



NEWSLETTER

November 2020

Doña Ana County Historical Society

David Thomas Will Discuss The Killing of Garrett

Noted Mesilla Valley historian and author David Thomas will be the November Dona Ana County Historical Society presenter. David will talk about his book “Killing Pat Garrett, The Wild West’s Most Famous Lawman – Murder Or Self-Defense?”

The lecture will be on Nov. 19 beginning at 7 p.m. and will be another virtual presentation offered on the internet through Zoom.

Pat Garrett, the man who killed Billy the Kid, was himself killed on leap day, February 29, 1908, in the Alameda Arroyo just east of Las Cruces. Questions still hang in the air.

Who killed him?

Was it murder?

Was it self-defense?

No biographer of Garrett has really been able to answer these questions. All have expressed opinions. None have presented evidence that would stand up in a court of law. David says that, for the first time by drawing on newly discovered information, he provides a definitive answer to the Wild West’s most famous unsolved killing.

In that process, David found some Garrett related photos that have never been published before. He includes them in his book and we hope we will see some on the 19th.

David has been awarded the Pasajero Del Camino Real Award twice by DACHS for authoring significant historical publications. In addition to his writings on New Mexico history, David is the author of 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. In 2019 he co-founded the very successful Pat Garrett Western Heritage Festival - an event with music, movies, lec-



tures and reenactments.

As with our Sept. and Oct. presentations, a few days before the 19th, DACHS members will be provided a link in an email.

Non-members who wish to “attend” the meeting will have to request the meeting link by email at 19dach63@gmail.com.

These ZOOM presentations are being recorded and can be viewed afterward anytime. Go to the DACHS website and use the links provided, starting with the banner just under the calendar of events/programs. They can be viewed at the Zoom website, our Facebook page or our YouTube channel.

Know Of A Good Speaker? Let Us Know Who It Is For 2021

DACHS vice-president Garland Courts is busy putting together a speaker’s schedule for 2021. If you have someone to suggest, please let Garland know. He can be reached by email at: gcourts@las-cruces.org.

DACHS Organizational News

THE PURGE IS COMING: For years the DACHS has been sending out the newsletter, notices and other information via email. The list has grown to the point that more than half the addresses do not belong to current DACHS members. At this month's board of director's meeting, the group voted that this information should be one of the privileges of membership - of paying your dues.

So, the list is going to be purged in the near future and limited to those who paid dues for 2020 or are paying now for 2021. If you wish to continue your membership and receive the DACHS newsletter, email notices of upcoming presentations and special events, please renew or join for 2021. Also, paid members are eligible to receive a printed copy of the Southern New Mexico Historical Review.

In next month's newsletter, we'll print a form that can be clipped and mailed in. The easier way is go to the DACHS website at: <http://www.donaacountyhistsoc.org> and use the links to pay using your PayPal account or your credit card. **DUES ARE DUE.....**

ANNUAL ELECTIONS: The Covid-19 curse has certainly affected how the DACHS and everyone else does business. The pandemic is really hitting home right now as it is normally the time for the historical society to hold board and officer elections. In the past this has always been done with a presentation of candidates and a vote by the membership at the November monthly meeting.

As far as we know, the board had never been faced with this particular situation before. It certainly isn't covered in the DACHS bylaws. Instead of complicating the process by moving everything to 2021, the board has decided to go ahead and hold the election virtually. We have a regular DACHS monthly presentation on Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. via the internet and Zoom. David Thomas will be speaking. See page one for details.

Just like at a regular November meeting at the Good Samaritan auditorium, the DACHS members present on line on Nov. 19 will be voting. Until Nov. 18, the board will accept any nominations for the board and the positions of vice-president, treasurer and secretary.

The terms for the following board members and officers are expiring. They are all willing take

another turn in the barrel so you will voting on these candidates as well as any put forth before the 19th Garland Courts, vice president;
Dennis Fuller, treasurer;
Jim Eckles, secretary;
Buddy Ritter, member-at-large.
Additional nominations can be emailed to the DACHS mailbox at: 19dachs63@gmail.com

AWARDS BANQUET: It looks like it will be impossible to hold our regular awards banquet in January 2021. Even if we were allowed to meet as a large group, many members would not want to risk it at this point.

However, the board of directors feels that the annual awards are an important part of the DACHS mission and should continue even if we cannot meet in person. So, the process to identify and select award winners for 2021 is motoring along. If you have any suggestions for awards, please send them to the DACHS mailbox at 19dachs63@gmail.com.

The current plan is to have an awards presentation via Zoom on the night of Thursday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. You may note a similarity to our monthly presentation as far as day of week and time. The board feels Thursday nights are probably a good time to collect people around the glowing computer screens for some interaction with fellow members.

More details to follow.

WELCOME JOSE ARANDA: Sara Wagner recently resigned her position on the DACHS board as she moved away from Las Cruces. The board has appointed Jose Aranda to fill her position which will expire in 2022.

Jose works as a librarian full-time at Doña Ana Community College. He also teaches U.S. History part time there. He has a master's degree in Library and Information Science and another master's degree in Public History. Also, he has a graduate certificate in museum studies. He has lived in Las Cruces for 15 years.

Jose says he originally studied to be a high school history teacher, but took the fork in the road and is now an instructional librarian. Previously, he taught Library Science online, full-time at Doña Ana Community College (NMSU).

He is a member of the American Library Association and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Picacho Cemetery Project Is Just About Complete



When your Dona Ana County Historical Society paid the back taxes on the old Picacho Community Cemetery in December 2017 and took possession, it was a jungle of brush - see top photo. Led by Sally Kading with Bob Gamboa assisting, a dedicated group of volunteers has cleaned up the site - you can actually see the two gravestones that were originally there.

Also, through the generous donations from members and others, funds were available to construct the stone pillars with chain fence along the road. Also, we had the pedestal built that you see inside the grounds. It holds the

metal plaque that describes a bit of the history of the cemetery and the names of the known burials.

According to the DACHS board of directors, the historical society will soon be stepping away from the cemetery. There are some outstanding bills and contributions can still be made through the DACHS website or the Go Fund Me site at: SallyKading@GoFundMe.com

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One more photo of what the Picacho Cemetery looked like when DACHS volunteers tackled the brush and debris on the ground. This was taken during the first round of deforestation. There were to be many more rounds to get it to the point that you see in the current photos on page 3. Karen George photo.

www.donaanaacountyhistoricalsociety.org

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President: Dennis Daily
Vice President: Garland Courts
Secretary, Newsletter, Review & Website: Jim Eckles
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Daniel Aguilera, Farm&Ranch Heritage Museum Liaison
Clara Roberts, MSU History student liaison

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