



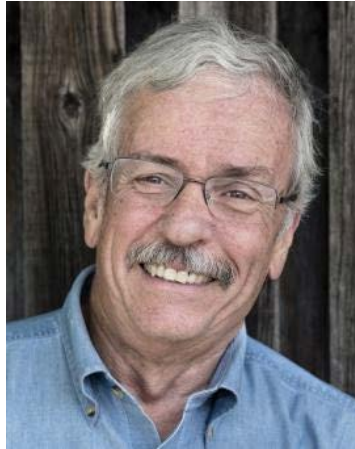
NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

Doña Ana County Historical Society

Dr. Kenneth Hammond To Speak About Kent State

Fifty-three years ago, on May 4, 1970, four students were killed and nine injured when the Ohio National Guard opened fire on anti-war protesters on the campus of Kent State University. Dr. Kenneth Hammond was one of the student demonstrators and a leader of the Students for a Democratic Society. On May 18 at 7 p.m. he will share his lived experience during the three days of unrest on the Kent State campus in May 1970. In the aftermath of the shooting, Dr. Hammond has worked to preserve the public memory and place of the incident and has used the experience to help us understand events like the El Paso Wal-Mart shooting in August 2019.



Hammond received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in East Asian Languages and History. He has taught at NMSU for 29 years where he specializes in the history of China in the early modern period. He has published numerous articles on Chinese political and intellectual history and has been a lecturer for National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institute about China.

As usual the talk will be in the auditorium at Good Samaritan, 3011 Buena Vida Cr. and is open to the public.

NOTE: This is our last presentation for the first part of 2023. We will pick up the monthly lectures in September. However, be aware, that because it is our 60th anniversary, we plan to have some more field trips this summer. We will provide details by email.

First Field Trip For 60th Anniversary Is Downtown Walk, May 11

Our first field trip to celebrate 60 years of DACHS is really close to home. We are sponsoring an evening walking tour downtown on **May 11**. We will start at **5:30 p.m.** at the **Las Cruces RR Museum**. From there we will spend about two hours walking through

historic Las Cruces. We'll leisurely cover about three miles listening to historians Jerry Wallace, Chris Schurtz and Troy Ainsworth.

No reservations are required. You might want to bring a bottle of water. Of course there are several watering holes in the area. ☺



Las Cruces RR Depot/Museum at 351 N. Mesilla St. Walking tour begins at 5:30 pm, May 11

First DACHS President Was Louis Freudenthal

By Madeleine Vessel

Louis E. Freudenthal was elected the first president of the Doña Ana County Historical Society. He served from October 22, 1963 - November 19, 1964.

Freudenthal was born on June 18, 1895, in Las Cruces. Though his parents moved to Solomonville, Arizona, in 1900, Freudenthal spent much of his boyhood in Las Cruces with his uncle Morris Freudenthal, owner of the Don Bernardo Hotel. When he reached fourth or fifth grade, Freudenthal went east to live with relatives and go to school. He attended Country Day School and DeWitt Clinton in New York.

In 1916, he received his bachelor's degree in agriculture from Cornell University. Freudenthal returned to Las Cruces soon after graduation. An innovative farmer, he became one of the first to plant both cotton and pecan trees in the Mesilla Valley. He belonged to the Farm Bureau and later participated in the Elephant Butte Alfalfa Association. He also served as the Director of the American Farm Bureau Federation and as Vice President of the American Forestry Association.

An article he wrote, "Flood and Erosion Control as Possible Unemployment Relief Measures," was published in Science and influenced the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps Camps.

While Freudenthal was lobbying back east on behalf of valley farmers who were over burdened with Elephant Butte project repayment costs, he met Carmen Sylva Kahn. They were married in 1930 and had two children: Max A. Freudenthal and Elsa Freudenthal Altshool.

As a civic leader, he was influential in founding many organizations: The Doña Ana County Taxpayers League, the Valley Locker Co-op, the Symphony Society Community Concerts, and the Doña Ana County Historical Society. As a local historian, he personally prepared short histories of the Branigan Memorial Library, the Don Bernardo Hotel, Aztec Masonic Lodge, and the Mutual Building and Loan Association. He died in 1971.

FIRST MEETINGS -- On October 22, 1963,



*Carmen and Louis Freudenthal.
Courtesy photo.*

DACHS designated the fourth Tuesday of each month for regular meetings. Although the 1963 by-laws called for monthly meetings, Freudenthal did not conduct business meetings during the months of June, July, August, or December.

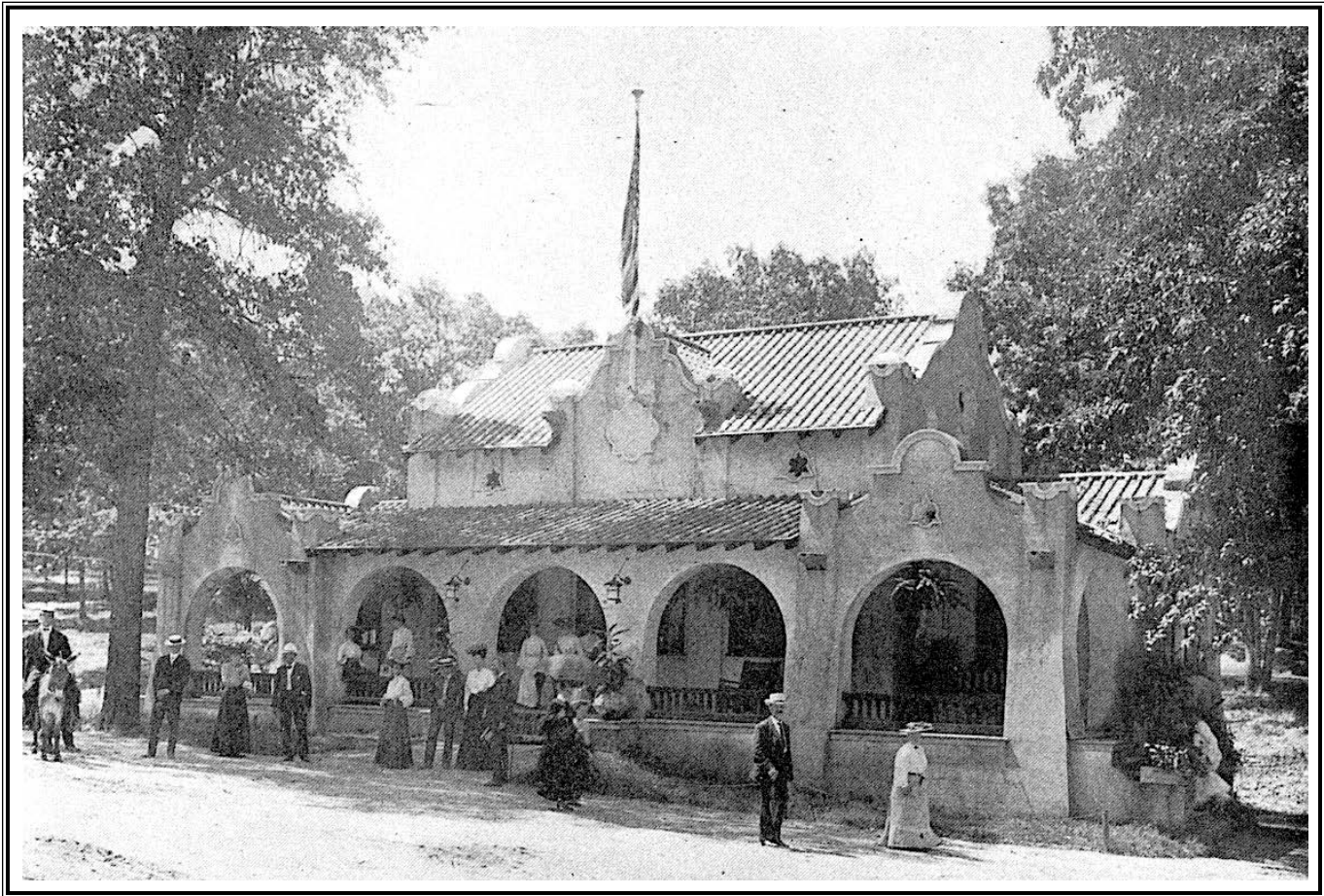
Meetings typically convened at 7:30 p.m. Freudenthal, who presided, called for the minutes to be read and approved and then asked for committee reports. Later, new business was introduced. Business meetings usually adjourned at about 8:15 p.m. to be followed by a guest speaker and a question/answer period that lasted until 9:00 p.m. During the Society's early

years, meetings were held in the Yucca Room at First National Bank of Doña Ana County.

Freudenthal appointed the following committees: a Membership Committee headed by Charlotte K. Priestley, a Fort Selden Committee headed by Major Thomas Mitman, and two committees headed by Helen Caffey, who was the director of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, one committee to look into the possibility of taping old-timers, and one to select Hall of Fame Nominees for Historical Society of New Mexico's second Annual Hall of Fame Banquet. In addition to her committee responsibilities, Caffey generously offered the library as a repository, not only for tapes of old-timers, but a place of safekeeping for photographs and other historical materials that might be collected. She also agreed to prepare a list of books pertaining to the history of Doña Ana County.

Freudenthal appointed John L. Altshool to chair a Railroad Committee for the purpose of acquiring an old locomotive from the Santa Fe Railroad; Jay Weir to chair a Fire Department Hose Reel #1 Committee; and George Adlai Feather to chair a Court House Papers Committee, Program Committee, and HSNM Hall of Fame Banquet Committee.

After the first meeting and collecting donations, Treasurer Gen. Hugh Milton, subsequently opened the first DACHS account at the First National Bank of Doña Ana County. By October 23, 1963, the bank balance was \$48.



The Territory of New Mexico's pavilion at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition held in St. Louis from April 30 to December 1, 1904. Also called the St. Louis World's Fair, more than 60 countries and most American states maintained exhibition spaces at the fair, which was attended by nearly 19.7 million people. NMSU's president Luther Foster was put in charge of gathering many of the exhibits that traveled to the expo from NM. Courtesy photo.

Why Not Consider Writing Something For The Next *Review*?

It is going to be a long summer. Why not take some time and write out that family history in a short article or essay for the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*? Or, maybe you know something about the history of a local organization or about some event in our distant or recent past that would make a nice short piece for the *Review*. Think about spending a few hours to commit it to paper.

The Doña Ana County Historical Society wants original articles concerning Southern New Mexico history for its next annual *Review* (Volume XXXI, January 2024).

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. Last year we had a wonderful little essay by Monte Rout about growing up in remote House, NM.

Jim Eckman will be the editor again. All submissions must be made electronically as Word documents. Other formats can be negotiated. Also, we would like end notes instead of footnotes. To

submit an article or to ask questions, contact Jim Eckles by email: 19dachs63@gmail.com or by phone at: 575-521-8771. Eckles will act as the middle man and continue to do the layout.

The deadline for final articles will be sometime in October.

More information is available on the society's website at: <http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org/HistoricalReview/Reviews.html>.



The Back Page -----

✍ The White Sands Missile Range Museum will hold its GRAND REOPENING on May 4 at 9 a.m. The museum has been closed the last few years as a new exhibit hall was constructed and then populated with completely new exhibits. The new facility was funded by the White Sands Missile Range Historical Foundation and the U.S. Army's Center for Military History. Together they spent over \$3 million on the state-of-the-art museum which covers area history before World War II in addition to the missile range.

This event is open to the public but, be aware, DACHS has requested a Saturday "personal" tour of the museum from Director Darren Court. Hopefully it will happen in the next few months.



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