



# NEWSLETTER

November 2015

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

**Dr. Susan Krueger**

### ELECTION

At our November 19th membership meeting, we will elect two Board Members at Large. Sara Wagner and George Helfrich, who submitted their names to the nominating committee in October, are the two nominees. Prior to voting, the Society will take nominations from the floor. Then following the voting, I will ask all the Board members to stand and introduce themselves. Please take a moment to talk with them, especially if you have a project or program you would like the Society to consider.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND LUNCHEON

On your 2016 calendar, please mark Saturday, January 30, at noon as the date for the Society’s Annual General Membership Meeting and Awards Luncheon. The event will be held at the Double Eagle Restaurant in Mesilla, where both the history and the food are outstanding. After lunch, we will install the new Board members, including Jon Hunner who will be our new President, and enjoy the presentation of Awards. A Reservation Form for the Luncheon appears on page 3.

### DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

November will be our last membership meeting in 2015; however, watch for the December Newsletter for a list of the Awards and the Luncheon menu.

### MORE ON MURALS OF LAS CRUCES

Jim Eckles, the Society’s webmaster, has put a link to the Facebook posting of the photos of the NMSU Murals project on the front page of DACHS’s website ([donaanacountyhistsoc.org](http://donaanacountyhistsoc.org)). Read on for more on Las Cruces murals. A front page article in the “Las Cruces Sun News,” July 25, 2015, covered the Court Youth Center’s Ignite

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Doña Ana County Historical Society Meeting at 7:00 PM at the Good Samaritan Auditorium on Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup>.

The program for the evening will be:

## Lorenzo Torrez

Paul Ward’s presentation will detail his research into the life and beliefs of Lorenzo Torrez. ■

### Summary of Presentation

Lorenzo Torrez played a significant role in the Mine-Mill strike in Hanover, NM. The strike against the Empire Zinc Company became the basis for the film Salt of the Earth. He used the film as a platform to help spread his views and beliefs. These events set the stage for his future contributions to labor rights for workers in the Southwest. The discrimination he and his family endured, which began with his grandfather, left a lasting impression. The early ‘50s became a pivotal point for him as racial discrimination and oppression radicalized and redirected him onto a socialist path. Although Cold War pol-

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Paul Ward  
Photo courtesy Paul Ward

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program mural project, including four murals: one, a collage of scenes representing the past and present of the Rio Grande Theatre located on the Theater's back wall; another at Court Youth Center about modern education; another about Latino culture on Hadley Ave., featuring a portrait of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo; and the fourth, a mural of native plants of the Mesquite Historic District on a building on Campo St. and Kansas Ave.

Then in September, the "Las Cruces Sun News" carried an article about another public murals project also inspired by Irene Oliver Lewis, arts educator and founder of the Court Youth Center, Alma d'arte Charter High School. This project, a dumpster painting project, was supported by the Las Cruces Utilities Solid Waste Section, and can be found on dumpsters throughout the downtown area. It features scenes of Las Cruces from different periods with different structures.

Perhaps there is a murals field trip here with a picnic in the park.

This year the World Monuments Fund's biennial list of cultural heritage sites threatened by neglect, over-development or social, economic and political change included a site in New Mexico: the 1629 San Estevan Del Rey Mission, a National Historic Landmark, in Acoma, NM. The organization cited the Spanish mission in Acoma as a site badly in need of restoration. This preservation minded group, based in New York, first issued its World Monuments Watch List in 1996 to call attention to important threatened landmarks around the world to promote awareness and action. The list is put together by a panel of experts in archaeology, architecture, art history and preservation.

Source: an Associated Press article carried in the "Las Cruces Sun News" on October 16, 2015. ■

## 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](mailto:nebraska1950@comcast.net) or by phone at 575-521-8771.

The preferred deadline for final articles is November 18. However, if you can't make it by then, later deadlines may be arranged. ■

## Lorenzo Torrez from page 1

itics made being a Communist in the United States challenging, he dedicated decades to preaching the Party's ideology. He spent the remainder of his life fighting for equal rights for workers, women, and oppressed racial groups; his contributions were beneficial and helped pave the way to obtaining civil rights for many throughout Southwest. ■

## Personal Biography

Paul Ward is a New Mexico State University graduate, originally from El Paso, Texas. In August of this year, he received his M.A. in history; adding to his B.A. in elementary education. During his time at New Mexico State he became a member of the national honor society Phi Alpha Theta and dedicated much of his time to traveling throughout the Southwest conducting research for his thesis. His thesis is based around the film *Salt of the Earth*, and focused on the life of New Mexican Lorenzo Torrez. As an educator at heart, Paul also teaches 5th grade in El Paso. He plans on continuing his education by pursuing a doctoral degree; his long-term goal is to be a history professor. When Paul is not working he enjoys spending time with his family, playing a variety of instruments, creating music, and operating his own recording studio. ■

## Let's Try That Again! Hembrillo Battlefield Tour

Because of a last minute mission scheduled at White Sands Missile Range, we were unable to visit the Hembrillo Battlefield on Oct. 17. Jim Eckles plans to try it again on Feb. 13, 2016. The 13th is part of a three-day weekend (President's Day) when there is less likelihood of a mission being scheduled for the weekend.

Because of the large time gap between now and then, we will start the process all over again starting January 10. If you would like to go, notify Jim after the 10th at his email address of [nebraska1950@comcast.net](mailto:nebraska1950@comcast.net) or by phone at 575-521-8771. We will still be limited to about 30 people and 10 vehicles - first come, first served.

By the way, rains in mid-October made the road even less friendly - bring a shovel. ■



**You are invited to the Doña Ana County Historical Society's  
Annual Awards Luncheon**

**January 30th, 2016, Double Eagle Restaurant  
on the Mesilla Plaza; 12:00 noon**

Seating for the Annual Awards Luncheon will begin at noon with the buffet lunch to be served at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$25.00 per person payable in advance or at the door. For your convenience, this reservation form is included, and you may email your reservation directly to Susan Krueger at [skrueger575@msn.com](mailto:skrueger575@msn.com). Or, if you prefer, you may print it, fill it in, and snail mail it to Susan Krueger, c/o DACHS, P.O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004.

Following lunch, there will be the awards program and the installation of new Board members.

If you have any questions, please call Susan at 525-0654.

RESERVATION FORM due by Saturday, January 23, 2016

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25.00 per person TOTAL enclosed

Will pay at the door

**If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2016,  
Please renew your Membership Today. See form below.**

-----Cut along dotted line-----

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**

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) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter via E-mail Yes  No

How would you like to receive your copy of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* (SNMHR)?  
Printed Version  Society Website Version  PDF on CD Version





After the presentation, Gerry Veara (left) of White Sands Missile Range talks with Karl Laumbach.

At our last Membership Meeting, Karl Laumbach gave a detailed briefing on the Hembrillo Battlefield in preparation for the Society's field trip to Hembrillo. Unfortunately, the trip was cancelled due to a Missile Range mission that prevented personnel from traveling to the battlefield.

Karl discussed the original finding of the battlefield and the various efforts and work to document and analyze the information and reconstruct the battle with locations and movements of the Cavalry and Indians.

### Thanks to our 2014 Corporate Sponsors

We encourage our Members to patronize their businesses

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**2015 Board Members**

Las Cruces, NM 88004-6045

P.O. Box 16045

Doña Ana County Historical Society

