground and number of nails sticking pointed end up is impressive. It will be very easy to get entangled and trip or step on a nail and put it through your shoe - wear heavy shoes, absolutely no sandals. Also, many places are overgrown with weeds and brush - lots of tumbleweeds.

Hopefully this will be just one of many.

Sun-News Fears Prove Right ——— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Arnold dutifully went to pick up Marquez on Sept. 13 but he never showed up. Arnold sounded the alarm by notifying the sheriff's department. Sheriff Jose Viramontes immediately ordered a search of the mountains and that they were to stay at it until Juan was “found dead or alive,” according to the *Sun-News*.

Deputy Jimmy Giron, an expert tracker was put in charge of the search party. Joining the group were Arnold, one of Marquez's sons-in-law and a few friends and neighbors.

By the publication of the *Sun-News* on Sept. 17, Marquez was still lost and the paper's headlines read, “Fear Aged Miner Dead in Mountains” and “Hope For Life Of Juan Marquez Almost Abandoned.” The paper was right. The search party found

Marquez's body later that day in Mayberry Canyon. He was found lying under a large tree in the canyon about 15 miles north of where Lucero saw him last. There is evidence of decades-old mining activity at the west end of Mayberry with the foundation of at least one cabin still visible today.

In the obituary for Marquez that appeared on Sept. 20, someone speculated that Marquez probably died not long after his encounter with Lucero. This was based on the fact that Marquez's food pail was still full. That meant the body was exposed to the elements for days and explained why it was “badly decomposed.” It also accounts for the fact that Marquez was buried the very afternoon that the search party got his body back to town. It was probably not a good day for the family or the searchers.

It Is Time To Renew Your DACHS Membership

If you have not renewed your membership in the Dona Ana County Historical Society for 2019, please consider doing so now. Just fill out the form below and mail it to our Post Office box or bring it with you to the Awards Luncheon on Jan. 26 and give it to Dennis Fuller or Susan Krueger. You can make your check out to: DACHS.

*Also, please consider an additional donation to offset the printing costs of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. Check the block below.*

Those who make donations for the Review before January 4, 2019 will have their names listed inside the Review. THANK you for your support.

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 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) _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone # _____

You will automatically receive the Monthly Newsletter in your email as a PDF. Would you also like a paper, printed copy mailed later to the above postal address? Yes No

Your membership includes a copy of the annual *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*(SNMHR). Are you willing to download the version on the DACHS website or would you like to receive a printed copy?

Printed copies are usually first available at the annual Awards Luncheon.

**Doña Ana County Historical Society's Annual Awards Luncheon
Saturday, January 26, 2019, Double Eagle Restaurant
On the Mesilla Plaza, 12:00 noon**

Seating for the Annual Awards Luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the buffet lunch served at 12. The cost is \$26.50 per person payable in advance or at the door. Note the form below includes spaces to list all your guests. You may email your reservation to Susan Krueger at skrueger575@msn.com. Or, if you prefer, you may print it, fill it in and mail it to Susan Krueger c/o DACHS; P.O. Box 16045; Las Cruces, NM 88004.

The installation of Board Members and the Awards program will take place following lunch. If you have questions, please call Susan (575) 525-0654.

RESERVATION FORM DUE BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

\$26.50 per person TOTAL enclosed \$ _____ Will pay at the door

2018 Board of Directors

President: Dennis Daily
 Vice President: Vacant
 Secretary & Website: Jim Eckles
 Treasurer: Dennis Fuller
 Historian: Sally Kading
 Past President: Dr. Susan Krueger
 At-Large Board Members:
 Garland Courts
 Luis Rios
 C.W. "Buddy" Ritter
 Leah Tookey
 Sara Wagner
 SNMHR Editor: Cheryl Fallstead
 Dr. Jon Hunner, Education and
 Scholarship Committees
 Carl Eichstaedt, Book Sales
 Leah Tookey, Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum Liaison
 Santi Martinez, NMMSU History student liaison
www.donaanaacountyhistsoc.org

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Las Cruces, NM 88004-6045**

