

Doña Ana County Historical Society

1963-1994



"To encourage in every way possible a greater appreciation of New Mexico history, especially that of Doña Ana County, through aid and assistance, when practical, and as funds are available, for the publication of historical material; for the marking of historic routes and sites, both public and private; the establishment of historical collections and museums; the preservation of historic documents, artifacts, and published materials of historic importance; the purchase and preservation of historic landmarks; and all other related activities."



Madeline Vessel

Doña Ana County Historical Society
1963-1994

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Doña Ana County Historical Society/ Publishers
Las Cruces, New Mexico

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INTRODUCTION



DURING LATE SPRING 1992, Vice President Linda G. Harris formed a special projects committee to outline a long-range plan for the Doña Ana County Historical Society (DACHS or Society). When the committee delivered the “Long-Range Plan” on September 17, 1992, publishing DACHS’s history was a top priority.¹

Doña Ana County Historical Society: 1963-1994 is primarily the story of how DACHS has carried out its purposes as defined in the preamble of its bylaws on November 25, 1963:

to encourage in every way possible a greater appreciation of New Mexico history, especially that of Doña Ana County, through aid and assistance, when practical, and as funds are available, for the publication of historical material, for the marking of historic routes and sites, both public and private, the establishment of historical collections and museums, the preservation of historic documents, artifacts, and published materials of historic importance, the purchase and preservation of historic landmarks, and all other related activities.²

This history also attempts to recognize those who have made significant contributions to DACHS; to kindle a sense of pride in being a DACHS member; to provide a basis for effective policy making and planning for DACHS’s future; and to build awareness of the historical significance of Doña Ana County.

The history is divided into seven parts and includes appendices. “Part I: The Founding” briefly describes how DACHS was formed. “Part II: Saving Historical Landmarks” relates the story of the struggle to save Fort Selden and Fort Fillmore. “Part III: Saving Historic Buildings” deals with the battle to save historic buildings during Urban Renewal in the 1960s, the campaign to list historic properties on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties and the National Register of Historic Places, and the Society’s involvement in the Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey during the 1980s.

“Part IV: Establishing a Historical Collection” describes DACHS’s artifacts and the circumstances surrounding their collection. “Part V: Marking Historic Sites” is the story of DACHS’s efforts to mark Pat Garrett’s murder site, establish a park at International Boundary No. 1, and mark the Bartlett-Conde Initial Point. “Part VI: Publishing History” describes the Society’s attempts to publish historical materials, and finally, “Part VII: Doña Ana County Historical Society Presidents” briefly profiles DACHS’s presidents and their administrations between 1963 and 1994.

Appendices include the following: Appendix A, a chronology of programs and field trips; Appendix B, a chronology of annual banquet awards; and Appendix C, “Suggested Implementation of Society Purposes” compiled in 1989.

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Credits: Rio Grande Historical Collections, New Mexico State University Library for the photograph of Hugh M. Milton, II on page 13 and the photograph of Louis E. Freudenthal on page 53. David Vessel for photograph of Fort Selden on page 6.

*This book is lovingly dedicated to
Lucy Lawrence.
A donation in her memory
from her family helped underwrite
the publication of this history.*

Part I

THE FOUNDING



ON THE EVENING OF Thursday, September 26, 1963, an informally organized group of local history buffs met with Victor Westphall, President of the Historical Society of New Mexico (HSNM), to establish a chapter of the state society in Doria Ana County. The meeting was held in the back patio of Betty Bowen's book store, the Design Center, which was located on the west side of Old Mesilla Plaza.¹

The organizers were amazingly diverse in their backgrounds, representing the university, the town, and the military. Chairman Louis E. Freudenthal was a longtime Las Cruces resident who had worked in farming, real estate, and insurance. George Adlai Feather was a Rhodes Scholar linguist who came to Las Cruces in 1923 to teach languages at New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts and became an authority on the history of the Mesilla Valley. Martin Campbell, an Amador descendant, was the owner of the Amador Hotel. Helen Shomer and Dorothy Mechem were housewives. John L. Alshool, who was Freudenthal's son-in-law, was a stockbroker. Major Thomas Mitman was former military. Mark Thompson was a local businessman who owned H & K Trucking and Mayflower. Betty Bowen ran the Design Center and reviewed Southwest books on KWRG. Ira G. Clark was a history professor at New Mexico State University (NMSU). J. Paul Taylor was the Elementary Curriculum Coordinator in the Las Cruces School's Administrative Office. David Streeter was a reference librarian at NMSU, and Laiten L. Camien was a sociologist at NMSU.

Absent from this meeting, but part of the informal group, were General Hugh M. Milton II and Helen Caffey. Milton, a former academic and a retired army general, was Vice President of the First National Bank of Doña Ana County. And Caffey was Director of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library.²

The group believed that being affiliated with HSNM would facilitate achieving two primary goals: Their immediate goal was to save Fort Selden, a nearby military post which was suffering from the effects of vandalism and decay; their long-term goal was to preserve the history and culture of Doña Ana County.³

Westphall was pleased to encourage the group's goals. Organizing statewide chapters was one of the HSNM's most important objectives. Through statewide chapters, HSNM hoped to become more effective in recording, preserving, and encouraging appreciation of New Mexico's social and cultural heritage. Westphall began his remarks by describing HSNM's statewide projects, particularly the newly established Annual Hall of Fame Banquet and efforts to discover archival materials from around the state. Then he gave a detailed explanation of how a Doña Ana County Historical Society could be organized and affiliated with HSNM.⁴

When Westphall concluded his presentation, Freudenthal appointed two committees to formally organize the Doria Ana County Historical Society: a committee to nominate a slate of officers and a committee to draw up articles of incorporation.

On October 3rd, articles of incorporation and the following slate of officers were accepted: President Louis E. Freudenthal, Vice President George Adlai Feather, Recording Secretary J. Paul Taylor, Corresponding Secretary Helen Caffey, and Treasurer General Hugh M. Milton II. Betty Bowen and David Streeter were named first and second alternates, respectively. In addition, Milton was appointed acting custodian of all material belonging to the newly formed DACHS. On October 22nd, Freudenthal and Westphall signed the official affiliation agreement between DACHS and

HSNM, and on November 25th, the Society approved its first set of bylaws.⁵

By the time the bylaws were accepted, DACHS was well established with a well defined purpose and thirty-one members. New additions were Jay Weir, Jennalee Clark, Sam Shomer, Mr. And Mrs. W. E. Flint, Colonel Ralph Cruse, Jerome Hartger, John Hawley, George Helfrich, Mary La Barre Hignett, Mrs. Earl Jones, Chester Linscheid, Charlotte Priestley, Joe Priestley, Virginia Spruiell, and Richard White .⁶

Part II

SAVING HISTORIC LANDMARKS



WHEN THE DACHS WAS FOUNDED IN 1963, saving Fort Selden, an old military post which was moldering away from the effects of wind, rain, and vandalism a few miles north of Las Cruces, was its primary purpose. In 1965, the Society began efforts to preserve old Fort Fillmore as well. At that time, Fort Fillmore, which was situated on private land south of Mesilla Park, was about to be plowed under for agricultural purposes. The following is the story of DACHS's efforts to save these two historic landmarks.



Fort Selden in 1994

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Chapter 1

FORT SELDEN

Established in 1865



NAMED AFTER COLONEL Henry R. Selden, veteran of the Civil War battles of Valverde and Glorietta, Fort Selden was established on May 8, 1865. It joined similar fixed frontier posts operating in the Southwest to curb Apache depredations, facilitate settlement and safeguard travel.¹

The Fort Selden site, located near present day Radium Springs about thirteen miles north of Las Cruces, was well suited for a fixed post. It stood on level ground and was conveniently situated near the Rio Grande with plenty of water and trees. Though vegetation in the surrounding desert country was sparse, there was sufficient grass nearby for livestock. The Robledo Mountains, which were just across the Rio Grande from the fort, provided an ideal look-out site.

Designed for a cavalry troop and an infantry company, the post was built almost entirely of adobe. Most buildings were flat-roofed, onestoried structures. Without a walled perimeter, the post sprawled over six acres, providing troop quarters with kitchen and mess, officer quarters, a hospital, a commissary, a court room, a guard room, a granary, a carpenter's shop, a blacksmith's shop, a butcher's shop, a saddler's shop, and a cemetery. In addition there was accommodation for livestock and storage.²

Soldiers quartered at Fort Selden, including black infantry referred to as "buffalo soldiers" by the Indians, patrolled the area bounded on the west by the Florida Mountains and on the east by

the Sacramento and Guadalupe mountains as far north as Canada Alamosa and as far south as the Mexican border. Eventually, their duties included escorting the mail; defending the local citizenry and their livestock from rustlers, outlaws, and raiding Indians; and protecting travelers crossing the Jornada del Muerto. When they were not officially occupied, soldiers combated the enemies of loneliness and boredom with visits to nearby Doña Ana and Leasburg where they could find "women, dancing, gambling, and alcohol."³

In 1877, during Victorio's War, which raged between 1878 and 1880, an entire company of the Ninth Cavalry was transferred to Fort Stanton, leaving only a regular garrison of one First Lieutenant and three enlisted men. At that time the post was in a semi-caretaker status. Then by special order from the Headquarters Department of New Mexico on May 27, 1879, Fort Selden was abandoned. Soldiers returned to the post in 1880 to provide protection for Rio Grande, Mexico, and Pacific Railroad crews laying track south from San Marcial across the Jornada del Muerto.⁴

Not long after Victorio's War, installation of a series of heliograph signal stations was completed. Signals transmitted between the Robledo Mountains, Cooke's Peak, Fort Stanton, Mount Franklin, and Fort Bliss kept troops advised of the location of roving Apache bands and ultimately signaled their demise. Between 1889 and 1891, after the military's successful campaign to subjugate the Indians, the military closed twenty-eight frontier posts, including Fort Selden.

After Fort Selden was ordered closed in 1890, its soldiers were reassigned, and its military dead were moved and reinterred at Santa Fe. The post then reverted to the public domain. After passing through various owners, it was acquired by Harry H. Bailey in 1926.⁵

A Ruin after 1891

By the time Bailey took ownership, Fort Selden was well on its way to ruination. Its deterioration began shortly after its abandonment, brought on by the removal of essential wooden supports from various structures. It is believed that the individual who handled the reinterment of the post's military dead was given permission to salvage what was left of the fort's reusable building materials. What he didn't take was soon carried off by local people, rendering the adobe walls vulnerable to the various moods of mother nature. Roofless and continually subjected to sand-blasting, spring winds and violent, summer thunderstorms, the old post's walls crumbled away.⁶

Vandals and treasure hunters also contributed to the fort's deterioration. The stone walls of the two-story guardhouse reportedly stood eight feet high in 1935. Forty years later, so many stones had been carried off, that many walls were level with the ground.⁷

Sometime in the 1930s, Bailey approached Hugh M. Milton II, who was President of New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (New Mexico A & M), now known as New Mexico State University (NMSU), with his concerns about Fort Selden's deterioration and his hope that the state or the federal government could be persuaded to make Fort Selden into a state or national park. Although Milton was in sympathy with Bailey's concerns, the pressures of administering the college and subsequent long absences kept him from being personally involved. Milton was President of New Mexico A & M until he was sent to serve in the South Pacific during World War II. After the war, Milton served as President of the New Mexico Military Institute

in Roswell until 1953 when he was called to serve under President Dwight D. Eisenhower as Assistant Secretary and later Under Secretary of the Army⁸

Project to Save Fort Selden-1962

It wasn't until 1961, after Milton returned from Washington, D. C. to become Vice President of the First National Bank of Doña Ana County, that he finally had time to focus attention on the plight of Fort Selden. One day, in casual conversation with the bank's president, Frank O. Papen, Milton expressed his desire to do something about preserving the old post. By now, Milton regarded Fort Selden not only as part of an important era of military history that should be preserved, but also as the fondly remembered boyhood home (for a brief period) of his now dear friend, General Douglas MacArthur. Milton had served with MacArthur in the South Pacific during the war and remembered his reminiscing about living at Fort Selden as a child and his hope "that the old adobe walls and columns still standing would never be allowed to crumble back into the earth from which they had risen." MacArthur's father, Captain Arthur MacArthur, commanded Fort Selden from 1884 to 1886.⁹

Milton's enthusiasm prompted Papen's encouragement, and as a result, Milton began garnering support for a project to make Fort Selden into a state park or monument. Respected and loved by many in the Mesilla Valley, it was not difficult for him to rally local history buffs to his cause. In addition, Milton managed to spark an interest in the New Mexico State Park and Recreation Commission (NMSPRC) to establish Fort Selden as a state park, and he prevailed upon the Mesilla Valley Chamber of Commerce to endorse the project with a formal resolution.¹⁰

Following these preliminaries, Milton contacted the owner of Fort Selden by letter on January 17, 1963. The Harry Bailey of Milton's recollection had died. But as chance would have it, the fort remained in the Bailey family. According to the tax rolls, Fort Selden was owned by the son,

Harry N. Bailey. In his letter, assuming that the younger Bailey shared his father's interest in preserving Fort Selden, Milton boldly proposed that Bailey give the old post to the state of New Mexico to be made into a state park.¹¹

Bailey was receptive to the idea and agreed to make a gift of the ruin provided four requirements could be met:

- 1) That he give the land in installments of 2½ acres per year [this was apparently to take advantage of a tax deduction].
- 2) That the recipient would have the authority to maintain it as an historic site.
- 3) That there be a plaque indicating that the land was given in honor of his father.
- 4) That there be a program of restoration.¹²

This encouraging response prompted Milton to contact State Senator James Patton. Milton had already identified NMSPRC as an agency which had the capability of maintaining Fort Selden. However, in order to give NMSPRC authority over the post, Milton had to get a bill through the New Mexico State Legislature establishing Fort Selden as a state park.¹³

In the meantime, Milton planned a dedication ceremony to take place in late May of 1963. He invited General Douglas MacArthur to come out to Las Cruces for the occasion:

We, of southern New Mexico, have recently undertaken to have Fort Selden made a state park and it appears at this writing that this will be brought to fruition within a few weeks. As I recall, you were once at Fort Selden with your father and in thinking of the dedicatory ceremonies we could think of no one whom we would rather have dedicate the park than yourself.¹⁴

In the spring of 1963, during the Twenty-Sixth Legislature, Senator Patton successfully introduced Senate Bill No. 302, which was subsequently passed by the Senate and the House and signed into law by the Governor.¹⁵

Section 1. Fort Selden State Park Created.-- There is created in Doña Ana county, at the

site of old Fort Selden, Fort Selden state park which shall be under the supervision and control of the state park commission. Section 2. Acceptance of Land.—The state park commission shall accept, on behalf of the state of New Mexico, donations of land in Doña Ana County by any person for Fort Selden state park.¹⁶

Although Bill No. 302 gave the state park commission the authority to supervise and control Fort Selden, it did not provide money for either maintenance or restoration. Without a commitment of money to develop the Fort Selden site, the state park commission's hands were tied and a program of restoration could not be guaranteed. The dedication ceremony was postponed.

DACHS Organized to Save Fort Selden October 3, 1963

On October 3, 1963, the group of Mesilla Valley history buffs working to form the DACHS met informally at Betty Bowen's Design Center on Old Mesilla Plaza to tackle the problem of saving Fort Selden. That night, they accepted a slate of officers to direct the newly established DACHS, and the first President, Louis E. Freudenthal, appointed the first Fort Selden Committee. The purpose of the committee was to work with local architects to determine what should be done to preserve Fort Selden and to work toward a legislative appropriation at the next session of the legislature. Chaired by Major Mitman, the committee also included General Milton and Sam Shomer.¹⁷

Fort Selden Brochure 1963-1964

Soon after their appointment, the committee members met in Milton's office at the First National Bank of Doña Ana County to form a plan of action. During the meeting, the committee decided it was incumbent upon them to prepare a brochure on Fort Selden that would respond to each of Bailey's four requirements. The proposed

brochure would also include a history of Fort Selden and two sets of sketches. One set of sketches would depict Fort Selden in its deteriorating state. The other set would represent a restored Fort Selden.

Milton prepared the history of Fort Selden with assistance from DACHS members J. Paul and Mary D. Taylor and the Department of the Army.¹⁸

Responding to Bailey's requirements was a more difficult task.

Requirement #1

In order to satisfy Bailey's first requirement, the committee needed to ascertain whether Bailey's giving the land in installments would pose a problem for the state. The state had no objection, so this requirement was easily satisfied.¹⁹

Requirement #2

Bailey's second requirement called for an agency to be responsible which would have the capacity to maintain Fort Selden as a state park. The committee satisfied this requirement by demonstrating that NMSPRC was a responsible agency and could obtain funds to maintain the site.

Bill No. 302 gave NMSPRC the authority to assume this responsibility. The question was would they? Milton petitioned John L. Gray, Vice Chairman of NMSPRC, for an official commitment.

Gray was receptive to Milton's petition, and during a meeting of NMSPRC on January 16, 1964, spoke out in favor of developing the Fort Selden site. Gray believed that Fort Selden had excellent potential as a state park. It was conveniently situated near a highway interchange and, further, it was possible that an arrangement might be made to combine the attraction of nearby Radium Springs water with that of Fort Selden, doubling the potential tourist interest in the site. Thomas Fortune Ryan, owner of Radium Springs Resort, had already discussed such a possibility with Milton.²⁰

Gray proposed installing signs and paths as a modest first step toward development, and suggested that the NMSPRC issue the following

statement which they unanimously approved:

That being pleased with the local interest which has been manifested toward Fort Selden State Park, it is hoped that this interest will help solve the problem that was created by this Commission being given a new state park with no funds to develop it, and that the Commission is very much interested in the development of Fort Selden State Park when funds are made available.²¹

The problem of funding remained, but was solvable through legislative appropriations and grants. Gray, who visited a DACHS meeting on January 23, 1964, gave some background on Senate bills which had been passed and which affected NMSPRC. He urged DACHS to encourage legislators to support appropriations to develop new parks. A budget for \$1,200,000 had already been submitted to operate the state park system during 1964-65. At a little urging from the constituency, more money would be forthcoming. U. S. Senator Edwin Mechem encouraged DACHS to seek federal money as well. Grants had already been made to other old posts for restoration.²²

Requirement #3

The third requirement for a plaque indicating that the post was a gift from Harry N. Bailey in memory of his father was easily satisfied. The First National Bank of Doña Ana County agreed to donate the plaque, reserving its wording to Bailey's discretion.²³

Requirement #4

In order to meet Bailey's fourth requirement for a program of restoration, the committee designed a program that could be initiated once the land was deeded to the state.²⁴

At the suggestion of DACHS member and architect, Jerome Hartger, the committee began by considering the following issues:

1. Fencing
2. Preservation of existing buildings
3. Restoration²⁵

Major Thomas Mitman conducted a preliminary survey of the site and determined the amount of fencing and the number of access gates that would be required to enclose Fort Selden. He estimated that it would cost \$6,000 to complete the fencing phase of the project. After Mitman provided aerial photographs of Fort Selden to the NMSPRC, Carlos Tipps assisted the Fort Selden Committee to plan for water and comfort facilities. An estimate for the cost of accomplishing these preliminary steps would form the basis of a request for funds from the New Mexico State Legislature.²⁶

Brochure still in Progress-1965

Most of the committee's work had been accomplished by November 19, 1964. The brochure lacked only sketches of the proposed restoration. Several sketches had been made by each of the committee members, but none was satisfactory. Despite Milton's last minute efforts to complete the brochure to satisfy the demands of newly elected President George Adlai Feather, who insisted that action be taken by the end of the year, the brochure was still in progress in January 1965.²⁷

On January 28, 1965, Feather appointed a new Fort Selden Committee including Jerome Hartger, John Hawley, Louis E. Freudenthal, Sam Shomer, and General Milton. Then, on February 25, 1965, Feather appointed Shomer chairman of the committee and added himself and John L. Altshool, the Recording Secretary, to the committee in order to complete the brochure and plan for the first transfer of land from Bailey.²⁸

By March 25, 1965, the brochure was complete. Hartger had made a satisfactory set of sketches. The completed brochure was then presented to Bailey with a copy filed at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library.²⁹

A year later, in spite of the committee's efforts, no land had yet been transferred. The Fort Selden Project had come to a halt because Bailey's attorney, Wayne C. Whatley, had become ill and could not proceed with legal work on the matter. This

delay worried NMSPRC as they had been making plans to create a long strip recreation area on the land along the river from Radium Springs to Fort Selden and needed the deed to Fort Selden to begin work. Advised of the Commission's concern by DACHS, Whatley's wife wrote to NMSPRC on Bailey's behalf. She advised NMSPRC that Bailey, due to a prospective special tax advantage, now intended to transfer 1.6 acres per year for seven years.³⁰

Fort Selden Transferred to State of New Mexico-1969

On September 22, 1966, after what seemed an interminable delay, news came that three of six deeds had been signed by Bailey and that the rest were expected to be signed over to the state within the next two years. By February 23, 1967, the first three deeds to the state had been recorded. The fourth deed had been filed, and the fifth and sixth deeds were expected to be filed in 1968. On October 26, 1967, however, Milton reported to DACHS that he was actively clearing up certain legal points with regard to the title to the Fort Selden site. There was a problem with the fifth deed. On November 27, 1968, Milton reported that he had successfully replaced the 5th Deed to the Fort Selden site.³¹ In order to avoid further difficulty and to insure that the deeds describing Fort Selden read correctly, DACHS set aside \$140 for a survey. Calvin L. Traylor, who was DACHS President between January 30, 1969, and February 10, 1971, remembers the following:

We didn't spend any money. One of our members, George Kerwin, was an engineer for the New Mexico State Highway Department. He and I went out to Fort Selden one week end and found the corner marker. It's located about one hundred feet south of the access road to Fort Selden and one hundred feet east of Highway 85. Naturally, we had to shake the snakes aside to get to the marker. The area was full of weeds. Anyway, we staked and made a legal description of the Fort so that the deeds would read properly. In the end, the results

of our work were not used. The state eventually made their own survey.³²

Finally, during the last fifteen days of December 1969, Milton received the last deed from Bailey, which he duly sent to NMSPRC.³³

DACHS Prompts Restoration—June 21, 1969

Having accomplished the transfer of Fort Selden to the state of New Mexico, Milton called for the program to collect funds for the restoration of the fort to begin. He began this effort on January 21, 1969, by addressing a letter to New Mexico State Representative William B. O'Donnell. In his letter, Milton requested that a cooperative effort by NMSPRC and DACHS be initiated to restore Fort Selden. In the meantime, there was a particular need to prevent further vandalism at the post, and as a first measure to accomplish this, Milton suggested installing a fence around the site.³⁴

Concurrently with Milton's efforts to initiate a plan of restoration, the State Legislature, in compliance with the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act, passed the Cultural Properties Act of 1969. Compliant with the National Historic Preservation Act, the State of New Mexico could receive federal grants-in-aid for "survey and identification of cultural properties and for restoration and preservation planning."³⁵

In response to Milton's request, O'Donnell led and won a floor fight on February 18, 1970, which resulted in Fort Selden being placed on the list of historic sites to be preserved. In addition, the Legislature passed an appropriations bill to provide \$137,500 which would be matched by a federal grant for restoration of the post.³⁶

Soon after the state bill appropriating funds had passed, Bailey gave an additional eight acres of land to the state and sold the state two more acres, making a total of twenty acres in the park. In order to encourage the notion of a cooperative effort by the state and DACHS, Milton moved at one of DACHS's meetings that DACHS restore a room at the fort and put a DACHS plaque on it immediately. The motion

was seconded and approved, and President Calvin L. Traylor promptly appointed Milton to chair a Fort Selden Committee including John Gumert, Ray Sadler, and Calvin L. Traylor for this purpose. Plans to restore a room at Fort Selden proved to be premature, however. The physical work of stabilizing and preserving the fort was needed before plans for restoration could be made.³⁷

Stabilization and Preservation Began in June 1970

Stabilization and preservation of Fort Selden began in June 1970. The New Mexico State Planning Office was in charge of the project and the Museum of New Mexico was responsible for the work. Ideas for the development phase of the project were solicited from local citizens by the Planning Office through DACHS. Meanwhile, on July 8, 1970, Fort Selden was entered into the National Register of Historic Places.³⁸

DACHS Pushes for a Museum—July 4, 1973

DACHS hosted ground breaking ceremonies for the visitor's center at Fort Selden on July 4, 1973. Army and Navy reserve units contributed a color guard which was "outfitted in the uniform of the Army's Third Cavalry." Louise Garrett, DACHS President, opened the program and called attention to the Society's hope that the visitor's center would eventually house artifacts that had been uncovered at Fort Selden during excavations. Other DACHS members who spoke included Charlotte K. Priestley and General Milton. Other speakers represented the Museum of New Mexico, the military, and the state government. Harry N. Bailey also spoke briefly. David King, New Mexico State Planning Commission Director, surprised the gathering by announcing that as of July 4, 1973, Fort Selden was New Mexico's first official state monument.³⁹

After the ground breaking ceremony and dedication, DACHS launched an effort to help establish a museum at the Fort Selden visitors' center. DACHS's Museum Committee

was subsequently recognized as “the big push behind the museum.” Marked by an informal public reception, which was attended by several state and city government representatives and members of DACHS, the visitors’ center opened on August 25, 1974, displaying artifacts and equipment associated with the period when Fort Selden was active.⁴⁰

Two years later, on February 21, 1976, Fort Selden

was formally dedicated as a state monument during the Doña Ana County Bicentennial Celebrations. To the “sounds of a military salute fired by soldiers in Civil War uniforms” and the “firing of an ancient cannon,” Fort Selden was well on its way to being an important site of historic preservation, interpretation, and education. It already served the local community as a cultural center and recreational area.⁴¹



Hugh M. Milton II

Chapter 2

FORT FILLMORE

Established September 23, 1851



NAMED AFTER PRESIDENT Millard Fillmore, Fort Fillmore was established on September 23, 1851, as part of the U. S. Army's mission to reorganize the nation's frontier defenses. It took the place of older military posts abandoned at Doña Ana, Paso del Norte, and San Elizario. Built primarily for the purpose of checking Apache raids on settlers and travelers, it also functioned to halt civil disorder in the nearby villages, protect the mail, and protect army surveying teams. One of its most celebrated duties was carried out on November 16, 1854, after the Gadsden Purchase was ratified. On that day, Fort Fillmore troops in full dress uniform, accompanied by two mountain howitzers and thirty-one rounds of blank cartridges, raised the United States Flag over the village of Mesilla with a federal salute.¹

Situated about forty miles north of El Paso and three or four miles southeast of Mesilla, Fort Fillmore was erected about a mile and a half east of the Rio Grande on land leased from Hugh Stephenson for twenty years at ten cents annually. The Fort Fillmore site was near water, trees, and grass; within view of the Organ Mountains; and a convenient distance from the nearby town of Mesilla. However, it was not particularly well suited for a fixed post. It was vulnerable to flooding from mountain run-off and was somewhat difficult to defend.²

Lydia Spencer Lane, whose husband, Lieutenant William B. Lane, was transferred to Fort Fillmore in February 1861, experienced flooding

at the post:

I was wading in water up to my knees, all over the house. Everybody, man, woman, and child, turned out to see the fun, and were amazed to see the stream that rushed through the house and out the door, spreading rapidly over the parade-ground. The day was bright and beautiful, with not a cloud to be seen. The flood was supposed to have come from a cloud-burst in the Organ Mountains, miles away to the east of us.³

Major Isaac Lynde noted in July of that same year that Fort Fillmore was vulnerable to attack: "[Fort Fillmore is] located in a depression; commanded on three sides by hills within six pounder range."⁴

Built in a U-shape without a walled perimeter, the post's buildings were one-story adobes including a hospital, sutler's store, granary, smokehouse, carpenter's shop, blacksmith shop, guardhouse, issuing room, magazine room, quarters for enlisted men and officers, accommodations for livestock, and a cemetery. Officers' quarters were on the east side; enlisted men's quarters were on the north and south sides; and the Rio Grande flowed by on the west side. Reportedly, there was a shady grove of cottonwood trees nearby. In 1857, the Butterfield Overland Stage Company added a station to the premises and used Fort Fillmore as a regular mail stop during its operation between 1858 and 1861.⁵ Early on, the post may have been a cheerful place to be quartered. Attorney General of the

Territory of New Mexico, Judge W. W. H. Davis, described Fort Fillmore in 1854 as a “large and pleasant military post . . . [having] a post garden [which] furnished fresh vegetables for the troops.”⁶

However, by the time Lydia Spencer Lane was living at Fort Fillmore in 1861, Fort Fillmore was run-down, and the garrison had been greatly reduced:

Most dreary and uninviting did Fort Fillmore look to us as we approached it. It was a cold, gray day, with a high wind which blew the loose sand and dust in clouds all about us. The still line of shabby adobe quarters on three sides of a perfectly bare parade-ground suggested neither beauty nor comfort, and for once I felt discouraged when we went into the forlorn house we were to occupy.⁷

Abandoned during Civil War

Fort Fillmore is perhaps best known for the circumstances of its abandonment in 1861 during the Civil War. At the outset of the war, many officers at Fort Fillmore were said to be southern sympathizers. W. W. Mills, an El Paso merchant who was for the Union, visited Fort Fillmore in June of 1861. Shortly after leaving the post, he expressed the following observation to Judge John S. Watts, New Mexico’s delegate to Congress:

All the officers at Fort Fillmore, except two are avowedly with the South, and are only holding on to their commissions in order to embarrass our Government, and at the proper time to turn over everything to the South.⁸

A month later, Mills’s prediction came true. On July 23, 1861, Colonel John R. Baylor marched Confederate troops north from El Paso toward Fort Fillmore. In spite of rumors of Confederate troop movement, Major Isaac Lynde, commander of Fort Fillmore, took no defensive action. On July 26th, after a minor engagement with Baylor’s force at Mesilla, Lynde abandoned Fort Fillmore and tried to join the Union forces at Fort Stanton. Baylor caught up with the retreating Union troops near

San Augustine Springs, and before Baylor could engage them in battle, Lynde surrendered without consulting his officers and without taking any defensive measures. On November 25, 1861, he was dismissed from the army by order of President Lincoln. Later, under President Andrew Johnson, Lynde was reinstated and retired from the Army.⁹

Fort Fillmore was permanently abandoned as a military post on November 13, 1862, after a brief occupation by the Confederacy, until the summer of 1862, and a brief reoccupation by Union soldiers from the California Column.¹⁰

DACHS Effort to Save Fort Fillmore-1966

On September 30, 1965, DACHS member and distinguished historian Mary D. Taylor presented a program on Fort Fillmore to a DACHS meeting. Her reading and commentary on a paper prepared by Corinne Mozer kindled immediate DACHS interest in the historic site.¹¹

Not long after Taylor’s presentation and just before the old post was set to be plowed under for agricultural purposes, Dr. John P. Wilson was granted permission to excavate Fort Fillmore for the Museum of New Mexico. Wilson’s work was funded by a grant of \$2,000 from the National Park Service and a grant of \$1,000 from the Hanes Corporation which operated a clothing plant in Las Cruces. Armed with sources provided by Mary D. Taylor, other archival materials, and a field headquarters provided by landowner John Salopek, Wilson conducted a month’s field expedition to uncover the old post’s secrets.¹²

Following Wilson’s summer dig in 1966, DACHS member John Hawley, a geologist with the Soil Conservation Service, U.S.D.A., gave a short report to a DACHS meeting on Wilson’s findings at Fort Fillmore. In response, the membership decided the Society should open communications with the State of New Mexico for the purpose of saving the post. J. Paul Taylor, who was DACHS president at the time, appointed a Fort Fillmore Committee of three to do that: John Hawley, Mary D. Taylor, and G. Adlai Feather.¹³

The problem before the committee was twofold. In the first place, they would have to persuade Salopek to turn Fort Fillmore over to the state. In the second place, they would have to secure funding for preservation and restoration. It was Feather's opinion that Salopek could be induced to sell the site for a reasonable price even though he had already leveled and planted pecan trees on part of it. Hawley agreed with Feather, but proposed that the committee consult with the National Park Service regarding proper procedures for acquiring historically significant property before approaching Salopek.¹⁴

By March 23, 1967, Hawley had interviewed Salopek and found him receptive to the idea of developing the old post as a historical site. Wilson's archaeological dig had evidently inspired a genuine appreciation in him for its history. Salopek acknowledged that he had a substantial investment in the land, but if he could realize a return of some kind, he would be willing to cooperate with DACHS's efforts. For Hawley, Salopek's response opened up a new possibility. Along with DACHS's continued efforts to locate possible sources of funding for the purchase of the land, Hawley proposed they also look into arranging a trade of land with the Bureau of Land Management.¹⁵

In the meantime, on November 16, 1966, the Fort Fillmore Committee's research suggested that there was a remote possibility of receiving a federal grant to help save Fort Fillmore. Obstacles to receiving the grant appeared to be two-fold: First the post was subject to flooding. And second, four other old posts were competing for the money.¹⁶

When the National Park Service's response to the committee's inquiry came, yet another obstacle presented itself. The National Park Service had made a survey of the remaining forts a number of years before, and Fort Fillmore was not recommended for preservation at that time. In the absence of national interest, it was obvious to DACHS that local financial sup-

port, like that of the Hanes Corporation which supported Wilson's earlier archaeological excavation, was the only avenue open for preserving Fort Fillmore.¹⁷

The committee's continuing inquiries into possible sources of funding met with little success. Federal funds for preservation were said to be tied up until after the Vietnam War. There was just a slight possibility that money could be obtained from the Housing and Urban Affairs Office, U. S. Department of Agriculture, whose mission included preservation of historical sites adjacent to urban areas, but even if the Society was lucky enough to win such a grant, they would still have to come up with matching funds from local sources.¹⁸

Fort Fillmore Nominated for State and National Registers of Historic Places

On April 25, 1968, former DACHS President J. Paul Taylor, now Chairman of DACHS's Historic Sites Committee, reported that the State Department of Development was interested in preserving historic sites. The director of this effort, Merrill Clark, invited local groups to assist by cataloging sites in each area. According to Clark, it was possible to obtain federal aid to protect historic sites identified and processed by March 1969. This due date coincided with what would be called the Cultural Properties Act of 1969, expected to be passed by the state in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 "to provide for the preservation, protection and enhancement of structures, sites and objects of historical significance" Fort Fillmore was duly nominated to be included on the State Register of Cultural Properties on February 20, 1969.¹⁹

In 1972, Salopek, no longer requiring financial compensation for the Fort Fillmore site, unexpectedly and magnanimously offered Fort Fillmore to the state. DACHS immediately became involved in assisting with details of making the gift. DACHS President Louise Garrett published the following to the DACHS membership:²⁰

The generous gift of the site of Fort Fillmore recently made by John Salopek clears the way for designating that area also a part of the New

Mexico Museum system. You are welcome to join in the interesting and important work of preserving another aspect of New Mexico's colorful history.²¹

Efforts to transfer Fort Fillmore to the State continued into 1974. On July 30, 1974, Fort Fillmore was entered on the National Register of Historic Places. Ultimately, however, negotiations between Salopek and the state broke down, and Fort Fillmore was never transferred to the state.²²

Fort Fillmore—Site for Archaeological Study

Fort Fillmore is presently little more than a few eroding adobe mounds sinking in desert sand among clumps of mesquite and grass. Still, it is worth noting that Salopek tried to protect the ruin from vandals and treasure seekers and graciously continued making the site available for archaeological study at least through 1988. Perhaps this is in some small way due to DACHS influence.²³

Part III

SAVING HISTORIC BUILDINGS



WHEN URBAN RENEWAL CAME TO downtown Las Cruces in the 1960s, many historic buildings were threatened with demolition. Initial DACHS efforts to save some of these historic buildings resulted in the establishment of the Annual DACHS Banquet, which was designed primarily to showcase building awards. Later, DACHS formed a Preservation and Restoration Committee and began targeting buildings for the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties and the National Register of Historic Places. The Society's efforts to save historic buildings climaxed with the 1980-1981 Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey which created three important historic districts. The following is an account of DACHS's efforts to preserve the region's historic buildings.

Chapter 3

URBAN RENEWAL THREATENED HISTORIC BUILDINGS



WHEN LOCAL MERCHANTS, advisory committees, and professional urban renewal planners decided to rehabilitate downtown Main Street with the help of Urban Renewal funds, the planners envisioned a modern, attractive, southwest style shopping center which would revitalize the downtown business district. All buildings in the renewal areas bounded by Picacho Street, Lohman Street, Campo Street, and the Las Cruces Lateral west of Water Street were to be either repaired according to specific standards of appearance and structural soundness or to be razed. Blighted property (property which was unsafe, unsanitary, or non-conforming to standards determined for the area) was destined to be purchased and bulldozed.¹

At first glance, it appeared that Urban Renewal really would improve Main Street. Some historic buildings were designated to be saved. However, as time went on, many historic buildings on Church Street and Water Street were determined to be blighted properties. Former DACHS President J. Paul Taylor remembered in 1994, "I represented the DACHS. I had to speak out for saving those buildings." It was a "terribly emotional time."²

Charlotte K. Priestley, who was DACHS Vice President at the time, remembered in 1994 that Urban Renewal was the most frustrating thing about DACHS's early years: "Urban Renewal is a grand scheme on paper. But when you get down to the reality of it, particularly in a town like Las Cruces, many people are dispossessed. They are moved. Their patterns are broken. Things disappear."³

First Annual Hall of Fame Banquet- DACHS's Public Protest

Taylor and his Board of Directors discussed a plan to identify historically significant buildings in advance of the actual tearing down process advocated by Urban Renewal. The decision was made to organize a Hall of Fame Banquet and create a DACHS publication to publicly recognize historically significant buildings and make a plea for their preservation. The First Annual Hall of Fame Banquet was, in effect, DACHS's public protest.⁴

During the planning, Taylor realized that he also wanted to honor a person who had given a lot to the community. As a result, the Board of Directors decided that a building should be named as a Building Worthy of Preservation, that a building should be named as a Building Adhering to Regional Architecture, and that a person should be named to the Hall of Fame.⁵

One hundred DACHS members and their guests attended the First Annual DACHS's Banquet, which was held in the Milton Student Center at New Mexico State University. J. Paul Taylor presided; Father Miguel Senteno, O. F. M., Director of the Holy Cross Retreat House, gave the Invocation and Benediction; and Charlotte Priestley gave "The Years Behind Us; The Year Ahead" speech.⁶

Charlotte Priestley, who chaired the Banquet Committee, remembered in 1994 that Taylor designed the first banquet booklet. The DACHS Motto and official Seal were displayed on its cover. With the preservation of historic buildings in

mind, the motto was selected from the Bible (Proverbs 22: 28) by Opal Lee Priestley: "Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set." The seal, designed by Art Liang, was in the form of a Zia surrounded by representations of cotton, time, and a roadrunner.

Buildings Worthy of Preservation

Two awards were given for buildings worthy of preservation. The first award went to the Nestor Armijo Home. The first two-story home in Las Cruces, it reflects the best in both indigenous construction and Victorian design. Spared by Urban Renewal, it remains on the corner of Main Street and Lohman to this day. ⁷

The second award went to the Nelson Funeral Home which was formerly the home of Martin Lohman, the first Mayor of Las Cruces. The home, flush with the sidewalk, was in a U-shape around a central courtyard. When the award was given, "the mellowed vigas and latillas in the funeral home chapel were exposed and the original fireplaces and mantels were still in place." This building was eventually razed by Urban Renewal. ⁸

Taylor remembered in 1994 how devastated he was by the loss of the Nelson Funeral Home: I always said, 'Please bury me from Nelson's Funeral Home, because it's so homey.' It was a home, and it had latillas. It didn't bother me that when the box was open, dirt would fall on my corpse. That's part of it. The Nelsons always seemed to do the right thing to acknowledge people's sadness. There was always compassion. I tell you, when that house went, it just really got to me. ⁹

Buildings Adhering to Regional Architecture

Awards for buildings adhering to regional architecture were given to two buildings: The Thomas Branigan Memorial Library and the Ernst and Eugenia Artschwager home. In the pueblo design and now known as the Branigan Cultural Center, the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library was built downtown during the administration of Mayor J. B. Newell in 1935. The Ernst and Eugenia Artschwager Home was built in 1946 in territorial design with twenty-four inch walls, and vigas and latillas in the roof. The vigas, latillas, and front doorway were originally part of the old George Griggs home and museum in Mesilla. The Artschwager home has an exceptional entry way. According to J. Paul Taylor, "It is the perfect territorial Las Cruces area home." ¹⁰

Hall of Fame Award

The first person to be named to the Hall of Fame was Elizabeth Armendariz who had kept things which belonged to her family and had started the Gadsden Museum. Taylor remembered in 1994:

When we honored Mrs. Armendariz, she was very surprised. Her family came and sang to her. They were a wonderful group. . . . They had wonderful voices. It was a rejoicing kind of moment. Because there was so much wonderful feeling at that banquet, the banquet became an annual DACHS event. ¹¹

Plaques

Two plaques were obtained to be inscribed annually with the names of buildings and homes worthy of preservation. These same plaques are displayed in the Branigan Cultural Center today. ¹²

DACHS Seal & Motto 1966-1990



Chapter 4

THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION COMMITTEE



ON FEBRUARY 23, 1967, DACHS President Charlotte K. Priestley appointed J. Paul Taylor to chair a Preservation and Restoration Committee including Ray Cano, Mrs. William Sedgwick, and G. Adlai Feather to insure a public DACHS voice for the preservation of historic sites.

On April 25, 1968, Taylor reported that Merrill Clark, Director of the New Mexico State Department of Development, desired local groups to assist the state by cataloging local historical sites by March 1969. Once the sites were identified and processed, it would be possible to obtain federal aid for their restoration and protection. The Society responded by initiating a campaign to identify historic sites. DACHS member Opal Lee Priestley remembered in 1994 that it was a lot of work “digging up things about this house and that house.”¹

In July 1971, as a result of DACHS’s campaign to identify historic sites, Doña Ana County asked DACHS to assist them by inaugurating a survey to identify historic sites, during the fiscal year 1971-72. In addition the County asked various other organizations to “give public recognition to worthy historic sites which have been identified by the Doña Ana County Historical Society.”²

Saving the Amador Hotel

One of the sites targeted by DACHS for preservation during this period was the historic Amador Hotel. At a meeting of the DACHS on September 26, 1968, Calvin L. Traylor, who was DACHS Corresponding Secretary at the time, led a discussion on the status of the hotel. Some artifacts were disappearing and the hotel was in bad

financial condition. As a result of the discussion, DACHS selected the hotel as a building worthy of preservation and honored it as such at the Annual Banquet in 1969. Consequently, it became one of the first buildings in Las Cruces to be listed on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties. Following the Society’s public declaration at the banquet, the *Las Cruces Sun-News* ran a spread on the Amador Hotel in their Sunday magazine, “CitiSun:”

Already a museum that has enchanted thousands upon thousands of guests and visitors, the Amador indeed is “worthy of preservation,” as the Doña Ana Historical Society so stated.³

Not long afterward, the Amador Hotel was purchased by Citizens Bank of Las Cruces and was destined for remodeling. Conscious of the hotel’s historic significance and the community’s desire to preserve it, Citizens Bank took special pains to retain the old hotel’s original architecture. In recognition of their considerable efforts, DACHS recognized the hotel as a Building Adhering to Regional Architecture during the Annual DACHS Banquet in 1971.

Saving the Nestor Armijo Home

The Nestor Armijo home was another DACHS target. The Society originally recognized the home in 1967 as a building worthy of preservation, and its preservation seemed guaranteed when the home was placed on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties in 1969.

In 1971, however, the home's safety appeared to be jeopardized. Samuel Larcombe, Assistant Planner for the State Planning Office, had learned that Josephine Gallagher, who had a lifetime interest in the home, did not actually own it. Fearing that the developer who owned the home might eventually destroy it to provide additional parking space for stores in the Loretto Towne Centre, Larcombe encouraged DACHS to see that the building was neither neglected nor destroyed. Larcombe suggested that the Society wage a "campaign of gentle persuasion" and propose to the current owners a fitting use for the house. In this way, preservation of the house might be possible after Gallagher's death.⁴

When Josephine Gallagher died on July 25, 1977, the home became vacant and soon began to fall into disrepair. DACHS President J. Paul Taylor took immediate action. He proposed that

the city of Las Cruces buy the property and turn it into a museum. Failing that, he encouraged the would-be commercial developer to recognize the home's worth, and not only use it, but preserve it as well. One of Taylor's efforts involved preparing a historical background on the house for the Greater Las Cruces Area Chamber of Commerce.⁵

Taylor continued to monitor the status of the home for Peter Gallagher, son of Josephine Gallagher, and Dolores Gallagher Colligan, who were concerned about the status of the house, until it was leased by Pioneer Savings & Trust. Pioneer Savings & Trust combined their own funds with grant-in-aid funds from the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division Bureau and achieved a remarkable preservation. DACHS members J. Paul Taylor and Austin Hoover acted as historical consultants to Pioneer Savings and Loan while the restoration was being accomplished.⁶

Chapter 5

THE LAS CRUCES HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY



THE LAS CRUCES HISTORIC Buildings Survey is one of the DACHS's major achievements. It was the first study of its kind ever to be conducted in Doña Ana County, and the project was quite successful despite difficulties. It resulted in the designation of three state historic districts: The Alameda-Depot District; the Mesquite Street-Original Townsite Historic District; and the Mesilla Historic District. The survey also resulted in the publication of *The Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey*. As a result of DACHS efforts, the historic buildings survey of the greater Las Cruces area became an on-going work of the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office. The Alameda-Depot District was listed on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties (NMSRCP) on August 29, 1980, and on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on April 11, 1985; the Mesquite Street-Original Townsite Historic District was listed on the NMSRCP on August 29, 1980, and on the NRHP on August 1, 1985; and the Mesilla Historic District was listed on the NMSRCP on August 29, 1980, and on the NRHP on July 20, 1982. Today, owners of registered houses are eligible to apply for state tax breaks and federal grants for renovation projects consistent with the original architecture of the buildings.¹

The story of the Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey began on February 21, 1979, when James N. Allen, Grants Administrator for the city of Las Cruces, asked the Society to think about how grant funds available through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) should be

distributed. The city held thirteen public meetings at elementary schools to allow individuals and organizations to make recommendations. J. Paul Taylor remembered in 1994 that Opal Lee Priestley was the one who stood up and requested funds. Supported by DACHS members, Priestley went to one of the public meetings and convinced the city that it was important to protect its historic sites, and that conducting a historic buildings survey was a necessary step in accomplishing this. As a result, the city applied for a grant of \$10,000 for this purpose.²

Eventually, \$22,085 was funded for the survey by the city, state, and federal governments, using in-kind volunteer services from the DACHS. Operated under the direction of Richard Hart, Director of the Las Cruces City Planning Department, three people were employed to work on the survey: Coordinator, Mary Steeb, a former librarian and editor of architectural energy use publications; Field Surveyor, Michael Romero Taylor, an archaeologist familiar with the stabilization and restoration of adobe; and Field Surveyor, Anthony Pennock, an artist knowledgeable about architecture and historic preservation. As co-sponsor, DACHS assisted in all aspects of the survey and the resulting manuscript.

The survey amounted to identifying, photographing, and writing descriptions of pre World War II structures in the city of Las Cruces and in outlying areas within a five-mile radius of Las Cruces. The idea was to create a permanent record of the variety of existing architectures, including historical influences on the architecture. Some

historical data came from previously collected materials such as the Sanborn Insurance Maps from 1913, 1921, and 1927. DACHS members who were long-time residents of the area proved to be invaluable sources of information. Of these, the most significant contributors were Mary D. Taylor, Hester Roach, and Ilka Minter, who provided research materials about Mesilla, Las Cruces, and Mesilla Park, respectively. Photographs were contributed by the New Mexico State University Archives, Ballard's, a photo supplies company, and a variety of local people. The compiled records eventually provided the basis for creating the three historic districts and listing qualified properties within the districts on both the NMS-RCP and the NRHP.³

As awesome as the achievement was, many who participated in the survey have a tendency to remember it in terms of disappointment. Full of enthusiasm and big plans at the outset of the project, one stumbling block after another prevented them from achieving as extensive

a survey as had been planned, and from producing as polished a publication as had been envisioned. There was too little money to adequately train all the amateurs involved, too little staff support from the city to keep up with the paper work, and too little understanding of how to successfully introduce the survey to the residents of the districts involved to keep everyone happy. After the survey was completed, personality conflicts ended up delaying the publishing of the *Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey* until quite sometime after the grant money had run out.⁴

Nevertheless, despite difficulties, by February 23, 1982, the survey was completed and the *Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey* was ready to make its debut. One thousand copies were introduced to the public at the Branigan Cultural Center. Twenty-five of the books were sent to the state, as was required by the grant, and the remaining books were sold at the Branigan Cultural Center, the Branigan Library, and Las Cruces's Planning and Zoning offices for \$9.00 each.⁵

Part IV

ESTABLISHING A HISTORICAL COLLECTION



ON NOVEMBER 25, 1963, DACHS DEFINED its purpose to include the “establishment of historical collections” and “the preservation of historic documents, artifacts, and published materials of historic importance.” From its inception, Society members became avid collectors with an attitude best described by DACHS President, Charlotte K. Priestley, in her “The Years Behind Us, The Year Ahead” speech at the First Annual Banquet in 1967, “We don’t hesitate to ask anyone for anything.”¹

The following is the story of DACHS’s efforts to establish a historical collection. The first part of the story describes DACHS artifacts and the circumstances surrounding their collection. The second part describes DACHS’s efforts to find a home for them.

Chapter 6

ACQUIRING A COLLECTION

Cannon Balls— First DACHS Artifacts



THE SOCIETY'S FIRST ARTIFACTS were six 90 to 100 year old cannon balls discovered at Fort Selden. On September 21, 1963, Ruben E. Gonzales and Ignace Guerro, two Las Cruces men who were hunting for relics at Fort Selden with a metal detector, discovered a wooden box containing twelve cannon balls buried just beneath the surface of the ground. Having stumbled upon a situation too dangerous to handle by themselves, they reported their find to the State Police. At the recommendation of General Hugh M. Milton II, who was recognized throughout the area as the man in charge of the local effort to save Fort Selden, the State Police called in the Fort Bliss demolition squad.¹

The demolition squad ascertained that the cannon balls were loaded and dangerous, and removed them to Fort Bliss where they were deactivated. According to a report by the 133rd Ordnance detachment in charge of the deactivation, the cannon balls were U. S. Field and Siege Case Shot, popular during the Civil War and used by both Union and Confederate troops. Each one measured 4.5 inches in diameter and weighed 8.4 pounds.²

On October 2, 1963, Fort Bliss returned six surviving cannon balls to General Milton for the newly established DACHS. Lacking a museum to exhibit them in, the DACHS stored four of the cannon balls in the vault at the First National Bank of Doña Ana County, where General Milton was Vice President, and displayed two of them at the

Thomas Branigan Memorial Library where DACHS Corresponding Secretary Helen Caffey was the Director.³

Early DACHS Collection

Early additions to the DACHS collection were numerous and varied, everything from clothing to district court records to photographs. The following gives some idea of the range of artifacts collected: the original Las Cruces Post Office boxes; the remainder of a metal road marker which was located at the intersection of South Main and Highway 28; old meter covers; blueprints of the Gallagher home, donated by Josephine Gallagher; an old powder horn, donated by Mrs. W. H. Nesbitt; a box of private papers from the Barker family; photographs of the valley during the 1880s, obtained by Calvin L. Traylor from the Santa Fe Railway; saddle bags that belonged to Geronimo, donated by Tom Clark; artifacts collected from several southwestern forts by Betty Armstrong Bowen; artifacts found when Reynolds & Griggs was renovated; and artifacts originally belonging to Della Taylor, former vocational teacher at Mayfield High School.⁴

During the First Annual Southern New Mexico State Fair in 1967, a special committee chaired by J. Paul Taylor organized an exhibit featuring a parlor of the territorial period in the Mesilla Valley. It probably included a combination of the DACHS early artifact collection plus loaned items. The exhibit won second prize in the adult education category.⁵

Fort Selden Collection

Sometime between 1968 and 1970, DACHS purchased what is usually referred to as the Fort Selden collection. In 1994, former DACHS President, Charlotte K. Priestley, remembered the following:

A man came to us. He had been poaching at Fort Selden and had a wonderful collection of bottles and pipes he had pulled out of the privies. Hugh [General Hugh M. Milton II] and I signed for a loan with the First National Bank of Doña Ana County in the name of the DACHS to purchase the collection.”⁶

In 1997, Calvin L. Traylor remembered that there were about one hundred bottles in the collection, and that the Society paid about \$100 for them.⁷

Years later, after the ground breaking ceremonies for the visitors’ center at Fort Selden on July 4, 1973, DACHS President Louise Garrett encouraged DACHS members to actively seek relevant artifacts that could be added to the Society’s Fort Selden collection. The hope was that they would eventually be displayed in a Fort Selden Museum.⁸

Artifacts Acquired during Urban Renewal

Other artifacts were acquired by the Society during urban renewal. Whenever a building was going to be razed, DACHS members inquired after its artifacts. The best DACHS’s collectors during that period were probably Charlotte K. Priestley, Helen Caffey, Laiten Camien, J. Paul Taylor, and John Gumert. In 1969, for example, when the Amador-Garcia-Adair home was condemned in spite of the DACHS efforts to save it, Priestley received permission to take for DACHS what the family didn’t want. The collection included an early 25 star United States flag from 1836, which was mounted for DACHS at Fort Bliss at the request of General Milton. Because it was so large and so heavy after it was mounted, it was stored in the basement of the First National Bank of Doña Ana County where it remains today. Some of the collection came from the part of the home that had been a store and included

store fixtures, butcher shop paraphernalia, Sunshine cookie boxes, and big candy jars.⁹

Amador Artifact Auction

When DACHS members recognized the historic Amador Hotel as a building worthy of preservation in 1969, they became aware that generations of Amadors had been collecting artifacts to display in the hotel since it was built in the mid-nineteenth century. As a consequence, when it was announced that artifacts from the Amador Hotel were going to be auctioned off, DACHS President Calvin L. Traylor appointed a committee to bid up to \$450 for items which were historically significant. When the committee, including John Gumert, Helen Caffey, G. Adlai Feather, and Ray Sadler, viewed the artifacts on June 19, 1970, however, no bids were made. Many of the items, which had been collected from around the world, were historically significant, but “there was nothing in the auction that was vital to the county’s history record.”¹⁰

Bicentennial Log Cabin Furnishings

The Bicentennial Log Cabin, located on the corner of Lucero and Main Street on the northwest side of the Downtown Mall, was originally located in Grafton. The cabin was donated to the city of Las Cruces for its Bicentennial Park by Sidney Blakely. Mr. and Mrs. Myron George donated the costs of having the cabin dismantled and moved, log by log, to Las Cruces. And the Las Cruces Home Builders Association and its women’s Auxiliary reconstructed the cabin and furnished it as a home built during the period 1880 to 1890.

The authentic pieces and artifacts used to furnish the cabin, including household items, furniture, linens, and clothing were donated or loaned by members of the Las Cruces community. A few items in the completed collection were found in the cabin when it was acquired: two rocking chairs, a post office cancellation stamp, a pair of eye glasses, and a number of very old bottles.¹¹

When the Bicentennial Log Cabin was dedicated on February 7, 1976, all of its furnishings, as many as 369 items, were accepted by Society President James McNeil on behalf of the DACHS. The Society was selected for this honor by the Doña Ana County Bicentennial Commission, based on Doña Ana County's preference since July 1971 that the DACHS "collect and assume responsibilities for custodial care of historic records and objects."¹²

DACHS Rolling Stock

The Society had an early opportunity to acquire a locomotive from the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad (ATSF) but, unfortunately, did not have the means to accept it. Later, DACHS was more successful in making acquisitions. Today DACHS's rolling stock includes an old farm wagon, an old doctor's buggy, and an El Paso - Chihuahua Stage Coach.

Locomotive

On November 25, 1963, a Railroad Committee of one, John L. Altshool, inquired about obtaining a locomotive from the ATSF. At that time, the ATSF did not intend to donate any of the four old locomotives in their inventory. However, in January 1964, after locating two additional locomotives (two steam engines in storage at Belen), the ATSF offered to donate one to DACHS if the Society would keep it painted and properly cared for in a fenced area. As DACHS had no property and very little money, a plan was formed to negotiate with New Mexico State University (NMSU) to collaborate in bringing the locomotive to Las Cruces. In September 1966, having failed to attract NMSU's interest, the Society approached the city of Las Cruces for assistance — once again, without success. Finally, in February 1967, ATSF announced the locomotive had been promised elsewhere.¹³

Farm Wagon

The farm wagon, originally from the Barker Estate, was donated to DACHS by Mary Kate

Barker Marquess in November 1968. As the wagon was in good condition, Charlotte K. Priestley, DACHS President at the time, determined to restore it. As a result of her efforts, Troy Johnson of Southwestern Lumber volunteered an empty space in his lumberyard for the wagon to be worked on, and Ira D. Steele, in his 70s, who was a fine craftsman and who knew wagons, directed its refurbishing. Steele went to the extent of having a blacksmith make new parts for the wagon's sides. In addition, Jesse A. Isaacks, Priestley, some of Priestley's children, and one or two other DACHS members, whose names have unfortunately been lost, spent hours scrubbing, polishing, oiling, and painting the wagon, with wonderful results. By September 18, 1969, the wagon was finished, and all those who worked on the wagon were recognized by the Society.¹⁴

Eventually, J. Max Beene donated harness; Robert Isaacks, Jesse A. Isaacks's nephew, donated a chuck box; and J. Paul Taylor donated a wagon seat to make the wagon complete. Not long after it was finished, DACHS borrowed mules from Buford Harris and entered it in the Vaquero Days parade. When not in use, the wagon was stored in Charlotte K. Priestley's barn.¹⁵

Doctor's Buggy

The doctor's buggy was donated by DACHS member Elizabeth Gillette when Louise Garrett was DACHS President. Gillette read about the old doctor's buggy while she was in the hospital in El Paso. It was in storage in Mexico and was said to have belonged to the Mormons. Immediately fascinated (she imagined Dr. Paul Jones riding in it in one of the local parades and representing DACHS), Gillette promptly purchased it and donated it to the Society. It was in excellent condition and no restoration work was deemed necessary. It was stored in Charlotte K. Priestley's barn.¹⁶

El Paso - Chihuahua Stage Coach

Sometime between 1971 and 1974, when Louise Garrett was DACHS President, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Jones donated an El Paso - Chihuahua

Stage Coach to DACHS. The coach, manufactured by Abbott and Downing of Concord, New Hampshire, is said to have been in service in 1881, running from Franklin City to Chihuahua. Its restoration took one year and cost \$1,000. The student councils from Las Cruces High School and Mayfield High School picked up the tab, donating \$500 each. Major Donald L. "Moon" Mullen and Tom Massad did restoration work, finishing it in time to be used by the Society in the Bicentennial

Parade on February 19, 1976. During the parade, Mayfield High School representatives Jackie Maynez and Laura Thielman sat in the driver's seat and Las Cruces High School representatives Lorraine March and Mike Whelan sat inside the coach. When not in use, the coach was stored in the lobby of the Holiday Inn. Several times, DACHS has held its annual banquet at the Holiday Inn with the coach on display in the hall.¹⁷

Chapter 7

FINDING A HOME FOR THE DACHS COLLECTION

Thomas Branigan Memorial Library— First Home of DACHS’s Collection



WHEN THE SOCIETY WAS first organized, artifacts were stored in the homes of members. As the collection grew in volume and value, DACHS sought a more secure storage arrangement. Helen Caffey, Director of the old Thomas Branigan Memorial Library on the Downtown Mall (now known as the Branigan Cultural Center), “offered the use of the vault at the library for storage of records and any other items that should be kept under lock and key.” Eventually a DACHS filing cabinet was also stored in the library to safeguard DACHS papers. DACHS continued to use this space until shortly before Caffey retired in 1971.¹

Citizens Bank—Home of DACHS Collection
Before she could turn the library over to the incoming director, Don Dresp, Caffey felt she needed to remove DACHS properties stored in the library basement. So, on September 24, 1970, the Society advertised in the *Las Cruces Sun-News* for a space, “12 by 12 feet for storage purposes.” The Directors of Citizens Bank, then headquartered in the old Amador Hotel, responded by making some upstairs office space available (This space had once been bedrooms in the original Amador Hotel).²

The space was large enough for sorting and evaluating artifacts, and for two display rooms. The display rooms were furnished with DACHS treasures and some of Al Fraumeni’s collection of military items from the 1890s. Calvin L. Traylor, DACHS President at the time, remembered in 1994, “You could look through open doors into the bedrooms and see cavalry offi-

cer’s uniforms over the chair, an old bath tub, and furniture.”³

Properties the space could not accommodate were stored in the First National Bank Tower, with G. Adlai Feather, one of DACHS’s founders, and in Charlotte K. Priestley’s barn.⁴

Rio Grande Historical Collections— Depository for DACHS’s Documents

The Rio Grande Historical Collections (RGHC) at NMSU named its first Board of Directors in January 1972. A sizable number were DACHS members including General Hugh M. Milton II, Opal Lee Priestley, and former DACHS President J. Paul Taylor. DACHS President Louise Garrett, was an ex-officio member of the Board. The Society welcomed RGHC not only for its determination to preserve historical documents related to the area influenced by the Rio Grande, but also as an archive for safeguarding DACHS’s collection of photographs and historic papers. The Society also deposited many of its early organizational records with the RGHC, and it is for this reason that the earliest days of the DACHS are so well documented.⁵

Old Branigan Home— Home of DACHS’s Collection

In early 1975, when Citizens Bank could no longer accommodate DACHS’s artifacts, the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library Board

granted DACHS permission to move its collection into what was known as the old Branigan Home at 406 W. Las Cruces Avenue. The collection remained there until space became available upstairs in the former Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. Some of the properties went into a storage facility located at the Las Cruces International Airport.⁶

**Thomas Branigan Memorial Library/
Branigan Cultural Center—
Home of DACHS Collection**

When the city of Las Cruces decided to build a new Thomas Branigan Memorial Library in the fall of 1976 (it opened in 1979 on the southeast corner of Picacho and North Main Street), the problem arose of what to do with the old library facility. On June 7, 1977, Mayor Albert Johnson asked the Library Board to suggest possible uses for it.

On July 7, 1977, the Library Board, many of whom were also DACHS members, including Director Don Dresp, Opal Lee Priestley, and J. Paul Taylor, proposed to the city that the facility become a museum. The Board presented several museum concepts for the city to review, including a history museum/art center concept, and suggested it be called either the Branigan Cultural Center or the Las Cruces Community Crossroads. Eventually, the city adopted a museum/arts center concept and named it the Branigan Cultural Center (BCC).⁷

It was agreed that DACHS's collection of properties could remain in the BCC. As a result, between Thanksgiving 1980 and January

1981, before the Center opened, its first Director, James E. Richardson, and DACHS member Ilka Minter spent many hours inventorying DACHS properties to prevent the already established DACHS collection of properties from being confused with properties the BCC expected to acquire.⁸

DACHS Properties around Las Cruces-1995

Of course, many pieces of DACHS's collection did not go into storage in the BCC. For example, the Barker farm wagon and the doctor's buggy were stored in Charlotte K. Priestley's barn until the summer of 1995 when DACHS President Charles Miles removed them from the barn, cleaned them up, and moved them to the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Museum. Early on, the El Paso-Chihuahua Stage Coach was put on display at the Las Cruces Holiday Inn, and the 25 star United States flag from 1836 was hung in the basement of the First National Bank of Doña Ana County. Photographs and historic papers were deposited with the Rio Grande Historical Collections in the New Mexico State University archives. And, of course, Log Cabin furnishings remained in the Log Cabin.⁹

Very little has been added to the DACHS collection of properties since 1981. Today the Society is working with the Branigan Cultural Center to inventory DACHS's artifacts and make them available for exhibit. The Society looks forward to the eventual opening of the Las Cruces Museum of Local History, which will be located in the present day BCC and will be able to showcase the DACHS collection.

Part V

MARKING HISTORIC SITES



MARKING HISTORIC SITES BECAME A DACHS interest in 1969 when Jarvis Garrett agreed to help DACHS President Calvin L. Traylor locate Pat Garrett's murder site. Later, the DACHS became interested in establishing a small park at International Boundary Monument No. 1 and in marking Bartlett-Conde's Initial Point. The following is the story of DACHS's efforts to mark these historic sites.

Chapter 8

Marking Historic Sites

Pat Garrett's Murder Site



WHEN CALVIN L. TRAYLOR was DACHS President between 1969 and 1970, Jarvis Garrett offered to take him to the site where his father, Pat Garrett, was murdered. Patrick Floyd Garrett, the famous New Mexico lawman popularly remembered as the man who shot Billy the Kid, was murdered on the Las Cruces Road, shot once in the back of the head and once in the belly on February 29, 1908.¹

Traylor, in 1994, remembered the following: I was in my office at the First National Bank [Tower] one day when Jarvis Garrett came in all in a fluster. Abruptly, he told me he had time at that precise moment to take me to the site where his father was murdered. As I had been after him for awhile to show me the site, I didn't hesitate to take advantage of this opportunity. I dropped everything right then, and in my suit, went out with Jarvis to the site.

When Jarvis had originally been shown the site by Emmitt Isaacks somewhere around 1945, a football-size field stone was near the murder spot. On the stone had been incised what was perceived to be a Christian cross. Jarvis supposed someone had marked the murder spot this way according to the custom used in this area to mark a roadside spot where a death has occurred. Jarvis had brought in two heavy angle irons to make a frame to hold the stone in place. However, when Jarvis showed me the spot, much to his consternation, the stone was missing. Later, the DACHS membership

traveled to the site and marked it with a six foot high galvanized pipe. Today, there is a question as to whether this is the actual site. Jarvis Garrett did not know the site first hand as he was too young when Pat died. The pipe the DACHS originally installed is now gone (the pipe was sawed off by construction crews of the electric high power transmission line, circa 1990. Apparently the pipe could have become dangerous, acting as a ground for the high voltages overhead).²

Christine Myers, who participated in marking the site, remembered the following during a re- view of this manuscript in December 1996:

I recall that a number of members of DACHS made a Saturday trip to the site, when several of the men embedded the pipe in a small patch of concrete. Adlai Feather and Cal Traylor each spoke briefly. Then most of the group adjourned to eat at Luby's Cafeteria (then in Loretto Centre). During conversation and some "Monday morning quarterbacking," all present agreed (for reasons not recalled) that the marker was not at the actual site, but probably close enough to warrant leaving it in place.³

International Boundary Monument No. 1

On August 25, 1971, Leon Metz, President of the El Paso County Historical Society, wrote to DACHS to invite their participation in an effort by the International Boundary and Water Commission, the Beautify El Paso Association, and the

El Paso County Historical Society to establish a small park at the site of International Boundary Monument No. 1. This was placed at the point where the southward flowing Rio Grande begins to become the boundary between the United States and Mexico, and continues from there to the Gulf of Mexico. The intended park would “obliterate an eye sore and call attention once more to the unique historical heritage shared by Texas, New Mexico, and Old Mexico.” Metz hoped that DACHS could contribute twenty 20” x 30” flagstones to the project. Flagstones were in short supply in Las Cruces at that time, so instead, the Society donated \$100. In addition, DACHS President Louise Garrett represented DACHS at the tree planting ceremony which launched the physical effort to establish the park.⁴

Bartlett-Conde’s Initial Point

Historical Background

After the War of 1846-1848 with Mexico, the United States acquired most of what we now identify as the Southwest. In order to work out the precise location of the new international boundary as specified under the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, a joint commission, represented by members from both countries, was formed in late 1850. Mexican representatives included General Pedro Garcia Conde, Commissioner, and Jose Salazar y Larregui, Surveyor. United States representatives included John Russell Bartlett, Commissioner; Andrew B. Gray, Surveyor; Lieutenant Colonel John McClellan, Chief Astronomer; Lieutenant A. W. Whipple and Captain E. L. H. Hardcastle, Assistant Astronomers, and Lieutenant J. G. Strain, U. S. Navy.⁵

When the Joint Commission met to determine the southern boundary of New Mexico, they were working with the treaty, the treaty map known as the Disturnell map, and astronomical observations made from a point in San Elizario, Texas. They soon discovered that many of the map’s reference points were in error and, in addition, did not correlate well with the wording of the treaty which used natural landmarks to describe reference

points. According to the wording of the treaty, the initial point for surveying was described as just north of El Paso. In fact, however, this point (32 degrees and 22 minutes) was much further north near the village of Doña Ana.⁶

After several meetings, the Joint Commission decided to honor the latitudinal reference point on the map rather than the descriptive language of the treaty. Seen as favoring Mexico over the United States, the Bartlett-Conde line ignited a controversy that was not resolved until the Gadsden Purchase established the southern boundary of the United States near El Paso in 1854.⁷

Locating Bartlett’s and Conde’s Initial Point

During preparation for the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976, General Hugh M. Milton II, Donald Weise, and John P. Wilson formed a committee to research the details of the signing of the Gadsden Purchase Treaty in order to erect a state marker on Mesilla Plaza. It was probably during the course of this investigation that General Milton became interested in establishing Bartlett-Conde’s initial point.

In order to locate Bartlett-Conde’s initial point, 32 degrees 22 minutes, General Milton conducted extensive research, recorded in his unpublished manuscript, “New Mexico-Old Mexico Boundary 1848-1850,” and then, sometime in 1981, led a group of interested DACHS members to Township 1 East 22 South Section 28 in Doña Ana County, about 4.1 miles north of Picacho Avenue on Shalem Colony Trail.

In 1994, Opal Lee Priestley, remembered:

I think it was the most interesting thing we ever did. . . . General Milton and about a half-dozen of us undertook to locate the boundary point between Mexico and New Mexico at the time of the Gadsden Purchase. Milton convinced an astronomy student and the University [New Mexico State University] to cooperate with us. They took sightings with a sextant and established that exact site. I remember we stood out in the cold in the early morning

while it was still dark. We had a lot of fun following Milton around.⁸

Except for the installation of an official marker, General Milton's identification of the initial point was reminiscent of Bartlett's and Conde's ceremonious marking of the point in 1851. The Bartlett-Conde Joint Commission, accompanied by "Captain Buford of the 1st Dragoons, with his company," "civil authorities of El Paso, and a body of Lancers," originally marked the point with a post extending above ground and a bottle containing an official document commemorating the event, including the names of those serving on the commission, and a "fragment of the Washington Monument" buried underground. Because no artifacts were recovered when Township 1 East 22 South was cleared, it is presumed that the old markers have been either lost or destroyed.⁹

Marking Bartlett-Conde's Initial Point

On March 14, 1982, the DACHS took steps to rectify the situation with the following resolution:

- to ask the State Highway Department to place a suitable road sign where latitude 32° 22' crossed state road #430, also known as Shalam Colony Lane.
- to offer DACHS assistance to either the State Highway Department or the State Historian regarding the wording of the marker. General Milton's manuscript would be the basis of the wording.¹⁰

Soon after the DACHS resolution passed, the Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Historical Collections (RGHC) passed a supporting resolution.¹¹

DACHS President Austin Hoover, in an attempt to garner more support for the project, immediately issued the following press release:

We consider the location of this point of such historical value, that it should be appropriately marked. We have checked the Bartlett notes, all treaties, and with the assistance of the Army Map Service, we are certain that we have the location as accurately as it can be obtained. The line of 32° 22' North was a portion of the southern boundary of the United States from 1848 to 1853 and is also part of the northern boundary of the Gadsden Purchase.¹²

On June 17, 1982, Hoover officially requested installation of a state marker from Joseph J. Hewett, Chief Highway Administrator for the state of New Mexico. Shortly afterward, on August 19, Patrick H. Beckett, DACHS member and Chairman of the state's Cultural Properties Review Committee, requested support for the marker from Governor Bruce King. The Committee had previously approved the marker at the Society's request.¹³

Getting a marker installed proved to be a long and drawn-out process. Preparation of new state markers by the State Highway Commission was at a standstill at least until April 17. Nevertheless, Hoover remained hopeful that a marker would eventually be placed on the highway pointing toward the site at some future date. He thought it might also be possible that Doña Ana County would prepare a marker to be placed on the county road near the site.¹⁴

In the end, Hoover's hopes were realized. On March 25, 1985, he was able to report that the International Boundary Survey made by Bartlett and Conde appeared as the twenty-third entry in *Historical Markers in New Mexico*. Three years later, in February 1988, a state historical marker was erected on Shalam Colony Trail. It stands on the west side of the road, about 4.1 miles north of Picacho Ave.

Part VI

PUBLISHING HISTORY



TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF New Mexico history, especially that of Doña Ana County, DACHS publishes historical material. The following is the Society's publishing history divided into three chapters. Chapter 9 chronicles good ideas that didn't pan out. Chapter 10 describes DACHS's success stories. And Chapter 11 tells the story of the founding of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*.¹

Chapter 9

GOOD PUBLISHING IDEAS THAT DIDN'T PAN OUT

Taping Old-timers and Publishing Newspaper Articles



ONE OF DACHS'S EARLIEST goals was to collect oral histories from local old-timers. The histories were to be made available not only to historians, but also to DACHS members who would use them as a basis for newspaper articles. In 1964, Frank Thayer, Editor of the *Las Cruces Citizen*, offered the Society weekly column space for the proposed articles. Unfortunately, very few interviews were ever conducted. Only one interviewee is mentioned by name in DACHS records, W. E. Garrison, a former President of New Mexico State University. Eventually the project was abandoned.¹

Slide Project

In October 1967, the Society planned to create a file of 35 mm. slides of local scenes and events. It was expected to form the slide collection by accepting donations of slides and by duplicating slides loaned to the DACHS by local citizens. The slide collection would be loaned to other groups for a small fee, and in some instances, slides would be accompanied by a DACHS member to give a talk on the material illustrated by the slides. A committee was formed to manage the slide project,

but, meeting with very little success, it was soon discontinued.²

Historical Vignettes for TV Channel 22

In 1990, DACHS prepared several historical vignettes for TV Channel 22 (Public Television at New Mexico State University). Each vignette was written according to a sample script for a sixty-second broadcasting spot. Each was introduced with a credit line for the Society. Among the authors who participated were Ira Clark, Joe Allen, Jim Powell, Opal Lee Priestley, Paxton Price, and Calvin L. Traylor. Subjects included Shalam, Pat Garrett, Jornada del Muerto, Rincon, First Train Through Las Cruces, Outlaw Jesse Evans, Leasburg Canal, and old Hillsboro. Though TV Channel 22 produced several of the vignettes, they were never aired. Photos to illustrate the spots were apparently too hard to come by.³

Historical Vicinity Maps

In 1990, three hundred maps depicting historic places and events in the vicinity were printed for DACHS with financial help from the First National Bank of Doña Ana County. Unfortunately, they were sold in area book stores for a very short period of time. The maps erroneously showed the Butterfield Trail leaving westward from Fort Selden instead of from Picacho Village.⁴

Chapter 10

SUCCESSFUL PUBLICATIONS

DACHS Annual Banquet Programs



THE FIRST DACHS BANQUET program was distributed to the membership at the first banquet, January 26, 1967. Designed by J. Paul Taylor, who was DACHS President at the time, it displayed the DACHS Motto and official Seal on its cover. Typically, over the years, a banquet program includes a description of banquet events and detailed articles about the Hall of Fame Award winner and the winners of the building awards: “Buildings Worthy of Preservation” and “Buildings Adhering to Regional Architecture.” Occasionally, there are articles about other special award winners. The programs are recognized as an important source of historical information.¹

Reading List

Helen Caffey was the first DACHS member to create a publication to assist the membership in understanding local history. When she was DACHS Corresponding Secretary in 1963 and 1964, she prepared a list of books pertaining to the history of Doña Ana County. Updated lists have been published periodically ever since. Most recently, sometime between 1989 and 1990, Christine Myers prepared an annotated reading list. Five thousand

copies were made and distributed free of charge to the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, Las Cruces Convention and Visitors Bureau, Munson Center, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, Welcome Wagon, and COAS My Book Store.²

Newsletters

For years, the Society produced a brief, monthly announcement describing the program for the upcoming regular meeting. During Paxton Price’s administration (1989-1990), the announcement was expanded to include information about members, particularly those who had published an article or book on history, and local historical events. In 1993, however, Editor Margie Walton, transformed the newsletter into an important historical publication. Walton expanded it from two pages to four pages and published a wide variety of historically significant articles. Besides detailed descriptions of upcoming programs with biographical information about each presenter, Walton published critical reviews of each program. She also published historical pieces about people and places in the news, news about other organizations’ activities, news of historical conferences, news about historic preservation efforts, and much more.³

Chapter 11

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW



THE SOUTHERN NEW Mexico Historical Review, which was initiated in 1963 made its formal debut at the Annual DACHS Banquet on January 29, 1994. In spite of its uncertain beginnings and a defective first printing of Volume 1, No. 1, which necessitated a recall, the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* has become a very popular source of historical information. The following is the story of its founding.

Journal—Part of DACHS's Long-Range Plan

During the summer of 1992, when the DACHS Special Projects Committee outlined a long-range plan for the DACHS, publishing a quarterly DACHS journal was classified with the lowest priority: "to be accomplished eventually, when resources were available." It received a low priority rating primarily because the Special Projects Committee doubted the DACHS's financial and technical ability to produce a polished publication.¹

Publications Committee Formed

Martin Gemoets, who strongly believed that DACHS should publish a historical journal despite the Special Projects Committee's reservations, appeared before DACHS Board of Directors on April 28, 1993, to propose that the Society sponsor what he called the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. The DACHS Board of Directors was intrigued by Gemoets's proposal and urged him and his wife Doris to

co-chair a Publications Committee to work on the idea. The Publications Committee eventually also included President Linda G. Harris, Vice President Charles Miles, Dorothy Shannon, and Margie Walton.

Strategy to Produce a Journal

On June 21, 1993, the Publications Committee met for the first time to plan a strategy. They addressed three major issues: a design for the journal, a procedure for producing the journal, and a plan for its financing.

In terms of design, the committee decided that the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* would be subjected to a length requirement (44 to 52 pages) and would feature Jose Cisneros' art work on its cover.²

In terms of production, the committee intended to solicit articles from the membership, solicit book reviews from respected historians, and accept other "unforeseen kinds of writing." In addition, the committee would divide up editing responsibilities, arrange for typesetting, and have the journal published in time for the annual DACHS Banquet in January. Each edition would be "protected by copyright and include a disclaimer about the facts included in the articles." In order to finance the journal, the committee planned to sell advertising.³

At the second meeting of the Publications Committee, on July 5, the strategy was somewhat refined. The approach to financing was revised, a campaign to solicit papers was de-

veloped, and a deadline for article submissions was fixed. Rather than sell ads, the committee decided to seek \$1,500 in seed money from the DACHS Board of Directors and try to recover the initial investment through sales. Five hundred copies of a 44-52 page publication would cost between \$2.00 and \$3.00 a copy and could be sold for \$5.00 each.⁴

In the meantime, the committee printed flyers calling for papers to circulate among members at the up-coming Society annual July picnic and via the newsletter and Publicity Committee. They also prepared individualized letters, calling for papers, to send to people whose families had made significant contributions to the region's history. The deadline for submissions for the first issue was fixed on October 31, 1993.⁵

Seeking DACHS Support for the Journal

On August 26, 1993, Harris reported to the DACHS Board for the Publications Committee and requested \$1,500 to launch the journal. After considerable discussion, board members expressed appreciation for the committee's accomplishments but declined to grant financing. It was a substantial sum, in fact, half the treasury's balance. Before the Board was willing to take such a risk, they wanted more assurance that the publication would be a success. They requested more information about how the journal would be marketed and about how the quality of the journal would be assured.⁶

Lillian Collingwood Gives Publications Committee 1-2-3 Advice

The next day, on August 27, 1993, Lillian Collingwood, long-time Editor of the El Paso Historical Society's journal, *Password*, visited with the DACHS Publications Committee and gave them "informative 1-2-3 advice on what it takes to produce a quality journal." Collingwood emphasized that they needed a professional editor, one who had a good

knowledge of history and who possessed the attributes of patience and perseverance. She also described methods of financing used by *Password*, including the idea of selling corporate memberships. Much of the committee's planning was right on target. What they hadn't previously considered was easily added to their strategy and formed the basis for their next report to the DACHS Board.⁷

Responding to DACHS Board of Directors

The committee's written report to the Board in September focused on their strategy for marketing the journal and for insuring its quality. Regarding marketing, the committee proposed to sell the journal in advance of its printing. "We suggest a page in the proposed publication be designated as CORPORATE MEMBERS AND BENEFACTORS. To be included on this page, a person or corporation will give \$50 and will be given 10 copies of the publication." These donors were later dubbed "Boosters."⁸

In terms of the journal's quality, the committee described the types of articles they were likely to publish (by this time, they had received several submissions), and called for the Board to select a professional editor:

Most of the writings and materials will be produced by non-professional writers. Therefore, it can be said that the finished product will be interesting, possibly entertaining and somewhat 'amateurish' but with historical significance for our area. It was the considered opinion of those of us who served on the Publications Committee that it is essential that the editor to be chosen be one who has the background and professional qualifications for such a position. This should be a task for the Board of Directors, assisted by the current chair persons if called upon.⁹

The Gemoets's choice for editor was Dr. Paul T. Comeau, retired United States Air Force Lieutenant-Colonel and retired Chair-

man of the Foreign Language Department at New Mexico State University.

DACHS Board Sponsors Journal

At a special 6:30 p.m. meeting, just before the regular DACHS meeting on September 16, 1993, the Board entered into a lively and, at times, heated debate over the issues of funding the proposed journal and approving a recently proposed editor. Ultimately, Gemoets's arguments for funding prevailed. The Board agreed to "provide the seed money for the first publication," approving a sum of \$1,500 to finance the journal's set-up and printing costs and \$300 for miscellaneous expenses.¹⁰

Initially, the DACHS Board questioned the qualifications of the proposed editor, Dr. Paul T. Comeau, as he did not have a background in history. However, when it was established that Comeau had authored several text books, a book on 19th century French literature, and numerous articles, the Board approved his appointment.¹¹

Selecting Manuscripts

After October 31, 1993, all submissions were circulated to the members of the Publications Committee who, in turn, individually reviewed and evaluated each one. The committee then met to select the papers which would appear in the first edition of the journal.

By December 3, 1993, selections had been made and were in the process of being edited. They included "The Jornada del Muerto" by Paxton Price, "Early Owners of the Nestor Armijo Home" by John B. Colligan, "The Mark Thompson-David Bronson Home" by Theresa Gerend, "The Deeds of Roy Nakayama" by Nancy Tod, "The Archers of the Lower Rio Grande" by Walter P. Archer, "George Adlai Feather" by Ilka Minter and Robert R. White, "Major General James H. Carleton" by Allan Holmes, "Hugh M. Milton II" by Lee Gemoets, and "German Lass Routs Apache with Spunk, Burning Candle" as told by Miss Ormeda May to Margaret Page

Hood.¹²

Many manuscripts had been submitted, and they could not all be published. Additionally, many of the manuscripts required more editorial work (clarification, organization, condensation, or expansion) than the Publications Committee was able to accommodate. The unhappy task of writing individual letters to each author whose manuscript would not be published fell to Linda G. Harris.¹³

Soliciting Book Reviews

Editor Comeau successfully requested book reviews for the publication. Dorothy Thurmond Shannon reviewed *New Mexico's Buffalo Soldiers, 1866-1900* by Monroe Lee Billington, and Herbert A. Beebe, Professor Emeritus of Astronomy at New Mexico State University, reviewed *Clyde Tombaugh-Discoverer of Planet Pluto* by David H. Levy.

Recruiting "Boosters"

The "boosters" of the first edition eventually included: Sunwest Bank, Stephen and Laurel Bracey, First National Bank of Doña Ana County, Thomas and Mary Gale, Martin and Doris Gemoets, Dr. Tom and Theresa Gerend, John Gregan, John and Ellen Haltom, Allan and Victoria Holmes, Human Systems Research, Inc., Ruleen Lazzell, Chuck and Jean Miles, Margie Walton and Carl Miner, Dr. John C. Nunemaker, Paxton Price, C.W. "Buddy" Ritter, Ray Sadler, Leonard R. Sugerman, Calvin Traylor, Madeleine Vessel, and Jerry and Nancy Ann Warner.¹⁴

This remarkable response was due largely to the efforts of Martin Gemoets and Charles Miles, two of DACHS's best salesmen.

Debut of *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*

The *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* was presented to the DACHS membership at the Twenty-Seventh Annual DACHS Banquet on January 29, 1994. Unfortunately, it also had to be immediately recalled! A combination of

errors in the typesetting phase of the manuscript led to its being sent to the printer before Comeau had a chance to properly proofread or approve it. Consequently, it contained too many errors to be distributed. The Society acted swiftly, however, and an approved edition was promptly produced. As soon as the new version was available, copies were sold in selected local bookstores and at DACHS meetings for \$5.00 each. Two of the DACHS's best saleswomen, Victoria Holmes and Nancy Ann Warner, were responsible for journal sales in several other community outlets. The response was overwhelmingly favorable.¹⁵

Despite the difficulties associated with the first edition, the Publications Committee began discussing

plans for a second edition almost immediately. This time the DACHS Board was solidly behind their efforts: Those who had been involved in the planning felt that many lessons had been learned and that everyone was pleased with the finished product.¹⁶

The Society has continued to date with further annual editions of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. The DACHS's 1992 long-range plan for a quarterly journal has not been abandoned, only temporarily modified to accommodate current volunteer resources and market expectations.¹⁷

It is encouraging to note that a number of manuscripts not used in the initial issue have been revised with the help of the Publication Committee and have appeared in subsequent issues.¹⁸

Part VII

DACHS PRESIDENTS



DACHS DEPENDS UPON THE VISION, enthusiasm, and hard work of its Presidents and Boards of Directors to stay focused on its purposes. This is illustrated in the following profiles of the Society's Presidents and their administrations.

LOUIS E. FREUDENTHAL

First DACHS President

October 22, 1963 - November 19, 1964



✦ LOUIS E. 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 1971.¹



Renowned for his organizational skills and dedication to preserving the history of the Mesilla Valley, Freudenthal was an obvious choice for first DACHS President. Together with his very capable Board of Directors including Vice President George Adlai Feather, Recording Secretary J. Paul Taylor, Corresponding Secretary Helen Caffey, and Treasurer General Hugh M. Milton II, Freudenthal laid a solid foundation.²

Freudenthal's immediate tasks were to see that the new Society was properly affiliated with the Historical Society of New Mexico (HSNM); to attract membership; to write bylaws; to create a statement of purpose; to establish a plan for regular meetings; and, finally, to create working committees. Another formidable task which fell to Freudenthal's administration was to host HSNM's second annual Hall of Fame Banquet.

Articles of Incorporation/Affiliating with the Historical Society of New Mexico

Articles of Incorporation were accepted on October 3, 1963, and were later filed with the State of New Mexico in Santa Fe for a fee of \$15.50. On October 22, 1963, Freudenthal and Victor Westphall, President of HSNM signed an official affiliation agreement, and the DACHS paid \$10.00 dues to become an institutional member of HSNM.³

Attracting a Membership

As early as October 3, 1963, the Society discussed the need to attract membership. The following advertisement, which appeared in the *Las Cruces Sun-News* on October 20, 1963, was one of the first attempts to invite public participation:

The newly-formed Doña Ana County Historical Society meets Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Yucca Room of the First National Bank. Among the subjects to be discussed are a plan to sponsor a Ft. Seldon [Selden] preservation project and the collection of tape-recorded comments by "old timers" of the area concerning the history of Las Cruces and vicinity. The public is invited to the meeting.

Twenty-five people responded to the announcement, and DACHS took immediate advantage of the turn-out by collecting \$3.00 donations for the treasury. General Milton subsequently opened the first DACHS account at the First National Bank of Doña Ana County. By October 23, 1963, the bank balance was \$48.00. The first donors were John L. Altshool, Laiten L. Camien, Martin A. Campbell, Ira G. Clark, Jennalee Clark, R. E. Cruse, Jerome Hartger, John W. Hawley, George A. Helfrich, Mary La Barre Hignett, Mrs. Earl F. Jones, Chester H. Linscheid, Charlotte K. Priestley, Joe S. Priestley, Virginia Spruiell, and Richard A. White.⁴

Bylaws

DACHS Bylaws were accepted on November 25, 1963.⁵

Regular Meetings

On October 22, 1963, DACHS designated the fourth Tuesday of each month for regular meetings. Although the 1963 bylaws 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.⁶

Committees

The first DACHS members were a lively and talented group of individuals. Anxious to carry out the Society's purposes, many already had projects in mind. Freudenthal, taking advantage of this creative energy, 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 HSNM'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.⁷

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.⁸

Hosting HSNM's Second Annual Hall of Fame Banquet

As a new affiliate, DACHS was encouraged to host HSNM's second Annual Hall of Fame Banquet. The DACHS's HSNM Hall of Fame Banquet Committee invited the El Paso County Historical Society to act as co-host, and together, under George Adlai Feather's direction, produced a very successful banquet on October 17, 1964, in the Hubert Room at NMSU. Named to the Hall of Fame were Juan de Oñate for the colonial period, Kit Carson for the Territorial period, and Will Keleher for the Statehood period.

More than two hundred people gathered to listen to Eleanor Adams, editor of the *New Mexico Historical Review*, who spoke about Juan de Oñate; J. M. Bernal, President of the Taos County Historical Society, who discussed Kit Carson; and General Hugh M. Milton II, who spoke about the life and contributions of Will Keleher, a lawyer and

contemporary historian. Tapes were made of the speakers and deposited with the NMSU Library.

The Sears Foundation provided a grant to pay for printing, binding, and boxing 750 copies of three essays about the honorees. A copy of the resulting commemorative book was produced by Professor John H. McNeely of Texas Western College; George Fitzpatrick, editor of *New Mexico Magazine*; and Dan Burrows, editor of the *Albuquerque Tribune*. A copy was presented to each guest at the dinner. Today, a copy of the book is among DACHS papers deposited in the Rio Grande Historical Collections in the New Mexico State University Library.

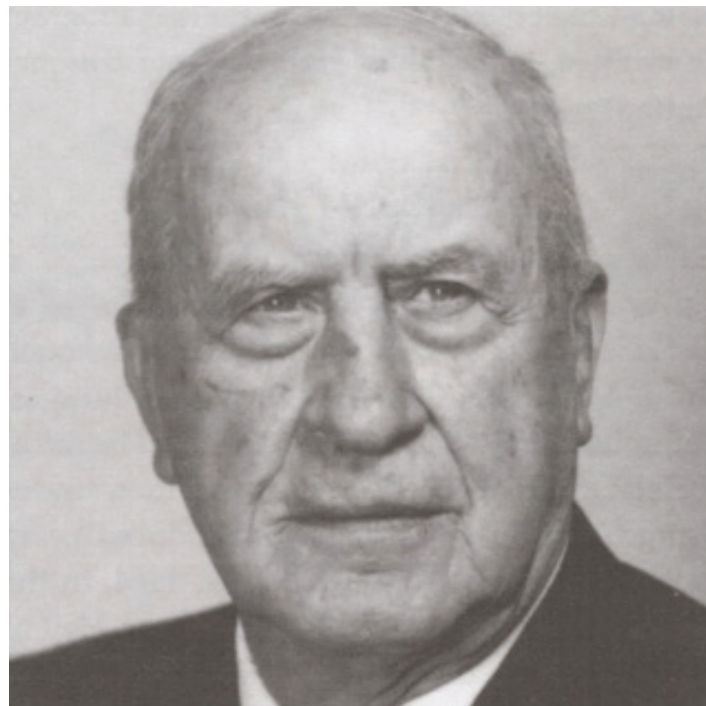
In addition to the speeches and essays, portraits of the honorees were displayed in the Hubert Room during the banquet for the pleasure of the attendees. William Hurley had painted Will Keleher's portrait. Richard Strome had painted the portrait of Kit Carson. And Elsa Kells Skinner had painted the portrait of Juan de Oñate.

The banquet was a huge success for the newly organized DACHS. Not only was it good publicity, but it made a profit.⁹

GEORGE ADLAI FEATHER

Second DACHS President

November 19, 1964 - November 19, 1965



GEORGE ADLAI FEATHER was born on October 22, 1892, in Perry, Iowa. In 1905, he moved with his family to Artesia, New Mexico. Feather attended Park College in Parkville, Missouri, for two years and later received B. A. and M. A. degrees in languages from the University of New Mexico. In 1917, he was named a Rhodes Scholar but did not enter Oxford University until 1919, after World War I. Feather spent the war as a United States Marine and spent the war in the Dominican Republic, first as a gunnery sergeant and later as an interpreter. After the war, Feather studied at Oxford University for two years, then spent a third year on a fellowship at the University of Durham, England, and a fourth year at the University of Madrid, Spain. While studying in England, he met Ilka Howell. They married in 1923 and had four children: Ilka, Frank, Gertrude and Mary.

From 1923 to 1935, he taught languages at New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, now New Mexico State University. In 1935, he started a plant nursery and became well known in Las Cruces as a horticulturist. He was also well known for his interest in New Mexico history. After he retired in 1952, he visited nearly every city and town in New Mexico. He was particularly interested in, and knowledgeable about, the history of Doña Ana County. Feather died on October 30, 1976.¹



When Feather assumed the DACHS Presidency on November 19, 1964, he and the Board of Directors—Vice President J. Paul Taylor, Recording Secretary John L. Altshool, Corresponding Secretary Helen Shomer, and Treasurer General Hugh M. Milton II—were anxious to continue efforts to save Fort Selden, to collect historical properties, and to cultivate interest in the history of Doña Ana County. Two committees were the driving force of Feather's administration: The Fort Selden Committee and the Program Committee. For a short time a Cannon Committee explored the possibility of there being an old cannon abandoned in Hembrillo Canyon.

Fort Selden Committee

During Feather's administration, the Fort Selden Committee completed a brochure on Fort Selden which evidently helped persuade Harry N. Bailey to donate the Fort Selden site to the State of New Mexico.

Program Committee

As a scholar and an expert on the history of the Mesilla Valley, the Program Committee was Feather's special interest. As Vice President under Louis Freudenthal, he had enthusiastically agreed

to chair the first Program Committee. This appointment set a precedent for future administrations. From that time on, one of the Vice President's main functions was to chair the Program Committee. In 1972, this was written into the Bylaws.

By seeing to it that the members and guests were exposed to programs which focused on the history of Las Cruces and the surrounding community, Feather fostered not only an appreciation for local culture and history, but a desire among DACHS members and the general public to preserve what was historically significant.

J. Paul Taylor remembers that they had a lot of fun with the programs that year. He particularly remembers the program on March 25, 1965, which featured a round-table discussion by local old timers. The panel consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Isaacks; Mr. Richard Triviz; Mrs. Carriere, who was from Doña Ana; Mrs. Elizabeth Armendariz, and Mrs. Todd. "Mrs. Todd wasn't asked to be a panelist, but she arrived, so we put her on the panel. They were so wonderful. We should have had a tape recorder." The panel related what had happened in the town during their lifetimes. They didn't necessarily agree with one another, however, so there was some "wonderful interaction and communication between them which sometimes got a bit heated. Each wanted to prevail." ²

In years to come, program speakers would often stimulate the appointment of special committees which would confront the difficult work of historical preservation head on. When Mary D. Taylor, a DACHS member and distinguished historian, read and commented on a paper prepared by Corinne Mozer on Fort Fillmore at the September 30, 1965, meeting, a committee was formed to preserve Fort Fillmore. The Society's interest in saving Fort Fillmore continued into the 1970s.³

Cannon Committee

Feather's administration is also remembered for its Cannon Committee. At least two people known to DACHS members had reported seeing a cannon in Hembrillo Canyon in the San Andres Mountains. Out of curiosity, Feather appointed George Helfrich to chair a committee to research the whereabouts of the cannon. Helfrich corresponded with White Sands Missile Range, requesting permission for members of DACHS to conduct a search. Although permission was granted with the qualification that the group be accompanied by the Provost Marshall, DACHS was ultimately denied access to the canyon. Later, Helfrich personally scouted the area for the cannon but could not find it. The whereabouts of the alleged cannon remains a mystery to this day.⁴

J. PAUL TAYLOR

Third DACHS President

November 19, 1965 - November 16, 1966



J. PAUL TAYLOR was born in 1920, in Chamberino, New Mexico. He attended grade school in Chamberino, graduated from Gadsden High School in Anthony, and received B. A., M. A., and Education Specialist degrees from New Mexico State University (NMSU). During World War II, he was Yeoman First Class with Naval Intelligence.

In 1945, Taylor married Mary Helen Daniels. They had seven children: Robert Milton, Mary Dolores, Michael Romero, Mary Helen Catherine, John Paul Jr., Albert Patrick, and Rosemary Marguerite.

At NMSU, from 1946 to 1951, Taylor was the Assistant Registrar, and intermittently since 1961, he has been a visiting instructor/lecturer. From 1951 to 1985, he served Las Cruces Public Schools in the capacities of teacher, principal, elementary curriculum coordinator, director of program development, assistant superintendent for instruction, and, finally, associate superintendent for instruction. From January 1987, to the time of this writing, he has served District 33 in the State House of Representatives.¹

Taylor, who has been affiliated with too many worthy organizations and received too many distinguished honors to list here, has dedicated his life to serving New Mexico. He was the recipient of a Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) from NMSU

on May 11, 1985, “for exemplary service as an educator, civic leader, Hispanic historian, architectural conservationist, antiquarian and builder of libraries in his native New Mexico; and for his unselfish and visionary leadership to education, museums, and diverse other public institutions. . . .”²

New Mexico history has been one of Taylor’s particular interests, beginning with an appreciation of his own family’s history. He is a descendant of Miguel Romero y Baca, whose family came to New Mexico with Oñate, and Josefa Delgado, whose family came to New Mexico in the 1700s. On May 9, 1986, he and his wife Mary were recognized for their “years of dedication to the preservation of the history of the State of New Mexico” with the Governor’s Award of Honor for Historic Preservation. They have also been recipients of the Paso por Aui award in 1992 by the Rio Grande Historical Collections, NMSU, and the Board of Directors Award in 1994 by the Historical Society of New Mexico.³



When the DACHS was in the process of being established in 1963, Taylor immediately recognized its importance as a vehicle for preserving local history. He is one of its founding members. Taylor’s first Board of Directors included Vice President Charlotte K. Priestley, Recording

Secretary John L. Altshool, Corresponding Secretary Mary Hartger, and Treasurer General Hugh M. Milton II. They are probably best remembered for their public protest against urban renewal and the razing of historic buildings in downtown

Las Cruces. Taylor's administration must also be remembered as the first to host a DACHS Banquet. (See Part II for a full description of this period.) Taylor was also the eighth DACHS President.

CHARLOTTE K. PRIESTLEY

Fourth DACHS President

November 16, 1966 - January 30, 1969



CHARLOTTE K. PRIESTLEY was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1934. Her father was employed by the Veteran's Administration, and as a result, her family moved often. She spent most of her formative years in Cleburne, Texas, with her maternal grandmother. While living in Cleburne, her grandmother taught her to crochet. She has loved doing needlework ever since.

In 1945, Priestley moved with her family to El Paso, Texas. She graduated from Austin High School in 1951 and later entered Texas Western College (University of Texas at El Paso). She continues to pursue studies at NMSU. Though she has studied modern languages, history, and general agriculture in depth, she eventually will earn a Bachelor of Individualized Studies.

When Priestley married in 1955, she moved to Las Cruces where she has lived ever since. She has raised four children: Thomas, an electronics technologist; T'Joe, a transportation specialist; Leila, a housewife; and Sarah, an activities director in geriatrics.

Priestley is active at St. Paul's Methodist Church and has worked in the Soup Kitchen at St. Andrews for many years. She is a member of PEO and OES.¹



Priestley has been a member of the DACHS since October 22, 1963. She remembered in 1994,

“there was an ad in the paper, a little notice in the *Las Cruces Sun News* that said a historical society was forming and that the meeting would be at the First National Bank. I had some interest in history. It had always fascinated me, so I decided I'd go.”²

Priestley describes DACHS's early years as the “Shining Years.” “The most important thing I think that we did was give our children and ourselves history. We gave them roots. We took them places. They learned to appreciate old things. They learned to look at the mountains and the desert around here with a new eye. When you delve into history, go wandering through Fort Selden, Cooke's Peak, or St. Nicholas Canyon, all of a sudden you realize you're not the only soul on this earth. And life didn't begin with you. You appreciate, a little bit, the hardships that the people who came here before us went through—their courage, their grit. That was the most important thing we did.”³

First DACHS President to serve a Two-Year Term

When Priestley and the Board of Directors including Vice President John L Altshool, Recording Secretary Ivan L. Carbine, Corresponding Secretary Calvin L. Traylor, and Treasurer Art Liang took office, a reading of Article IV of the Bylaws revealed that officers and other board members

were meant to be elected in even numbered years. This meant a term of office was two years. Priestley's administration were the first to abide by this rule.⁴

Committees

Priestley appointed members to the following committees: the Preservation and Restoration Committee, the Fort Selden Committee, the Fort Fillmore Committee, the Heliograph Committee, and the Anniversary Awards Committee.

J. Paul Taylor chaired the Preservation and Restoration Committee which was intended to insure a public DACHS voice for the preservation of historic sites. At that time the State Department of Development was also interested in preserving historic sites, and at their prompting, DACHS began identifying historic buildings for inclusion in the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties.

During Priestley's administration, the Fort Selden Papers included the recorded deeds to the State of New Mexico for the first three tracts of land. The deed for the fourth tract had been filed and the fifth and final deed was scheduled to be filed in 1968.

The Fort Fillmore Committee inquired with the National Park Service about the possibility of recommending Fort Fillmore for preservation. They learned that a survey made of the forts did not recommend Fort Fillmore for preservation. Lacking national support, the only hope for preservation seemed to be in local interest and financial support.

During Priestley's term of office, some members had an interest in the former military use of the heliograph, a signaling device to reflect the sun with a moveable mirror, capable of transmitting messages by Morse

code. It was believed that a heliograph had once been used near Fort Selden on the Robledo Mountains. As a consequence, Priestley appointed John Hawley, Calvin L. Traylor, and John Gumert to a Heliograph Committee. The Committee was unable to obtain military records confirming a heliograph station existed on the Robledo Mountains.

The Society gave awards for the 100th anniversary of the Aztec Masonic Lodge and the 75th anniversary of the Wednesday Literary Club.

DACHS Participates in Local Festivities

During Priestley's administration, the Society became involved in certain festive events in the area. They participated in both the 1967 and 1968 Vaquero Days parade. Alice Ward, who chaired the committee to coordinate this activity in 1968, reported that the theme would be "a unit of a wagon train of 1883 that got lost." A wagon and mules were obtained together with appropriate supplies to enable DACHS to join the parade.

DACHS also participated in the First Annual Southern New Mexico State Fair. On short notice, a special committee chaired by J. Paul Taylor organized an exhibit featuring, "a parlor of the territorial period in the Mesilla Valley" The exhibit won second prize in the adult education category.

Priestley: Best Remembered for her Interest in Collecting Artifacts

Many artifacts were added to the DACHS collection between 1967 and 1970. (For the complete story, see Part III, chapters 6-7.)

CALVIN L. TRAYLOR

Fifth DACHS President

January 30, 1969 - February 10, 1971



CALVIN “CAL” L. Traylor was born in Melrose, New Mexico, on October 5, 1924. His father was an agent for the Santa Fe Railroad in Tolar. According to Traylor, Tolar was blown away in World War II when a munitions train exploded. Fortunately, this was after Traylor’s family moved away.

Traylor has a BBA and MBA degrees. He has been an insurance general agent, a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, President of Cal Tra Corp 1958-1968, and co-owner with his wife of two employment agencies, a business college, and a gifts wholesale business. He was an instructor of accounting and marketing for three years at NMSU. He has been tax reporter since 1966, and since 1979, the administrator of numerous trusts. He is a self-employed investment banker. For honors, in 1986, Traylor was inducted into the Doña Ana County Historical Society Hall of Fame. He was sponsored by General Milton into the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, which commission was signed by the Governor of Kentucky. He was made a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International in 1989.

He is a life member of the Council on American Military Past, the Doña Ana County historical Society, the Doña Ana County Archaeological Society, Friends of Branigan Library, and the El Paso Mission Trail Association.

He is a past president of the Doña Ana County Historical Society (twice), the Doña Ana County Archaeological Society (twice), Las Cruces Community Concert Association (twice), Beloved Vagabonds, TIP, and the Coalition for Preservation of “A” Mountain.

Sponsored by G. Adlai Feather, Traylor joined the Las Cruces Rotary Club in 1970. As a Rotarian, Traylor started the relationship with the Juarez Sur. Rotary Club and helped promote it into a \$157,000 Rotary Foundation Grant for eye care in the State of Chihuahua.

In 1993, Traylor spearheaded an effort resulting in New Mexico legislation to partially shelter charitable groups from tax liability. Plans for creating a better shelter are being considered.

Traylor is married to Frances Geraldine Traylor, née Pill. The Traylor family enjoys traveling. They have exchanged their home and car with those of families in Australia, England, France, Mexico, North Carolina, Florida, Hawaii, and elsewhere, totaling twenty-three exchanges.¹



Traylor and his Board of Directors including Vice President George A. Helfrich, Recording Secretary Art Lang, Corresponding Secretary Mrs. G. Jerome Hartger, and Treasurer George Adlai Feather, focused their attention on Fort Selden, the Amador Hotel, and Pat Garrett’s murder site.

Fort Selden

At the end of December 1968, General Hugh Milton II received the last Fort Selden site deed from Harry N. Bailey, duly recorded it, and sent it on to the New Mexico State Park and Recreation Commission. In order to insure that the deeds describing Fort Selden read correctly, Traylor made a survey of the deeded land.²

Later, in 1970, in response to news that the state was ready to initiate a program of restoration at Fort Selden, Traylor appointed a committee to look into restoring a room at the fort for DACHS use. Anxious to prevent DACHS efforts to save Fort Selden from being forgotten, Traylor and his Board of Directors envisioned putting a DACHS plaque on the restored room. Unfortunately Traylor's hopes to restore a room at Fort Selden were

dashed. Stabilization and preservation needed to be done before restoration could be considered. In the end, nothing came of it.³

The Amador Hotel Artifact Auction

In June 1970, the Society received news that the artifact collection in the Amador Hotel was to be auctioned off. (For the complete story of the DACHS involvement, see Part III, chapter 6.)

Pat Garrett's Murder Site

Jarvis Garrett identified what he thought was his father's (Pat Garrett's) murder site for Traylor. As a result, interested Society members visited and marked the site. (See Part IV, chapter 8, for the complete story of DACHS involvement.)

LOUISE GARRETT
Sixth DACHS President
February 10, 1971 - Fall 1974



BORN IN PITTSBURG, Texas, Louise Garrett received B. A. and M. A. degrees from Texas Women's University at Denton. She also studied at Cornell University, the University of Arizona, Iowa State University, and Syracuse University.

Garrett taught at the University of Northern Arizona, was regional home economist for the Wheat Flour Institute in Chicago, Illinois, and was a field nutritionist for the American Red Cross in St. Louis, Missouri, before joining the faculty of New Mexico State University in 1959. When she became DACHS President in 1971, she was a nutrition specialist for the New Mexico State University Co-operative Extension Service.

Dedicated to improving the status of women, Garrett was a member of and past state president of both the American Home Economics Association and the American Dietetic Association. In 1967, she was named New Mexico Home Economist of the Year. She was the author of numerous nutrition education publications.

As a result of a terminal illness, Garrett retired from her position at New Mexico State University and her position as President of DACHS. She died in Dallas, Texas, and was buried in Pittsburg, Texas.¹

★

Garrett was the first DACHS president to be elected to two consecutive terms. Her first Board of Directors included Vice President Ivan Carbine, Recording Secretary Christine Buder, Corresponding Secretary and Historian Opal Lee Priestley, and Treasurer G. Adlai Feather. During her second term of office, her Board of Directors included Vice President James McNeil, Secretary Dan Aran da, Treasurer G. Adlai Feather, Historian Opal Lee Priestley, Director Helen Caffey, and Director Lucy Lawrence. Titles of some members of the Board of Directors appear differently for the second term of office. These changes reflect amendments to the Bylaws.

While Garrett was President, the Society participated in establishing a park at International Boundary Marker No. 1, worked to save Fort Fillmore, pushed to establish a museum at the Fort Selden visitors' center, amended DACHS Bylaws, and established The Old Timer's Award. Garrett's administration was famous for taking many interesting outings. (For Garrett's involvement with International Boundary Marker No. 1, Fort Fillmore, and Fort Selden, see Part I, chapters 1 and 2, and Part IV, chapter 8.)

Bylaws Amended

In February 1972, the Society amended its bylaws for the first time. Amendments established

two classes of membership and updated several sections to reflect expanded purposes. Contributing Member dues were raised from \$12.00 or more to \$25.00 or more. Life Memberships were raised from one payment of \$100 to one payment of \$200. The office of Secretary was reorganized to include both corresponding and recording functions. The office of Historian was added, to serve as custodian of DACHS records. The “Loans of Historical Materials” section was revised to address the importance of protecting Society properties. The Executive Board was expanded to include two directors in addition to the stated officers. And the Vice President’s position was expanded to include the responsibility of chairing the Program Committee.²

Opal Lee Priestley, the first DACHS Historian, is credited with preserving early DACHS records. When the Rio Grande Historical Collections (RGHC) was established in 1972 at New Mexico State University to preserve historical documents related to the area influenced by the Rio Grande, Priestley immediately deposited DACHS records with the archive. Records dated from the DACHS’s establishment in 1963 to the end of Calvin L. Traylor’s term of office in 1971.³

Old Timer’s Award

The Old Timer’s Award, inspired by Opal Lee Priestley, was added to the DACHS Banquet Awards on January 24, 1974, to honor a *cherished object, natural phenomenon, or cultural tradition* prominent in Mesilla Valley heritage which deserves public attention and would otherwise escape recognition as an important part of the physical character of the region. Persons were excluded from this honor. The

first Old Timer’s Award went to the Garcia Trees (pecan trees, “distinguished pioneers of the Mesilla Valley”).⁴

Garrett is Best Remembered for Picnics and Field Trips

Old time DACHS members remember that Garrett was famous for getting the members involved in outings and field trips. The potluck supper picnic that the Society enjoys annually began in Garrett’s administration. The first annual picnic took place in July 1971 at George and Essie Stoy’s home in La Mesa.⁵

Another memorable outing took place on December 12, 1971, when DACHS members and invited guests met at the village of Tortugas to attend the celebration honoring the Virgin of Guadalupe and to watch the traditional dancers. DACHS members had their lunch in the Casa de Comida, meatballs prepared by the women of the pueblo.⁶

The most talked about DACHS field trip, however, was a three day trip to Santa Fe in May 1974. The members traveled to Santa Fe by bus on Friday, May 24, 1974, and stayed the night at a Motel 6. On Saturday morning, they were received at the Governor’s Mansion for coffee. They had a buffet lunch at Shidoni, Tesuque, and in the afternoon visited the Museum of Anthropology, the Palace of the Governors, Goodwin Mansion, and also John Cartwright’s home, which offered Spanish, Mexican and Indian treasures for viewing. On Sunday, the members left Santa Fe for La Cienega, a colonial Spanish village being restored and developed by the Colonial New Mexico Historical Foundation. They lunched in Albuquerque en route home.⁷

JAMES MCNEIL

Seventh DACHS President

Fall 1974 - February 6, 1977



JAMES (JIM) MCNEIL was born in 1908 in Dexter, New Mexico. He received his B.S. degree from New Mexico Highlands University and M.A. degree from Teachers College, Columbia University. He taught in both Lincoln and Carlsbad, New Mexico. In 1935, he served as Assistant to the State Commissioner of Education in Santa Fe, and in 1940, was appointed administrative assistant to Congressman Clinton P. Anderson. He was on the floor of Congress in Washington, D.C., when the United States declared war against Japan.

During World War II, McNeil was a personnel officer for the Federal War Agencies and later became Acting Director of Personnel for the U. S. Office of Censorship. When the war was over, McNeil returned to work in education. For a time, he worked for the Ford Foundation's Institute of International Education in New York City. In 1954, he became Superintendent of Schools of Pascack Valley Regional High School District in Hillsdale, New Jersey.

When he retired in 1968, he came to live in Las Cruces. McNeil immediately became active in community affairs. He was a member of the Knife and Fork Club and was one of the founding organizers of University Terrace Good Samaritan Village. In 1974, he became DACHS's seventh president. On June 19, 1993, McNeil died in

Montclair, New Jersey, at the age of 85.¹



During the fall of 1974, Louise Garrett, who was suffering from a terminal illness, resigned as President. As a result, Vice President James McNeil became acting President. A few months later at the Annual DACHS Banquet on January 23, 1975, McNeil was elected President. His Board of Directors included the following: Vice President Tom Todsén, Secretary Dan Aranda, Treasurer Leon Hampton, Historian Opal Lee Priestley, and Directors Helen Caffey and Christine Buder.

Bicentennial Celebration

Very early on, McNeil's administration was faced with the task of planning DACHS participation in the nation's 1976 Bicentennial observances. The Society's commitment to the bicentennial celebrations required being in the Bicentennial Parade, accepting the Bicentennial Log Cabin furnishings as part of the DACHS collection of properties, dedicating Fort Selden, sponsoring an exhibit in the Las Cruces Bicentennial Park on the Downtown Mall, and contributing to the Bicentennial Time Capsule. (For stories about the Bicentennial Parade, the Bicentennial Log Cabin, and the dedication of Fort Selden, see Part I, chapter 1, and Part III, chapters 6-7.)

A Las Cruces Bicentennial Park Exhibit

The Society sponsored one of a series of twelve bubble-covered exhibits installed in Las Cruces Bicentennial Park in the Downtown Mall. About six feet across by three feet high, displaying a diversity of historical themes including flags, a reproduction of Fort Fillmore, and a depiction of White Sands Missile Range, the exhibits depicted the history of the area from 1536 to 1976. They were dedicated on February 19, 1976.²

Time Capsule

On December 31, 1976, DACHS announced it had contributed 1967 banquet programs to the

Doña Ana County Bicentennial Time Capsule. The capsule is buried under a monument to the south of City Hall waiting for a hundred years to pass.³

McNeil's Parting Comments

McNeil ended his term of office with the following sentiment: "I have enjoyed serving as President of the organization, but frankly had I known the details of the responsibilities, particularly the pulling together of the Fort Selden celebration, I certainly would not have accepted. However, it has been eventful and I trust helpful to the organization."⁴

J. PAUL TAYLOR

Eighth DACHS President

February 16, 1977 - March 6, 1979



FOR BIOGRAPHICAL information, see description of Taylor's first term of office, as third DACHS President.

Toward the end of 1976, Opal Lee Priestley encouraged J. Paul Taylor to return for a second term as President. In 1994, Taylor remembered, "I came back, and those were good years. It was a period of a rebuilding for the Society."

Taylor's Administration included Vice President Austin Hoover, Secretary Lucy Chadman, Treasurer Hester Roach, Historian Helen Caffey, Director James McNeil, and Director Essie Stoy. They focused on saving historic buildings, establishing the Branigan Cultural Center as a museum/art center, and recognizing DACHS program speakers.¹

Rebuilding the DACHS

Amending DACHS Bylaws

The bylaws were amended to provide continuity on the Board of Directors. Article III, Section 6, was amended to make the immediate past president a voting member of the Board. Article IV, Section 1, and Article IV, Section 2, were amended to clarify that, in addition to officers on the Board, two additional members at large were to be elected to the Board of Directors by the membership.

Filing Delinquent State Corporation papers

Not long after Taylor took office, he discovered that DACHS state corporation papers had lapsed. Corporate reports had not been filed since 1974-1975. On February 5, 1979, Taylor sent reports for three lapsed years together with a check for \$54.00, a \$50 penalty for late filing plus \$1 for each report submitted.

1978 Convention

Taylor also arranged to reinstate the DACHS as an Institutional Member of the Historical Society of

New Mexico and agreed to host the Historical Society of New Mexico's 1978 Convention on April 14 and April 15.

Working to Preserve the Nestor Armijo Home

Saving the Nestor Armijo home was an important cause during Taylor's term of office. DACHS had recognized the house in 1967 as being worthy of preservation. In 1969, the house was placed on the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties. (See Part II, chapter 4, for the complete story of the Society's involvement.)

The Branigan Cultural Center

Taylor and Opal Lee Priestley had been on the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library Board for years. Don Dresp, Director of Library, was also a DACHS member. Consequently, there was a cooperative relationship between the Library's Board and the Society. Together, they actively campaigned to convert the old Branigan Library into the Branigan Cultural Center.

In 1994, Taylor remembered, "We developed a plan for a performing arts portion, a history portion, with a fine arts portion in the middle. One of the plans suggested it would be a very nice place to have receptions when the city had distinguished guests."²

As a result of the combined efforts of DACHS, the Branigan Library Board, and the Doña Ana Arts Council, the Branigan Cultural Center was opened in January 1981.

Showing Appreciation for Program Speakers

Taylor and his Board of Directors believed that speakers and other people who had contributed to the Society should be recognized. Certificates of appreciation were designed and purchased for this purpose. Another way of recognizing program speakers was to keep a lasting record of each speaker's presentation. With this in mind, Taylor suggested that each DACHS program be taped. A tape recorder was duly purchased, and recordings of speakers have been made fairly routinely ever since. Recordings are stored in DACHS files at the Branigan Cultural Center.

OPAL LEE PRIESTLEY

Ninth DACHS President

March 6, 1979 - April 23, 1981



OPAL LEE PRIESTLEY was born in Iola, Kansas. She attended school in Kansas and Missouri. In the 1920s, she studied Journalism at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. She completed her degree at New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in 1950.

While she was at the University of Oklahoma, she met and married Orville E. Priestley. The Priestleys bought their first newspaper in 1930 in Crowley, Louisiana. In 1945, they moved to Artesia, New Mexico, and bought the *Artesia News*. In 1947, they sold the Artesia newspaper and bought the *Las Cruces Sun News*. Priestley has lived in Las Cruces ever since.

Priestley began as a newspaper writer, but in the 1950s she branched into fiction writing. In 1952, she published her first novel, *Murder Takes the Baths*. Since then she has published many fiction and non-fiction books. Among her non-fiction books are *Shalam: Utopia on the Rio Grande, 1881- 1907*, and *Journeys of Faith*. She publishes under the name of Lee Priestley.

For years Priestley has been popular as a public speaker. At the December 15, 1994, DACHS meeting, she was one of six panelists who spoke about the research they did for articles published in the January 1995 issue of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. She has been honored numerous times. Among her honors are: a Martha Foley "Distinctive"

Mention, Second Prize in Chapel Hill's annual fiction contest, the Zia Award for New Mexico Woman Writer of the Year, and Las Cruces Community Woman of Achievement.

She has been active in the community. For years she served on the Branigan Library Board. She is also a member of the PEO Sisterhood, Wednesday Literary Club, and St. Paul's Methodist Church. She is a past president of the Doña Ana County Historical Society. And she served on the Board of the Rio Grande Historical Collections. In August 1994, she celebrated her ninetieth birthday.¹



Priestley's Board of Directors including Vice President Ilka Minter, Secretary Christine Buder [Myers], Treasurer Richard Barbaras (Hester Roach replaced Barbaras in 1980), Historian Helen Caffey, Director Charlotte K. Priestley, Director Grady McCright, and Past President J. Paul Taylor are probably best known for initiating the Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey. It was the first study of its kind ever to be conducted in Doña Ana County. The survey resulted in the designation of three state historic districts and an important publication, *The Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey*. (See Part II, chapter 5, for more on the Survey.)

Very few records remain from Priestley's term of office, and in consequence, we are unable to attribute other accomplishments to her administration.

AUSTIN HOOVER

Tenth DACHS President

April 23, 1981 - October 20, 1983¹



AUSTIN HOOVER RECEIVED his B. A. degree (cum laude) from Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1963. His majors were in history and in political science. In 1967, he earned a M. A. degree with a major in history and a minor in government at the University of Texas at El Paso. He earned another M. A. degree in librarianship at the University of Denver in Colorado, in 1969. He received an “Institute in Modern Archives Administration” certificate from the National Archives and Records Service in Washington, D. C. in 1974. He was certified by the Academy of Certified Archivists in 1990. In May 1991, he became a Doctor of Arts candidate in library and information sciences.

From 1969 to 1970, Hoover was a Field Consultant for the Texas State Library at Austin, Texas. In 1971, he was a consultant for the Grants Coordination Unit of the Colorado State Library in Denver. He was the Director of the Field Programs and Consulting Services Unit of the Colorado State Library in Denver from July 1971 to June 1972. And from 1972 to 1974, he was the Director of the Library Development Services Unit at the Colorado State Library. Since 1974, Hoover has been the University Archivist and Director of the Rio Grande Historical Collections at New Mexico State University.

His career also includes service in the United States Army from 1963 to 1965 and the United States Army Reserve from 1965 to 1966, classroom teaching in the public schools, being a part-time college instructor, and being an adjunct professor of history.

He is a popular speaker and a published author. A complete list of all his lectures and published works would be too long to give here. However, a few of his lectures are the following: “The Las Cruces Story,” “History of the Mesilla Valley and Southern New Mexico, 1860-1920,” and “The History of the Hillsboro/Kingston Area.” Some will remember the article he co-authored with Gene Black on the battles of Lexington and Concord for the Doña Ana County Bicentennial Committee, published in the *Las Cruces Sun-News* in 1975. Another article published locally was “Historians Must Have Papers and Records” for the *Alamogordo Daily News*, February 8, 1984.

Since his arrival in the Las Cruces community in 1974, Hoover has been active in community service. He has supported DACHS since 1975. In 1979, he volunteered forty hours of service to the Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey.²



Hoover’s Board of Directors included Vice President Christine Buder Myers, Secretary Alice

Gruver, Treasurer Hester Roach, Historian Opal Lee Priestley, Director James Powell, and Director Herman Weisner. Very few records and memories are available for this period. However, at least three important projects are known to have absorbed the Society's time and energy during those years: hosting an oral history workshop and supporting local oral history projects, marking the Bartlett-Conde Initial Point, and reinstating DACHS's nonprofit status with the State Corporation Commission.

Oral History Workshop

As Hoover was personally involved in collecting oral histories from old timers in Doña Ana County, it was only natural for DACHS to encourage oral histories and recognize oral history projects during his administration.

On June 26, 1982, the Society hosted an all-day oral history workshop at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. The workshop began at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and introductions and ended at about 3:00 p.m. The speakers were Stanley Hordes, State Historian, State Records Center and Archives; Don Lavash, Historian, State Records Center and Archives; Mike Miller, Chief of Archival Services, State Records Center and Archives; Austin Hoover, NMSU Archivist and DACHS president; Patrick H. Beckett, Chairman, New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee; Anne Kapp, editor of the *Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey*; and Mary D. Taylor, historian and DACHS member.

Stanley Hordes spoke on the importance of local history and local archival sources. Don Lavash talked about collecting oral history. One of the outcomes of the workshop was a bibliography that described more than a hundred oral history reference books. Mike Miller explained how to access and use the State Archives collection. Austin Hoover talked about the archival program at the NMSU library. Patrick Beckett discussed local archaeology and its preservation. Anne Kapp gave an overview of the *Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey*. And Mary Taylor talked about archival research and the regional historian, using her own experience as an example.³

Supporting Oral History Projects

The Southwestern New Mexico Oral History Project was funded by a grant to the Western New Mexico University museum staff from the New Mexico Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The purpose of the project was to collect histories and historic pictures throughout Grant, Catron, Luna, Hidalgo, Sierra, and Doña Ana Counties. On February 20, 1983, Keith West and Doug Dinwiddie of Western New Mexico University, who had been working on the project since September 1982, spoke at a DACHS meeting about their activities and showed photographs they had collected. Rita Chegin, who had been working in Doña Ana County, also discussed her work. Many of the twenty people from Doña Ana County who had been interviewed about life during the 1920s and 1930s were at the DACHS meeting and were recognized for their special contributions to the preservation of local history.⁴

Later, Vice President Myers wrote Rita Chegin: "Our Society has been pleased to cooperate with you and to be of some assistance in helping you to locate and select persons for your interviews. We shall be glad to continue this cooperation and to assist you in your transcription and documentation of the interviews."⁵

Marking the Bartlett-Conde Initial Point

For information about DACHS' efforts to mark the Bartlett-Conde Initial Point, see Part IV, Chapter 8.

Reinstating the DACHS Nonprofit Status

At a meeting of the DACHS Board on August 30, 1982, Treasurer Hester Roach reported that, although the DACHS had several open bank accounts, almost everyone's dues were delinquent. President Hoover responded to this news by appointing several committees to work on program development, membership development, and to investigate several small bank accounts.

The last committee located and closed dormant accounts and combined all monies into one account. In the course of their work, they determined that DACHS had failed to file as a

nonprofit corporation with the State Corporation Commission since 1978. According to a meeting notice for the September 22, 1983, meeting, "Our status as a nonprofit organization through the State Corporation Commission is being clarified and brought up to date, ... especially as it affects our cooperative efforts to help in the restoration and renovation of the Church of Our Lady of Purification in Doña Ana which was placed on the New Mexico State Historical Register on

August 25 through the efforts of Marianne Thaeler." By the end of Hoover's term of office, nonprofit incorporation status was reinstated.⁶

Footnote

As a footnote for this period, Ilka Minter assumed responsibility for hosting DACHS summer picnics on September 22, 1983. The Society continued to meet in Minter's garden (and her home when it rained) for picnics until 1994.

CHRISTINE MYERS

Eleventh DACHS President

October 20, 1983 - January 27, 1987¹



CHRISTINE BUDER MYERS was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 12, 1924. She earned a B. A. degree in business and economics from Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri, and earned her M. S. degree in Library Science from the University of Illinois.

From 1949 to 1952, she served Culver-Stockton College as Assistant Librarian. For ten years, she worked for the Disciples of Christ Historical Society and the Christian Board of Publication in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1962, she accepted a position at New Mexico State University (NMSU). While she was at NMSU, she served in many capacities, being Special Collections Librarian when she retired on January 31, 1985.²

Christine Buder Myers is a charter member of the DACHS, a member of the Historical Society of New Mexico, the Council on America's Military Past, and the Order of the Indian Wars. She has held many offices, including President of the New Mexico Library Association, and served on committees of the American Library Association. After retirement, she became active in the Friends of Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. She is the compiler of *New Mexico Local and County Histories: A Bibliography*, published by the Local and Regional History Round Table of the New Mexico Library Association in 1983.³

In 1982, she married Leland (Lee) Myers, a military historian of the Southwest. She has edited several of his later articles and is currently assisting in the preparation for publication of his manuscript on the 19th-century military installations of New Mexico.⁴

Eleventh DACHS President

As DACHS President, Myers is probably best known for keeping the Society alive in spite of waning interest and reduced membership. When her Board of Directors including Vice President James Powell, Secretary Mary Eberhardt, Treasurer David Giron, Historian Opal Lee Priestley, Director Betty Nunemaker, Director Herman Weisner, and Past President Austin Hoover met on April 17, 1984, there was \$1,351.28 in the treasury but little enthusiasm among the membership about meeting on a regular basis. To counteract this situation, Myers's administration launched a membership development campaign, provided regular and interesting programs, entered into cooperative projects with other organizations, and honored "Los Tesoros Vivos." Very few records survive from this period, and so the following is a somewhat sketchy report of DACHS activities.

Membership Development

The Society attempted to encourage membership

during that period with publicity in local newspapers. In August 1984, Myers circulated the following news release: "Probably one of the most useful functions of the Society is a meeting ground for people of historical interests. Writers, professional and amateur, can exchange ideas, discuss mutual problems, and even argue about who killed Colonel Fountain, or the merits or demerits of Billy the Kid."⁵

Programs

Vice President James Powell conscientiously organized regular programs. (For a complete list of programming during this period, consult "Programs and Field Trips" in the Appendix.)

Cooperative Projects with Other Organizations Our Lady of Purification Church in Dona Ana

On April 17, 1984, Giron brought DACHS up to date on Our Lady of Purification Church in Dona Ana. The church was moldering with cracks in its adobe, crumbling ceilings, and a foot-wide separation between the tower and the main building. In order to counteract this deterioration, a "friends" group had been formed to secure funding for restoration work. DACHS, which had honored the church in 1970 at the Fourth Annual Banquet as a Building Worthy of Preservation, monitored the progress of the friends group for some years, publicizing and fostering participation in their work. Though the Society was not in a position to contribute financially, in 1989, it drew attention to the Doña Ana Church Conservation Committee's efforts by honoring Our Lady of Purification as a Building Worthy of Preservation at the Annual Banquet.⁶

National History Day

In 1984, DACHS participated in the National History Day Fair, which was organized by the area's public schools. Myers served as one of the fair's judges on April 14, and the Society donated

\$200 to help pay the local winners' travel expenses to the State History Day competition in Albuquerque on April 28. DACHS supported National History Day again in 1985 with a \$100 donation.⁷

Bicentennial/Diamond Jubilee

On August 5, 1986, the Mayor of Las Cruces, David M. Steinborn, sent a letter to Myers explaining that the Las Cruces City Council, on July 15, 1986, had passed a resolution establishing a Bicentennial/Diamond Jubilee Committee. The Committee was to deal with the celebration of two events: The Bicentennial of the United States Constitution and the 75th Anniversary of New Mexico's statehood.

On November 28, 1986, Myers responded to the Mayor by writing a letter to Joe Smith, the President of the Bicentennial/Diamond Jubilee Committee of the City of Las Cruces. In her letter, she advised that the Society would support the 1987 celebrations and that Elsa Altshool would be DACHS's official representative to the Bicentennial/Diamond Jubilee Committee.

The special city-wide celebration was scheduled for July 4, 1987. Two proposed projects the DACHS considered were a historical pageant and a compilation of a genealogical-historical book of Doña Ana County. However, nothing came of either of these projects.⁸

Los Tesoros Vivos

Myers's administration is probably best remembered for introducing the Los Tesoros Vivos (Living Treasures) of the Mesilla Valley Award during the twentieth Annual Banquet on January 27, 1987. Emma Narvaez, Francisca F. Apodaca, and Santiago "Jimmy" Brito were honored for their efforts to preserve and interpret cultural traditions that enrich the history of the region. (For more information about this award, consult "Los Tesoros Vivos' Living Treasures" in the Appendix B.)⁹

JAMES H. POWELL
Twelfth DACHS President
January 27, 1987 - January 31, 1989



JAMES HAROLD POWELL was born on January 5, 1941, in Sinton, Texas, and was raised in the Pecos Valley of New Mexico. He graduated from New Mexico State University in 1966 and became a Contracting Officer at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the White Sands Test Facility.

Besides being DACHS Vice President and later DACHS President, Powell was affiliated with the Rio Grande Historical Collections. A researcher and writer of history, he co-authored *Jessie Evans: Lincoln County Badman* with Grady E. McCright in 1983.¹



DACHS members were a passive group when Powell became President. Members attended meetings and Annual Banquets but did not participate in any special projects. Paxton Price, who was the Vice President during that period, remembered in 1994 that attending a meeting amounted to listening to a speaker (most of the speakers were recorded on tape) and enjoying a cup of coffee afterward. Speakers were rewarded for their efforts with a special ceramic tile. The programs were meant to expose the history of the Southwest to members and guests.

The one new happening was the creation of the Pasajero del Camino Real Award.²

Pasajero del Camino Real Award

Paxton Price conceived the idea of giving the Pasajero del Camino Real Award to honor authors who had written about the history of Doña Ana County and its surrounding area. He wrote, "Giving this award is our one means of honoring accomplished historians." The award was given for the first time at the Twenty-Second Annual Banquet on January 31, 1989. Its first recipients were Ira G. Clark for *Water in New Mexico* and Opal Lee Priestley for *Shalam: Utopia on the Rio Grande*. (For more, see "Pasajero del Camino Real Award" in Appendix B.)³

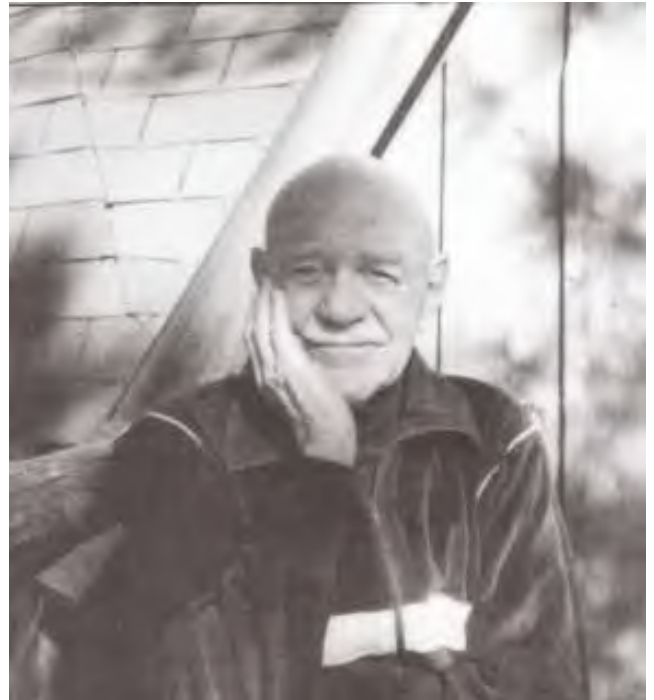
Ceramic Tiles for Speakers

Opal Lee Priestley introduced the idea of purchasing ceramic tiles painted with the DACHS logo as paper-weight gifts for program speakers and for new book authors: "You can't afford to give a speaker a stipend, but you ought to give them a little something. I had tiles made to present to speakers by way of thanks."

PAXTON P. PRICE

Thirteenth DACHS President

January 31, 1989 - January 20, 1991



PAXTON P. PRICE spent ten years of his youth in Rincon and Hatch. He received his higher education from New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, George Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee, and Columbia University. Price served in the United States Army, spending two years in Europe as an Intelligence Officer. He retired from military service in the Missouri National Guard as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Price began his professional life teaching high school history in Roswell and later served as Missouri State Librarian and Director of the Federal Financial Aid Program for Libraries.

After moving to Las Cruces, he served as a member and chair of the Doña Ana County Planning and Zoning Commission between 1978 and 1991, and DACHS as vice president from January 27, 1987, to January 31, 1989, then president from January 31, 1989, to January 20, 1991. He presently lives in Las Vegas, New Mexico, but still maintains an active interest in DACHS activities.¹



Price's Board of Directors included Vice President John Grassham (Grassham resigned early in the administration and was replaced by Joe Allen), Secretary Marylyn Burn, Treasurer Joe Allen (When Joe Allen became Vice President, Harlan Beasley became treasurer), Historian Jeffrey Brown, and Past President James Powell.

Board Members at Large were Harlan Beasley and Opal Lee Priestley. Price's administration is best remembered for forming a new Membership Committee, a Mission Execution Committee, and for adopting a new Society logo.

Membership Committee

Calvin L. Traylor chaired the Membership Committee which included Elsa Altshool, Frankie Clemons, Don Dresp, Anne Kapp, and Charlotte K. Priestley. The Committee made the following suggestions on March 7, 1989:

- Have meetings in outlying towns occasionally.
- Offer a field trip, including a picnic, once a year.
- Encourage the involvement of Good Samaritan residents. Their bus might be available to transport residents to meetings.
- Encourage people to be involved with each other. 'Wear name tags at meetings.
- Offer coffee after meetings. (Start meetings at 7 PM.)
- Host Pot luck suppers occasionally.
- Involve members in historic preservation projects, such as Santa Fe Depot or cataloging the DACHS collection at the Branigan Cultural Center.
- Discuss donating Society's artifact collection to Branigan Cultural Center.
- Publish a driving tour of the Mesilla Valley

listing historic sites.

- Prepare radio and TV historical vignettes. Explore the possibility of acquiring a grant from New Mexico Endowment for Humanities for this purpose.
- Suggest places for people to visit on their own. The Desert Museum of El Paso is an example.
- Distribute a membership list to all DACHS members.
- Print application membership forms and make them readily available at various locations.
- Urge members to bring friends to functions.
- Participate in the July 4th parade.
- Provide Log Cabin hosts throughout the year.
- Provide research guidelines and methods for future researchers.²

Though participation in the July 4th parade was one of the Committee's suggestions, when DACHS received an invitation from the City of Las Cruces to operate an information booth and participate in the parade during the 4th of July celebration, the Board ultimately rejected the idea.³

Wearing name tags at meetings was considered to be a good idea. Plastic name tags were too costly for the budget, so it was suggested that paper stick-on name tags should be worn.⁴

The proposal for a summertime pot-luck picnic supper at Ilka Minter's home was enthusiastically approved. It was decided that the outing should include a program presentation, but the records do not indicate what the 1989 program was, if any.⁵

The suggestion to prepare historical vignettes for radio and television was enthusiastically received, and several vignettes were written. Publishing a driving tour of the Mesilla Valley also became a DACHS project. (See Part V, chapter 9, for a complete description of these projects.⁶

Mission Execution Committee

Price's Mission Execution Committee included Austin Hoover, Opal Lee Priestley, Christine Myers, John Grassham, Ira Clark, Patrick Beckett, Sara Emerick, and Paxton Price. Price was dedicated

to involving the DACHS in action programs. As a result, the committee gathered ideas for activities that would engage members beyond hearing historic talks at meetings and attending annual banquets. Eventually, a four page list was compiled, "Suggested Implementation of Society Purposes," describing forty-nine activities under six categories: Greater Appreciation of History of New Mexico and Especially of Doña Ana County; Publication of Historical Material; Marking Historic Routes and Sites; Establishment of Historical Collections and Museums; Preservation of Historic Documents, Artifacts, and Published Materials of Importance; and Purchase and Preservation of Historic Landmarks.

At the April 25, 1989, Board meeting, Price reviewed the committee's list of suggestions. The Board approved his recommendation that all the approved suggestions be filed in a Operational Handbook and be published in segments to the membership. In the end, the list was never published. However, the list served as the basis of the DACHS's 1992 Long-Range Plan. (See Appendix for complete list.)⁷

New Society Logo

On November 12, 1989, the Society adopted a new logo, a drawing of a typical borderland rider and dog of the period 1880-1890 by Jose Cisneros. The drawing was given to the Society at the 1990 banquet by Cisneros as a token of his appreciation for receiving the Pasa-jero del Camino Real Award for his book entitled *Riders Across the Centuries: Horsemen of the Spanish Borderland*. Price's Board introduced the new logo to Society members through the Society's newsletter. A copy of Society Signals was tucked into the 1990 Banquet Bulletin. It read in part: "He [Cisneros] has given the Society the wonderful draw-adopted as our speaks to the role played in the historic Camino ing that we have logo. The drawing the Mesilla Valley traffic along the old Real."



CALVIN L. TRAYLOR

Fourteenth DACHS President

January 20, 1991-January 30, 1993



FOR BIOGRAPHICAL information see Traylor's previous term of office. He was also the fifth DACHS president.

In November 1990, Traylor received a phone call from Patrick Beckett, who was the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, asking him to accept the presidency again. Traylor responded, "I will, if all else fails."

Beckett responded, "All else has failed."¹

Traylor accepted the nomination and subsequently became the DACHS fourteenth president. His Board of Directors included Vice President Linda G. Harris, Secretary Marjorie Day, Treasurer Ilka Minter, Historian Linda Blazer, Director Darlis Miller, and Director David Kirkpatrick.

Traylor's administration concentrated on two projects: co-hosting the Historical Society of New Mexico's Annual Conference in Las Cruces and creating a long-range plan for the DACHS.

The Historical Society of New Mexico's Annual Conference

After Traylor took office, he learned DACHS had been committed by the previous administration to host the state organization's annual conference. It was a disturbing discovery as there was only \$182.89 in the treasury and only two months to make the necessary preparations. However, thanks to a loan of \$1,000 from the Historical Society of New Mexico and the help of a handful of very capable, hardworking members including Traylor, Ilka Minter, David Kirkpatrick, Elsa Altshool, Gloria Armijo, Charles Miles, Nancy Abernathy, Shannon Garrison, Christine Myers, Theresa Gerend, Dr. Thomas Gerend, Rose Nakayama, Betty Nunemaker, and Pamela Smith, the Society managed to organize an extremely successful conference. It was attended by two hundred seventeen guests from all over New

Mexico and elsewhere at the Holiday Inn, April 18-20, 1991.²

When the dust settled, after expenses and the loan repayment, DACHS made \$2,415.60 on the conference. This unexpected nest-egg prompted the organization of a Special Projects Committee to decide what should be done with the money.

The DACHS's Special Projects Committee

When Vice President Linda G. Harris organized the Special Projects Committee in May 1992, she was not so much interested in finding a use for the Society's healthy bankroll as she was in preparing a long-range plan for the Society which the funds could facilitate. The committee included Sandy Adler, Gloria Armijo, John Corso, Linda Corso, Martin Gemoets, John Gregan, Linda Harris, Rose Lang, Charles Miles, Ilka Minter, Morgan Rieder, Mary Thompson, Calvin L. Traylor and Madeleine Vessel. They met regularly throughout the summer setting goals, brainstorming ideas, and outlining work areas.

In early July, members surveyed the programs of other historical societies in the region, collected information from state organizations relevant to historic preservation, and educated themselves about the basics of historic preservation. In July and August, the committee, using the 1989 document, "Suggested Implementation of Society Purposes," as a guide, set priorities and assigned specific tasks. By September the committee had completed a full plan to be implemented over the next five years, and Harris wrote of it: "Never have I worked with a more earnest, clear thinking or enthusiastic group. I applaud them and I thank them. Their work is now completed."³

The DACHS Long-Range Plan

At the regular meeting of the Society held on September 17, 1992, Harris gave a brief résumé of the "Long-Range Plan" designed by the Special Projects Committee.

The purpose of the Plan was "to give voice to the Historical Society as it works alongside those who direct the county's future." The goals of the

plan were four-fold:

To give the Doña Ana County Historical Society a voice in community activities that have historical significance; to provide more information to current and prospective members; to increase awareness in the community of the Historical Society; and to build an awareness of the historical significance of Doña Ana County.⁴

Thirty objectives were defined to give direction in accomplishing the goals and were classified in order of priority under headings which were later translated into names of committees. The objectives were to be reviewed annually by the Board for possible revisions and additions.

Four priority classifications were determined:

I - As soon as possible; II - Soon; III - As time permits; IV - Eventually, when resources are available.

Objectives organized according to Committee and Prioritized in order of Importance

Board

- I Create a membership directory.
- I Update membership form.
- I Inventory Historical Society properties.
- I Collect and archive Historical Society records.
- II Expand scope of newsletter.
- III Create a realty trust to acquire historical society properties.

Voice

- I Strengthen association with the Branigan Cultural Center.
- I Increase cooperation with related organizations in the county.
- I Create a phone tree.
- II Participate in historic preservation efforts and related activities.

III Encourage use of the Las Cruces railroad depot as a museum.

IV Participate in Camino Real activities.

Publications

- I Publish a history of the Doña Ana County Historical Society.
- II Collect and index Historical Society Awards Booklets.
- II Create a tourist type booklet on historically significant topics.
- III Create a tourist-type guide to historic places.
- III Publish books on county history.
- IV Revise Historical Society *Reading List*.
- IV Publish a quarterly Historical Society Journal.

Education

- II Encourage high school student participation in historical programming.
- III Place historic markers at historic sites and buildings.
- III Cooperate with Museum of Natural History on children's programming.
- III Sponsor a History Fair.

Public Relations

- I Create a speaker's bureau.
- II Cooperate with Museum of Natural History on programming.
- II Present Annual Media Recognition Award for historical reporting.
- III Cooperate with Branigan Cultural Center on programming.
- III Participate in the NMSU Art History Project.
- III Declare an official "Doña Ana County History Month."
- IV Write news articles on historical events.⁵

LINDA G. HARRIS

Fifteenth DACHS President

January 30, 1993 - January 28, 1995



✦ LINDA G. HARRIS was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma. As a child, she lived in Puerto Rico, California, Colorado, Missouri, and Texas. But, because she attended high school in El Paso, she considers it to be her childhood hometown. Not long after graduation from high school, she married her high school sweetheart, Jim Harris. They have two children: Jim Jr. and Christine.

Harris is a graduate of New Mexico State University. A journalist by profession, she has worked in public relations, advertising, and has held a variety of writing positions. She began her pursuit of New Mexico history while she was writing about agricultural research and natural resources for New Mexico State University and continued her interest in history while covering water issues for the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute. When she set out on her own to write and publish books (She is the owner of Arroyo Press), researching and writing the history of Las Cruces was her first project.

Harris's book, *Las Cruces: An Illustrated History*, the first published history of Las Cruces, won a second place book award from the National Federation of Press Women, a Special Award from the Southern New Mexico Press Club, and the 1994 Southwest Book Award from the Border Regional Library Association. In addition to writing and publishing, Harris also teaches a variety

of community education courses on Las Cruces history.

Currently she is researching and writing a book on New Mexico homes which focuses on history *Houses in Time: A Tour Through New Mexico History*, due to be published in the spring of 1997.¹



Harris's administration included Vice President Charles Miles, Treasurer John Gregan, Secretary Theresa Gerend, Historian Madeleine Vessel, Director Christine Myers, Director David Kirkpatrick, and Past President Calvin L. Traylor. They used the Society's Long-Range Plan as the basis for activities during 1993 and 1994.

Although the Board did not officially take office until the banquet on January 30, 1993, Harris called a meeting at her home on January 19, to introduce the Board members to each other and to decide which of the Long-Range Plan Objectives would be the focus of the new administration.

Harris was very organized in planning Board meetings. Each meeting was preceded by a mailed agenda which detailed the issues to be discussed and designated the responsibilities of each Board member. As a result, the meetings were efficient and her administration was productive.

Long-Range Plan Objectives addressed by the 1993-1994 Board included the following: updating

the membership form, inventorying DACHS properties, collecting and archiving DACHS records, expanding the scope of the newsletter, creating a realty trust to acquire historical society properties, strengthening association with the Branigan Cultural Center, increasing cooperation with related organizations in the county, participating in historic preservation efforts and related activities, publishing a history of DACHS, publishing a quarterly historical society journal, encouraging high school student participation in historical programs, cooperating with the Branigan Cultural Center on programming, participating in the NMSU Art History Project, and writing news articles on historical events for the media.

Most of the objectives were met during Harris's term of office. Those still in progress at the end of the term were: inventorying DACHS properties, creating a realty trust, and publishing a history of the DACHS.

The newsletter improved noticeably. Under the very capable editorship of Margie Walton, it was expanded to include a wealth of information, including news articles on historical events. One feature, Morgan Rieder's easy-to-read column dealing with historic properties, filled a much needed gap in members' knowledge of historic preservation. And Harris's monthly column, "View From the President's Box," kept the membership advised of Board decisions.

Harris's administration is probably best known for debuting the *Southern New Mexico*

Historical Review and for giving DACHS a voice in the community. (For a detailed description of the founding of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*, see Part V, Chapter 11.)

The Society acquired a voice in the community by establishing a liaison with the Branigan Cultural Center, first with Museum Curator Eva Artschwager and later with Museum Curator Sally Meeks; by expressing a desire to work with the new Farm and Ranch Heritage Center Museum; and by co-sponsoring special community events.

DACHS co-sponsored several activities that benefited the wider community. The Board earmarked \$100 to support the Retrospective Art Exhibit slated by New Mexico State University's New Mexico Art History Project for the 1994-1995 season. They co-sponsored "Las Muralistas," which was held in March 1993 at New Mexico State University's Kent Hall, and co-sponsored a meeting of the Southwest Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association in Las Cruces in March 1994.

Along with the New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities, New Mexico State University's Public History Program, and the Branigan Cultural Center, the Society also co-sponsored a series of five workshops on "Grassroots History" In October 1994, DACHS co-hosted a public meeting of the Historic Preservation Division of the New Mexico State Office of Cultural Affairs. And finally, the Society was represented on the Historical and Cultural Committee of the Downtown Revitalization Project.²

Appendix A

PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS, 1963 - 1994



GEORGE ADLAI FEATHER, THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, believed that the Society should encourage members and guests to appreciate the history of Doña Ana County. For Feather, the best way to do this was to arrange for a program on some aspect of the county's history to be presented at each regular meeting and to arrange for annual field trips. Feather was the first Chairman of the Program Committee and the first Chairman of the Field Trip Committee.¹

Though, it was not written into the bylaws until February 24, 1977, the Vice President automatically became the Chairman of the Program Committee from that moment on. Field trips, though intended to occur annually from the Society's founding year, actually occurred rather sporadically and did not become a regular tradition.

The following is a fairly accurate chronology of DACHS programs and field trips from 1963 to 1994. The descriptions are summarized from meeting minutes, meeting announcements, and newsletter announcements and program reviews.

Programs

November 25, 1963; *Mahlon T. Everhart; Personalities of Old Hachita.* Mahlon T. Everhart, owner of the Hatchet Ranch in Hidalgo County and the grandson of the late Senator Albert B. Fall, talked about the personalities of Old Hachita, now a ghost town, and recounted many humorous incidents that had occurred in the Hachita area.

January 23, 1964; *John L. Gray; Fort Selden as a Perspective State Park.* John L. Gray, a member of the New Mexico State Park and Recreation Commission, discussed Senate Bills which affected the State Park and Recreation Commission. He impressed upon members the importance of sight-seeing areas to the state, both as recreation areas for New Mexicans and incentives for tourists to visit New Mexico. Emphasizing the importance of Fort Selden as a sight-seeing area and historic place, Gray asked the Society to support projects that would develop state parks by contacting and encouraging legislators to support appropriations for new parks.

February 27, 1964; *Helen Shomer, Pottery Display; Francis Parson, Coronado's Journey into New Mexico and Missions at Pecos, Gran Quivira, Abo, and Quarai.* DACHS member Helen Shomer displayed pottery which was unearthed in front of her home during the course of gas line ditch digging beside Highway 292. Later, at that same meeting, Francis Parsons, retired architect from New England living in Silver City, lectured and showed colored slides of Coronado's journey into New Mexico. Parsons, who had made a comprehensive study of the missions at Pecos, Gran Quivira, Abo, and Quarai, also showed and commented upon slides of these sites.

March 26, 1964; *Mr. Frost; Spanish Arms and Armor of the Southwest.* Mr. Frost, a director of the El Paso County Historical Society, presented a program on "Spanish Arms and Armor of the Southwest." He traced the development of Spanish armor, mentioning how temperature and environment

changed the nature of battle dress. He also displayed headpieces, swords, dueling knives, halberds, maces, and other arms and pieces of armor, and discussed their use in battle.

April 30, 1964; *Robert Mullin; History of San Augustine Ranch.* Robert Mullin of El Paso, Texas, and South Laguna, California, related the history of the San Augustine Ranch from the period of the area's earliest recorded history to the establishment of White Sands Missile Range. Mullin added his reminiscences about the ranch from as far back as 1912.

September 24, 1964; *George Adlai Feather; Early Days of Las Cruces.*

November 19, 1964; *Dr. Laiten Camien; Archaeology in Southern New Mexico.*

January 28, 1965; *Helen Shomer; Reading of George Adlai Feather's Bennett-Stephenson Mine Paper.*

February 25, 1965; *Elaine Flint; Area Churches and Missions.* Elaine Flint gave a talk about churches and missions in the area, illustrated by her own water colors.

April 22, 1965; *No Program.*

March 25, 1965; *Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Isaacks, Mr. Richard Triviz, Mrs. Carriere, Mrs. Elizabeth Armendariz, and Mrs. Todd; Round-Table Discussion about early Las Cruces.* Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Isaacks, Mr. Richard Triviz, Mrs. Carriere, who was from Dofta Ana, Mrs. Elizabeth Armendariz, and Mrs. Todd conducted a most interesting round-table discussion. In 1994, J. Paul Taylor remembered the discussion very well. "Mrs. Todd wasn't asked to be a panelist, but she arrived, so we put her on the panel. They were so wonderful. We should have had a tape recorder." The panel related what had happened in the town during their lifetimes. They didn't necessarily agree with one another, however, so there was this "wonderful interaction and communication between them which sometimes got a bit heated. Each wanted to prevail." 2

May 27, 1965; *John Gregg; History of Irrigation in the Mesilla Valley.* John Gregg was the Treasurer of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District.

September 30, 1965; *Mary D. Taylor; Reading of Corinne Mozer's Paper on Fort Fillmore.* Mary D.

Taylor, a DACHS member and distinguished historian, read and commented on a paper prepared by Corinne Mozer on Fort Fillmore. It is likely that the reading of this paper inspired the DACHS's interest in preserving Fort Fillmore, an interest which continued into the 1970s without results.

October 28, 1965; *Father Eric O'Brien; Researching Father Junipero.* DACHS members met at the Holy Cross Retreat Center to hear Father Eric O'Brien describe various problems he encountered researching Father Junipero Serra.

November 19, 1965; *Paige Christensen; Subject of Talk Unknown.* Paige Christensen was from the New Mexico Institute of Technology.

January 27, 1966; *Eva Jane Robeson Matson; Mormon Exodus from Mexico to the Pass of the North.*

February 24, 1966; *Mildred Barrett; Articles from Amador Collection.* Mildred Barrett, Librarian at NMSU, brought a number of articles from the Amador Collection to exhibit at the meeting. The items were in the process of being sorted and cataloged at the NMSU Library.

April 28, 1966; *J. Paul Taylor; New Mexico Santos.* The meeting was at J. Paul Taylor's home in Mesilla. Mary Taylor served coffee.

September 22, 1966; *Mrs. George Berthelon; Preacher Hunter Lewis (humorous).* Mrs. George Berthelon is the daughter of the late Preacher Hunter Lewis.

October 27, 1966; *George Adlai Feather; Farming in the Mesilla Valley.*

November 16, 1966; *Martha Skaggs; Local Christmas Customs Illustrated with Color Slides.*

December 19, 1966; *Los Pastores at St. Albino Church in Mesilla.* The Society met for the first time during the Christmas season to see the traditional play "Los Pastores" at St. Albino Church in Mesilla. Attending "Los Pastores" became an annual event for some time afterward. Opal Lee Priestley remembers that experiencing "Los Pastores" was absolutely thrilling."3

February 23, 1967; *Dr. Emmi Baum; Brazil and Its Many Facets.* Dr. Emmi Baum was from the NMSU History Department. She showed a color film of Brazil and talked on "Brazil and Its Many Facets."

March 23, 1967; *Art Liang; Reading of John Thompson's Letters.* DACHS member Art Liang read letters from his family collection written by John Thompson, a participant in the California Gold Rush. Liang also displayed Chinese antiques which had come down in his family.

April 27, 1967; *Bill Fisher; Ceramics Found at Mimbres Indian Excavation.* Bill Fisher, a graduate student from the University of Michigan, talked about a survey and excavations being conducted by the University of Michigan of the Mimbres Indian habitations. His focus was on the unique ceramics found at the sites.

October 26, 1967; *Louis E. Freudenthal; Don Bernardo Hotel.* Louis E. Freudenthal related the history of the Don Bernardo Hotel, based on his boyhood experiences living there, and discussed the hotel's relationship to the cultural background of early Las Cruces. According to Freudenthal, the first library in Las Cruces was located in Room 26 of the hotel.

November 30, 1967; *Dr. Bradley Blake; Fishing Villages along the Southeastern Coast of India.* Professor Bradley Blake, cultural anthropologist from NMSU, spoke about the culture of fishing villages along the southeastern coast of India. He illustrated his talk with colored slides he had taken while living in that area for a year.

February 22, 1968; *Tom O'Laughlin; Archaeological Investigations in Doña Ana County.* Tom O'Laughlin, Vice President of the El Paso Archaeological Society, described archaeological investigations in Doña Ana County, illustrating his comments with colored slides taken of excavations and Indian relics.

March 28, 1968; *Beth McComas and Jacob and Lena Tejada; Early Folk Music of New Mexico.* Beth McComas and Jacob Tejada introduced the topic, "Early Folk Music of New Mexico." McComas gave the historical background of the music and the pair sang two-part selections. Lena Tejada accompanied them on the guitar.

April 25, 1968; *General Hugh M. Milton II; The Role of Fort Thorn and Fort Selden in the Indian Wars*

September 26, 1968; *Gertrude Turney Tune, doll collection; Dr. Gene Brack, The Mexican War from the Mexican Point of View.* Gertrude Turney Tune dis-

played dolls she had made. The mountings were made from wood carvings taken from the altar of St. Genevieve's Church. Calvin L. Traylor bought the doll collection, and in 1991, he donated the collection to the fund raising auction at the New Mexico State Historical Society convention in Las Cruces. Visitor John Colligan bought them. Later, Colligan became a member of DACHS.⁴

Dr. Gene Brack of the NMSU History Department spoke on "The Mexican War from the Mexican Point of View."

November 27, 1968; *Jesse A. Isaacks, A. B. Cox, and P. F. Sanders; Life on the Ranch.* Stimulated by questions from the audience, a panel, including Jesse A. Isaacks, A. B. Cox, and P. F. Sanders, three ranchers with long ranching experience in the area, discussed many interesting points of local history as well as life on the ranch.

March 27, 1969; *Dr. Bradley Blake; Prehistoric Cultures from our Area.*

September 18, 1969; *Opal Lee Priestley, George Adlai Feather, Jesse Isaacks, and Helen Caffey; Shalam Settlement.* Shalam was an experiment in communal living which in many ways was far ahead of its time. Helen Caffey made the point, "Shalam has faded out of sight but not from memory"

October 23, 1969; *Mr. Barclay; Apollo Mission.* Mr. Barclay spoke on the Apollo Mission and its relation to history, both past and future. His talk was accompanied by a NASA film of the Apollo 11 mission.

March 1970; *Mrs. Greenway, Indian Artifacts*

April 23, 1970; *Dr. Bradley Blake; rchaeological Excavations northwest of Truth or Consequences.*

DACHS Records of Programs May-December 1970, and 1971-1974, are lost.

September 26, 1974; *Keith Humphries; Vignettes of the Southwest.* Keith Humphries displayed and talked about ten of his oil paintings, "Vignettes of Southwestern History" He described incidents and events that prompted the painting of these scenes.

October 17, 1974; *George Adlai Feather; History of Gold Hiding and Seeking in the Area.*

November 14, 1974; *Ted Bonnell; Cowboy.* Ted Bonnell of Alamogordo spoke on his special

interest: The cowboy.

No records confirm that DACHS had regular meetings or programs during 1975.

March 25, 1976; *Dr. Bradley Blake; Subject of Program Unknown.*

April 22, 1976; *Eve Ball; Subject of Program Unknown.* Eve Ball, an historical and fiction writer from Ruidoso, spoke .

No DACHS meeting minutes remain from the period February 16, 1977 - March 6, 1979. However, notes from a DACHS Program file in the New Mexico State University Archives kept by former DACHS President Austin Hoover suggests that the following programs were enjoyed by the membership:

March 15, 1977; *Clarence H. Fielder; Blacks in the Mesilla Valley.* Clarence H. Fielder, head of the Social Studies Department at Alameda Junior High School and Adjunct Instructor of History at NMSU spoke on "Blacks in the Mesilla Valley."

April 21, 1977; *Elnora Williams Wiley; Inside Shalam Looking Out.* Elnora Williams Wiley was the registrar at NMSU.

September 15, 1977; *Lee Myers; Frontier Military Installations of New Mexico.*

October 1977; *Elsa Altshool, Jewish Contributions to the Commercial History of New Mexico.* Elsa Altshool is the daughter of Louis E. Freudenthal, the first DACHS president.

November 17, 1977; *Grady McCright and James Powell; Outlaw Jessie Evans.* Grady McCright and James Powell talked about the research they were doing on the outlaw Jessie Evans.

December 1977; *Las Pastores.* The members attended Los Pastores in Mesilla and went to Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Taylor's house afterwards.

February 1978; *Ilka Minter; Philetus M. Thompson.* Ilka Minter is the daughter of G. Adlai Feather, who was one of the Society's founders.

March 1978; *Dr. Myra Ellen Jenkins; Victorio's Peak.* Dr. Myra Ellen Jenkins, New Mexico State Historian, spoke about Victorio's Peak.

April 7, 1978; *Wayne Cunningham; Elephant Butte Irrigation District Watering the Mesilla Valley: A History.*

A notice from what appears to be the spring of 1981 mentions that unnamed problems had interfered with the scheduling of regular DACHS meetings. No meeting from 1979 and 1980 is described, and only the following meetings were described for 1981, 1982, and 1983.⁵

February 18, 1981; *Terry Reynolds; Ethnohistory of Native Americans in El Paso and the Mesilla Valley.* Terry Reynolds is a social anthropologist. He spoke at the new Branigan Cultural Center.

March 7, 1981; *Herman Weisner; Albert. B. Fall.* Herman Weisner is a DACHS member who has researched local history.

April 15, 1981; *Don Mcalavy; Practical Aspects of Researching, Writing, Editing, and Publishing Local and Regional History.* Don Mcalavy, an historian, artist, and printer, from Clovis, New Mexico, spoke to the Local and Regional History Round Table of the New Mexico Library Association on "Practical Aspects of Researching, Writing, Editing, and Publishing Local and Regional History." DACHS members were invited to attend this session.

September 16, 1982; *Lee Myers, The Military History of New Mexico.*

October 21, 1982; *Sara Emerick; Emerick Chapel.* Lewis and Sara Emerick invited members of the Society to meet with them in their small chapel. The Emerick chapel, restored and serving as a small museum, was formerly the property of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The members enjoyed the charm and beauty of the old chapel and listened to Sara Emerick relate its history.

January 27, 1983; *John Grassham; Charles Hipolite Trotier de Beaubien.* John Grassham, a graduate student at NMSU, spoke on Charles Hipolite Trotier de Beaubien. In 1841, Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda petitioned Governor Manuel Armijo for the tract of land later known as the Maxwell Land Grant, which they received three days later.

February 20, 1983 - *Oral History.*

May 31, 1984; *George L. McNew; An Interpretation of the History of the Tularosa Basin, 1885-1915.*⁶ George L. McNew described how the influx of Texans during the period 1885-1915 influenced the Basin's history. McNew, son of William McNew and the nephew of Oliver Lee, both of whom played major roles in the Basin's economic, political, and social history, was born in 1890 in the Tularosa Basin.

June 21, 1984; *David H. Townsend; The El Paso to Phoenix Road Race of 1919.* David H. Townsend, a Professor of History at NMSU's Alamosa campus, talked about "The El Paso to Phoenix Road Race of 1919." It was during this race that Johnny Hutchings was shot and killed.

August 16, 1984; *Dr. Monroe Billington; Black Soldier at Fort Selden.* Professor Monroe Billington was from the History Department at NMSU.

September 20, 1984; *Charles Harris III; The Mexican Revolution's Impact on the American Border.*

November 15, 1984; *Norman Cleaveland; The Great New Mexico Cover-Up.* Norman Cleaveland, who recorded how his grandparents confronted the Santa Fe Ring in his book, *The Morleys—Young Upstarts on the Southwest Frontier*, spoke on "The Great New Mexico Cover-Up," which dealt with the Santa Fe Ring's involvement in the Colfax County War in the 1870s.

December 1984; *Las Pastores.*

February 26, 1985; *Donald H. Couchman; Cooke's Peak.* Donald H. Couchman spoke about the Cooke's Peak Area. As part of his master's thesis, Couchman had a slide presentation that dealt with the varied uses of the area around Cooke's Peak in southern New Mexico. He discussed the uses of the area through World War II, concentrating on the period from early 1900 to 1947.

March 21, 1985; *Dr. Darlis A. Miller; The California Column in New Mexico.* Dr. Darlis A. Miller, author of *The California Column in New Mexico*, spoke about her book, highlighting Doña Ana County and surrounding counties.

May 16, 1985; *Jim Eckles; History of White Sands Missile Range.* Jim Eckles, is with the Public Affairs

Office at White Sands Missile Range.

September 25, 1985; *John Arnold and Casey Owens; Vanished Without a Trace.* John Arnold and Casey Owens were ninth grade students at Lynn Junior High School in Las Cruces. They researched Colonel Albert Jennings Fountain's disappearance for the National History Day Competition at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque, and did such an outstanding job, they tied for first place. When they took their project to the national competition at the University of Maryland, they were judged to be the best state entry from New Mexico in all categories.

October 24, 1985; *Dee Greenly; Historical Survey of Hillsboro, New Mexico.* Dee Greenly conducted a slide presentation and talked about his part in the historical survey of Hillsboro, New Mexico. The NMSU Public History Department had conducted the survey in conjunction with New Mexico's State Historical Preservation Office.

March 20, 1986; *Russell Warren; Antique Farm Power and Machinery Show.* Russell Warren, President of the NMSU Student Chapter of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers talked about his group's plans for a second antique farm power and machinery show, to be held in the fall of 1986. He encouraged the members to assist the show in some way.

April 16, 1986; *Dr. Ira Clark; Elephant Butte Dam.* 'Dr. Ira Clark, Professor Emeritus of New Mexico State University and a member of DACHS since its inception, had devoted years to research in the complicated water and irrigation rights and laws which affect the use of water in New Mexico. During his presentation he gave background and highlights of the story of Elephant Butte Dam.

June 26, 1986; *Daniel Aranda; John Slocum and his Struggle for Water in a Dry Land.* Daniel Aranda, a DACHS member who is a researcher and writer, talked about "John Slocum and his Struggle for Water in a Dry Land." He also discussed Apache raids and ambushes, and presented a slide show which focused on an archaeological survey at the Rough and Ready stage station.

September 20, 1986; *All Day Panel Discussion;*

Water and New Mexico: Cultures of an Arid Land. DACHS members were invited to share in an all day panel discussion and seminar at the Branigan Library on the topic "Water and New Mexico: Cultures of an Arid Land." A panel of experts on water included Myra Ellen Jenkins, a former New Mexico State Historian; Dr. Ira Clark, Professor Emeritus of NMSU and DACHS charter member; and others who together could speak from the point of view of Hispanic, Indian, and Anglo cultures. The seminar was planned to focus on the varying cultural views on general water use and public policy in New Mexico. In addition to the seminar, a traveling exhibit of photographs was exhibited at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, showing how New Mexicans have utilized water.

November 20, 1986; *Dr. David Kirkpatrick; The McSween Archaeological Site.* Dr. David Kirkpatrick, who directed the Human Systems Research project that searched the architectural remains of the McSween-Shield house in Lincoln, New Mexico, during the summer of 1986, spoke about the McSween site in Lincoln and discussed some discoveries made during the excavation.

February 19, 1987; *Robert L. Hart; Changing Story: Custer Battlefield.* Robert L. Hart's talk "Changing Story: Custer Battlefield" introduced new views and concepts of the old battle action derived from 1984 and 1985 archaeological explorations at the battlefield site. He illustrated his talk with slides of the famous battlefield.

March 19, 1987; *Austin Hoover; Resources for Historians in the Rio Grande Collection.* Austin Hoover, Director of the Rio Grande Historical Collections at New Mexico State University and Former DACHS President, talked about resources for historians contained in the Rio Grande Collections.

October 15, 1987; *Mary Jane Garcia; Ethnohistory of Dona Ana.* Mary Jane Garcia, who was born in Doña Ana, is an anthropologist educated at NMSU and City College of San Francisco.

February 17, 1988; *Ray Drummond; Mogollon Culture.*

March 1988; *Paxton Price; Old Rincon.*

April 28, 1988; *Anne Hutchins-Tatum; New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.* Anne Hutchins-Tatum, New Mexico State University

Centennial Coordinator, showed a video and photographs of the early history of the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

September 17, 1988; *Dr. John P. Wilson; Fort Thorn and Dr. Michael Steck.* Dr. John P. Wilson, archaeologist and historian, talked about Fort Thorn and Dr. Michael Steck. Dr. Steck was a progressive-minded Indian agent stationed at Fort Thorn. Fort Thorn was built in 1853 on the west bank of the Rio Grande, opposite the present town of Salem, and abandoned in 1859.

November 19, 1988; *Leon Metz; How Texas Almost Annexed all of Eastern New Mexico.*

September 15, 1988; *Opal Lee Priestley; Shalam Colony.*

October 20, 1988; *John Grassham; The Beaubien Influence in New Mexico.* John Grassham, who came to Las Cruces from Albuquerque to earn his M. A. degree at NMSU and who later became Director of the Branigan Cultural Center, spoke on "The Beaubien Influence in New Mexico." John Grassham is the great-great-great grandson of Beaubien.

March 21, 1989; *Meli Duran; Listing Historical Properties.* Meli Duran gave an overview of the process required to list properties on the State Register of Cultural Properties and the National Register of Historic Places.

May 16, 1989; *Jose Guzman; Fort Selden and Its Preservation.*

September 19, 1989; *Dr. Karl Laumbach; Hembrillo Basin and Victorio Peak.* Dr. Karl Laumbach, archaeologist and President of Human Systems Research Inc., spoke about his research in the Hembrillo Basin and on Victorio Peak. He reviewed the Victorio Peak treasure story and provided new information on the Apache occupation of the San Andres mountains. Dr. Laumbach focused on a battle between Victorio's Apaches and the 9th Cavalry which could easily have become New Mexico's version of the Custer massacre.

October 17, 1989; *Joe Allen; Video Documentary of the Jornada del Muerto on the Camino Real.*

November 22, 1989; *Dr. Jeffrey Brown; Architectural Development in Hillsboro and Deming, New Mexico, 1878-1940.*

February 21, 1990; Daniel Aranda; *Apaches*. Daniel Aranda, DACHS member and former head of the Department of the Rio Grande of the Council on America's Military Past, spoke about the Apache Indian and gave some insight into the character and family life of some Apache war leaders.⁸

March 21, 1990; Dr. Darlis A. Miller; *The Amazing Career of Captain Jack Crawford, New Mexico's Poet Scout*. Dr. Darlis A. Miller, Professor of History at NMSU, talked about "The Amazing Career of Captain Jack Crawford, New Mexico's Poet Scout." She talked about Crawford's early years in New Mexico, when he was post trader at Fort Craig. She also discussed his life as an entertainer. He wrote poetry and joined Buffalo Bill's dramatic company.

April 11, 1990; Austin Hoover; *NMSU's Architecture: The Trost and McGhee Legacy*. Austin Hoover's presentation was a slide-illustrated talk on NMSU's architecture from the college's beginnings to the mid-1950s focusing on the Spanish Renaissance style of Henry C. Trost and Percy McGhee, and the legacy of their work on the campus.

May 16, 1990; John C. Nunemaker; *Mesilla Valley Ditches*. John C. Nunemaker, a DACHS member, presented a slide and map presentation on "Mesilla Valley Ditches."

September 11, 1990; Allan Holmes; *Fort Selden, 1865-1891*. Allan Holmes explained the daily life of Fort Selden and discussed the importance of the fort to the Mesilla Valley.

November 13, 1990; Donald H. Couchman; *The Long, Hot, Summer of 1861*.

February 20, 1991; Dr. Ray Sadler, *The Punitive Expedition into Mexico*; Richard Dean, *The Pancho Villa Raid*. Dr. Ray Sadler, Professor of History at NMSU and a well known researcher of the history of New Mexico's southern border, spoke about "The Punitive Expedition into Mexico." Sadler discussed the American retaliation to the Pancho Villa raid. About 80 people attended, a large turnout.

Richard Dean of the Columbus Historical Society also gave a short talk on the Pancho Villa Raid celebration. DACHS members were interest-

ed in making a field trip to Columbus for the occasion, but bad weather defeated this idea.⁹

March 19, 1991; Dr. John and Linda Corso; *Preservation of Old Town Las Cruces*. Dr. John and Linda Corso spoke on the "Preservation of Old Town Las Cruces." The Corsos had formed the Old Town Cruces Association to preserve the Mesquite Street Historic District, a forty-three block neighborhood that dates back to 1849. They discussed the Association's progress and the upcoming "Old Town Fiesta."

April 10, 1991; Alice Gruver; *New Mexico's Pioneer Ranch Families*. Alice Gruver, a long-time local journalist and DACHS member, spoke at the Good Samaritan Village Auditorium on "New Mexico's Pioneer Ranch Families." She concentrated on the Cox, Isaacks, and Oliver Lee ranches in southern New Mexico, and the Bell Ranch. She and her husband formerly owned the *Las Cruces Citizen*.

May 16, 1991; Theresa Hanley; *The History of Stahmann Farms*. Theresa Hanley, an anthropologist whose master's thesis was on the Stahmann Farms, discussed the relationship between workers and management during the sixty-year existence of this farming enterprise. Her information was based mainly on oral interviews with the Stahmanns and their workers. She also showed slides of early days at the farms.

September 19, 1991; Jake W. Spidle; *Pioneer Physicians in the Mesilla Valley*. Jake W. Spidle Jr., History Department, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, spoke on "Pioneer Physicians in the Mesilla Valley." His talk covered roughly the period from 1886, the founding of the New Mexico Medical Society, to 1940. Records previous to that date were practically non-existent except by casual mention in letters and newspaper articles. Spidle is the author of *Doctors of Medicine in New Mexico*.¹⁰

October 17, 1991; Clarence H. Fielder; *Blacks in the Mesilla Valley*. Clarence H. Fielder, a native of Las Cruces who had been teaching black history at NMSU since 1970, spoke about "Blacks in the Mesilla Valley." He discussed the occupations, educational backgrounds, and church affiliations of early black settlers.

November 21, 1991; *less Lydick; A Sketch of World War II POW's in the Mesilla Valley.* Jess Lydick, a master storyteller, presented "A Sketch of World War II POW's in the Mesilla Valley." His talk was about the POW camps and the use made of the POW's during the 1940s by Doña Ana County farmers.

December 19, 1991; *Bill Diven; The Three Crosses Project.* Bill Diven talked about "The Three Crosses Project." The crosses at Main Street and Three Crosses Avenue were erected by Students, Inc. Diven was the founder of Students, Inc., a non-profit employment agency.

February 20, 1992; *Dr. Monroe Billington; New Mexico's Buffalo Soldiers.* Dr. Monroe Billington, author of *New Mexico's Buffalo Soldiers, 1866-1900*, talked about New Mexico's buffalo soldiers, some of whom were stationed at Fort Selden. Billington, a professor of history at NMSU and an authority on the post-Civil War era, has written extensively about Blacks in both the West and the South.

March 19, 1992; *Sandy Adler; Amador Mural Project.* Sandy Adler, an NMSU graduate student in Public History and Women's Studies, presented the results of her Amador Mural Project. While doing research on the watercolor murals at the historic Amador Hotel, now the Doña Ana County Manager's Complex, Adler located the artist, Lillian Egerton Schroth, who had painted the murals in 1933 when she was a 16-year old Las Cruces High School student. Schroth, who was a seventy-four year old New Jersey resident when Adler found her, still painted in water colors and oils at the time of the presentation. Adler illustrated her talk with slides that showed the artistry of the murals and also, sadly, their deterioration.

April 16, 1992; *Dr. Judy DeMark; Immigrant Miners and Their Families: 1880-1920.* Dr. Judy DeMark, New Mexico State University visiting Professor of History who specializes in the history of urban and immigrant health seekers, spoke on "Immigrant Miners and Their Families: 1880-1920." Her talk covered the changes immigrant miners and their families made on New Mexico's culture. According to DeMark, although New

Mexico is generally thought of as a tri-cultural state, immigrant groups give New Mexico a true multicultural aspect. Her talk focused on the mining areas of the Black Range, but she also touched lightly on the Organ and Cerrillos areas.

May 21, 1992; *Katie Skaggs; Dripping Springs.* Katie Skaggs, naturalist with the Nature Conservancy, discussed the natural history of Dripping Springs, a part of the Organ Mountain Recreation Area.

September 17, 1992; *Bill Stephens; Ranch and Farm Museum.* Bill Stephens, former New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture, spoke about the campaign to establish a \$4 million ranch and farm museum in Las Cruces. He explained that the museum would include permanent and temporary history and science exhibits covering the history of the science and technology of agriculture.

October 15, 1992; *Dr. Jeffrey Brown; The Jewish Community of Las Cruces.* Dr. Jeffrey Brown is an historian and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at NMSU.

November 19, 1992; *Opal Lee Priestley; Preacher Hunter Lewis.* Former DACHS President and author Opal Lee Priestley entertained the members with excerpts from her new book on Preacher Hunter Lewis. Several DACHS members shared their own memories of the gentleman during the course of the evening.

December 17, 1992; *Milton Shelton, Jr.; Doña Ana County Public Schools.* Milton Shelton, Jr., retired Superintendent of the Gadsden School District, spoke on the history of the Doña Ana County Public Schools. He had done an extensive study of old photos and school board minutes, and had talked to former school administrators to compile his history.

February 18, 1993; *Jan Wilson; Las Muralistas: Women Painting Their History.* Jan Wilson, an anthropology graduate school student at NMSU, presented a description of "Las Muralistas: Women Painting Their History," a mural exhibit which opened on February 21, 1993, at the New Mexico State University Museum, Kent Hall, and continued throughout March, Women's History

Month. Wilson, who used these murals to do her graduate thesis, also presented slides which showed how women have transformed cultural traditions into art.

March 18, 1993; *Dr. Gerald W. Thomas; World War II Navy Bomber Pilot with Torpedo Squadron Four: A Cockpit View of World War II.* Dr. Gerald W. Thomas, President Emeritus of NMSU, co-founder of the NMSU Rio Grande Historical Collections, international consultant in world food production and natural resource management, and author/ co-author of three books and over 200 professional publications, presented "World War II Navy Bomber Pilot with Torpedo Squadron Four: A Cockpit View of World War II." Dr. Thomas's presentation was based on his own World War II experiences as a Navy bomber pilot and was illustrated with slides of period photographs, cartoons he had drawn while he was in the navy, family letters, and declassified official documents.

April 15, 1993; *Ruleen Lazzell; Jicarilla Apaches.* DACHS Education Committee Chair, Ruleen Lazzell, history teacher at Canutillo High School and lecturer at El Paso Community College, shared her research on the Jicarilla Apaches, focusing on their diminishing sheep culture, and showed photographs of the northern New Mexico Jicarilla Reservation and the autumn festival at Stone Lake.

May 20, 1993; *Dr. Richard J. Rundell; Its Truest Friend: A Celebration of the Life and Work of Hiram Hadley, First President of New Mexico State University.* Dr. Richard J. Rundell, NMSU Professor of Foreign Languages and Linguistics, gave a dramatic reading of "Its Truest Friend: A Celebration of the Life and Work of Hiram Hadley, First President of New Mexico State University."

September 16, 1993; *Dr. Charles (Bill) Bridges; Overview of American Humor.* Dr. Charles (Bill) Bridges, professor and head of the NMSU English Department, gave an informative and amusing overview of American humor through essays, editorials, short stories and cartoons. He discussed the history of American humor from the colonial period to the present.

October 21, 1993; *Dr. Ray Sadler and David W. King; North American Free Trade Agreement.* Dr. Ray

Sadler, DACHS member, NMSU history professor, author, and U.S. - Mexico border specialist, and David W. King, New Mexico State Treasurer and member of the New Mexico Border Authority, discussed the controversial North American Free Trade Agreement. Both appeared to favor it.

November 18, 1993; *Dr. Kelly W. Allred; The Trail of E. O. Wooten: A Modern Odyssey in the Footsteps of an Historic New Mexican.* Kelly W. Allred, Professor of Animal and Range Sciences at New Mexico State University, presented "The Trail of E. O. Wooten: A Modern Odyssey in the Footsteps of an Historic New Mexican." Allred retraced Professor Elmer Ottis Wooten's 1904 botanical expedition, a 55 day, 1,200 mile, horse and wagon journey from Las Cruces north to Durango, Colorado, and then south through the central portion of the territory. Wooten taught at Las Cruces's New Mexico College of Agricultural and Mechanic Arts, now NMSU, and was New Mexico's first resident botanist.

December 16, 1993; *Dr. Lois M. Stanford; Community Life of El Paso's Lower Valley.* Dr. Lois M. Stanford, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at NMSU, presented "Community Life of El Paso's Lower Valley." Stanford's presentation was a result of research in the former mission communities of Ysleta, Socorro, and San Elizario, and focused on changes in agriculture and religion from 1870 to the present time.

February 17, 1994; *Dr. Charles Harris III; The Impact of the Mexican Revolution of 1910 on the U. S. Border.* Dr. Charles H. Harris III, Professor of History at NMSU, spoke on "The Impact of the Mexican Revolution of 1910 on the U.S. Border." He commented on various historic border problems, emphasizing three areas: military intelligence activities; arms trade and smuggling; and the evolution of the Texas Rangers.

March 17, 1994; *John (Jack) B. Colligan; The Necessity of Using Original Documentation to Verify Secondary Sources.* John (Jack) B. Colligan, DACHS member, historian, author, and descendant of early settlers of New Mexico, spoke on "Fraud in the Muster Roll of Juan Paez Hurtado Expedition" or

“The Necessity of Using Original Documentation to Verify Secondary Sources,” or “How I found my Bad Irish Grandfather in the British Army.” Colligan detailed the research methods and investigative techniques he used to uncover facts obscured by poor records. He illustrated his talk with handouts related to his research.

April 21, 1994; *Dr. Dale Alexander; Explosives and Their Impact Upon Civilization.* Dr. Dale Alexander, Professor of Chemistry at NMSU, presented “Explosives and Their Impact Upon Civilization.” He traced the development of explosives and their impact on history, particularly in terms of warfare and mining, from the 10th century Chinese invention of the first explosive, gun powder, to the present. Alexander demonstrated explosives before the audience as he spoke, a very noisy and lively presentation.

May 19, 1994; *Donald Howard Couchman; Has the Issue of Military Preparedness Really Changed?* DACHS member Donald Howard Couchman spoke on “Has the Issue of Military Preparedness Really Changed?” He discussed military preparedness from ancient times to the Gulf War, illustrating his talk with slides of humorous cartoons.

September 15, 1994; *J. Paul Taylor; History of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library.* Former DACHS President J. Paul Taylor began his presentation by updating the membership about negotiations with the Bureau of Land Management for the placement of the anticipated El Camino Real Museum, to be located between the New Mexico towns of Truth or Consequences and Socorro. Then he discussed the history of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. Taylor emphasized the contributions of women from the Women’s Improvement Association, touched on Alice Branigan’s 1935 gift of \$35,000, and mentioned the names attached to various rooms and collections in the library including Addington, Caffey, Capen, Carmichael, Curry, Garrett, Greathouse, Higgins, Munson, Schwartz, and Stroben. Other contributors to the Library’s history included Clarence H. Fielder, Max Freudenthal,

Robert Munson, Ed Shannon, and Don Dresp.

October 24, 1994; *Michael Taylor, Mary Ann Anders, and Ed Boles; Historic Preservation.* Michael Taylor, Mary Ann Anders, and Ed Boles, staff members of the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, spoke about historic preservation to about 65 participants, including Las Cruces Mayor Ruben Smith, Mesilla Mayor Ed Southworth, Representatives Bill Porter and J. Paul Taylor, in a public forum at the Branigan Cultural Center.

Michael Taylor, director of the Historic Preservation Division of the New Mexico Office of Cultural Affairs, explained the aim of the group. Mary Ann Anders, architectural historian, showed slides of some of the state’s historic properties. And Ed Boles, architectural historian, summarized the benefits of historic preservation.

November 17, 1994; *Wilma Helen Strickland Hampton; A Naive Recruit in a Brand New Army.* Wilma Helen Strickland Hampton, the first Aggie WAC, recounted some of her experiences as “A Naive Recruit in a Brand New Army, the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), which later became the Women’s Army Corps (WAC).” Hampton, a graduate of Las Cruces High School and NMSU, joined the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in 1942.

December 15, 1994; *Author’s Panel Discussion; Second Issue of Southern New Mexico Historical Review.* The December program focused on the second issue of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. A panel discussion, moderated by DACHS President Linda G. Harris, featured several authors whose contributions appeared in the *Review*: Doug Wright, Vesta Siemers, J. Henry Gustafson, Donald H. Couchman, and Lee Priestley. (Lee Priestley and Opal Lee Priestley are the same person.) The program presented an excellent opportunity for members and guests to quiz professional and avocational historians about committing ideas and research to paper, getting started, and finding sources.

Field Trips

May 24, 1964; Fort Selden, Rodey, Rincon.

About one hundred people, adults and children, traveled in a 40-50 car motorcade first to Fort Selden, where General Hugh M. Milton II reviewed the history of the fort and John Hawley discussed the geology of the valley; second to Rodey for a visit to the church where J. Paul Taylor discussed New Mexico religious art; and finally to Rincon to visit Our Lady of All Nations shrine.

May 8, 1966; San Elizario, Texas. Each participant packed a sack lunch and traveled in a chartered, air conditioned bus to San Elizario, Texas. J. Paul Taylor guided the group to a tree trunk believed to be from the first pecan tree on the Rio Grande basin. Martha Skaggs, who was born and raised there, acted as guide, assisted by J. Paul Taylor. The trip cost \$2.50 per person for a seat on the bus.¹¹

May 21, 1967; Chalk Hill, Saint Nicholas Springs, San Augustine Springs, Apollo Test Site. Members traveled by chartered bus to Chalk Hill, Judge Albert Fountain's murder spot; Saint Nicholas Springs; San Augustine Springs; and the Apollo Test Site Open House with an intermediate stop at White Sands Missile Range for lunch.

Charlotte Priestley remembered the following in 1994:

We had two school buses (just plain old yellow school buses) and a pair of wonderful young cowboys who were going to school out here and who were driving for Whitfield's. ... It was pretty wild. We went to St. Nicholas Canyon and wandered around, and someone gave us a lecture on what had happened there and who had lived there, and then we went on to Chalk Hill, which is on the Range, and just absorbed history. . . . There were a bunch of children with us. I had three, Paul Taylor had four or five and Carbines had three or four.¹²

May 28, 1968; Butterfield Trail to Fort Cummings. The trip featured the Butterfield Trail to Fort Cummings with a stop at the Spanish Stirrup Ranch east of Deming for lunch. Part of that trip was a slide show and talk on Mimbres Pottery.

December 1971, Tortugas. Members and invited guests went to the village of Tortugas at 10:30 a.m. for their meeting. After attending the celebration honoring the Virgin of Guadalupe in Tortugas, the party watched the traditional dancers. Lunch, the customary albondigas (meatballs) prepared by the women of the pueblo, was served in the Casa de Comida.

April 1972, Indian Ruins at Cliff. The DACHS sponsored a field trip to the Indian ruins at Cliff, west of Silver City.

June 1972, Eugene Manlove Rhodes Tour. The Society made a Eugene Manlove Rhodes Tour from Alamogordo west across the mountains to Truth or Consequences, with a sack lunch stop at the ranch.

Christine Myers remembered in 1996:

For several years there were annual pilgrimages to Eugene Manlove Rhodes' grave, usually in June near the anniversary of his death. His grave is in Rhodes Canyon, now part of the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) that is off limits to the general public. The Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce coordinated arrangements with WSMR officials. Participants usually included groups from the Tularosa Basin Historical Society, the Sierra County Historical Society, and the Doña Ana County Historical Society. New Mexico State University was the official caretaker of Rhodes' gravesite, and each year the University president designated a faculty member to be its official representative. Louise Garrett served in this capacity while she was DACHS President.¹³

May 24, 1974; Santa Fe and La Cienega.

Members left by bus for Santa Fe at noon on Friday, May 24, 1974. When they reached Santa Fe, they checked into Motel 6 and had dinner in a downtown shopping center.

On Saturday morning they were received at the Governor's Mansion for coffee. They had a buffet lunch at Shidoni, Tesuque, and that afternoon they visited the Museum of Anthropology, the Palace of the Governors, Goodwin Mansion, and John Cartwright's home which offered Spanish, Mexican and Indian treasures for viewing.

Dinner on Saturday was at the Com-pound. On Sunday the membership left Santa Fe and traveled to La Cienega to visit Rancho de Las Golondrinas, the little Spanish Village restored by the Colonial New Mexico Historical Foundation. They had lunch in Albuquerque and went home from there.

July 4, 1976; McKelligon Canyon. The field trip, coordinated by Mrs. S. B. Chadman and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Chevo, was to McKelligon Canyon near El Paso for a picnic. After the picnic, the group attended an open air theater at the canyon to watch an outdoor historical pageant entitled "Paso del Norte."

October 1977, Lincoln. Members toured Lincoln. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Henn of Casa Gallina gave a talk illustrated with a slide show.

November 10, 1984; Rhodes Canyon. The Society sponsored a field trip to Rhodes Canyon on the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). Rhodes Canyon is named after Eugene Manlove Rhodes, cowboy novelist, whose ranch was located there. Groups from the Tularosa Basin Historical Society and the Sierra County Historical Society also joined in this trip. According to a meeting notice, all participants had to be U. S. citizens and had to be escorted by WSMR personnel. (For several years there had been no annual pilgrimages.)

June 28, 1986; Slocum Ranch and Mas-sacre Peak. Daniel Aranda was scheduled to lead a field trip to Mason's Ranch (later known as Slocum's Ranch), Flat-Top Mountain (Massacre Peak), and the old customs station 20 miles west of Las Cruces. However, summer rains made the ranch roads too muddy to accommodate a group visit. The outing was rescheduled, and although there are no records describing the visit or the date on which it took place, some members do remember eventually going out to the Slocum Ranch with Dan Aranda.

March 9, 1991; Columbus. Society members were scheduled to go on a field trip to Columbus, New Mexico, but no one went. The day was too windy.

August 31, 1991; Hillsboro. The Society sponsored a trip to Hillsboro where Dorothy Webb presented a program entitled "Archae-ological Dig, Lake Valley History, and The Famous Bridal Chamber Mine." Besides attending this program, members were encour-aged to take a walking tour of the town and join in Apple Festival activities.

November 23, 1991; Corralitos Ranch. Members took a field trip to the Corralitos Ranch, ten miles west of Las Cruces. They left from COAS My Book Store for the AT&T Tower at the Corralitos Ranch. From the AT&T Tower, they proceeded to take the self guid-ed Civilian Conservation Corps area walk to Rough 'n Ready, a Butterfield change station, where they listened to a speaker.

March 20, 1993; War Eagles Air Muse-um. A small group of members met in the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library park-ing lot for a field trip to the War Eagles Air Museum at Doña Ana County/Santa Teresa Airport. The War Eagles Air Museum is ded-icated to collecting, restoring and displaying historic aircraft of the World War II and the Korean Conflict periods.

Appendix B

ANNUAL BANQUET AWARDS, 1967-1994



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANNUAL BANQUET BUILDING AWARDS are made by award committees. Each committee furnishes a written description of its selection for the Annual Banquet Bulletin.

BUILDINGS WORTHY OF PRESERVATION

An award for a Building Worthy of Preservation is given by the Society at the Annual Banquet to recognize a building in the county that is distinguished by its age and historical character, its historical significance, or represents regional, historical architectural design. The purpose of this award is to encourage owners to preserve the uniqueness of their buildings.

1967: *Nestor Armijo Home/Gallagher House*, 150 E. Lohman Avenue, Las Cruces. Martin Lohman Home, later known as the Nelson Funeral Home, razed in the 1960's during urban renewal, formerly located at 419 South Main Street, Las Cruces.

1968: *Delehanty House* (Arias-Ascarate House), Avenida de Mesilla at the railroad tracks behind the service station, Las Cruces. *Amador/Garcia/ Adair Home*, formerly at Main Street and Amador Avenue, Las Cruces (razed during urban renewal in the 1960's).

1969: *Amador Hotel*, later the Citizen's Bank and now Doña Ana County Offices, 180 West Amador Avenue, Las Cruces. *Barela/Reynolds House*, now the J. Paul Taylor Home, west side of Mesilla Plaza, Mesilla.

1970: *La Iglesia de Nuestra Senora de la Purification*, Doña Ana. *Griggs Home*, Calle de Pí-cacho, Mesilla (recognized twice).

1971: *Francis Flecher Home*, now Mountain View Christian Church, 241 Three Crosses Avenue, Las Cruces. *Maurin Store*, southwest corner of Mesilla Plaza, Mesilla.

1972: *Bowman Home*, southwest corner of Bowman Street and Conway Avenue, Mesilla Park. *Rynerson Home*, 266 West Court Avenue, Las Cruces.

1973: *Church of San Jose*, Highway 28, seventeen miles south of Las Cruces at La Mesa. *San Augustine Ranch*, Home of Cox Family.

1974: *St. James Episcopal Church*, South Main Street and St. James, Mesilla Park. *St. Mary's Church at Hill*, now privately owned.

1975: *Hiram Hadley Home*, now Glenn Cutter Jewelers, 2640 El Paseo Road, Las Cruces. *Barela/ Fountain Home*, now the Gadsden Museum, Camino Real, Mesilla.

1976: *Rodriguez House*, later the Sophie Rodriguez Waldrip Home, San Miguel. *Holy Cross Retreat*, off Highway 478, one mile south of Mesilla Park.

1977: *Medina House*, between Calle de San Albino and Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. *Casa Vicente* (May House), now Casa Holmes, 515 Townsend Terrace, Las Cruces.

1978: *Old Doña Ana County Courthouse*, now Billy the Kid Gift Shop, southeast corner of Mesilla Plaza, Mesilla. *Gamboa House*, on Calle de San Albino.

just across the street from and southeast of La Posta entrance, Mesilla.

1979: *Brown/Lawrence Home*, San Miguel. *Arthur J. Fountain Property*, now El Patio Restaurant, south side of Mesilla Plaza, Mesilla.

1980: *Los Bosques* (Sage House), now Hacienda Restaurant, 2605 South Espina Street, Las Cruces. *Sedgwick House*, on the west side of Highway 28 south of Mesilla.

1981: *Trini and Mary Lopez Home*, 1107 North Reymond Street, Las Cruces. *Mesilla Book Center*, originally the Reynolds & Griggs store, west side of Mesilla Plaza, Mesilla.

1982: *Santa Fe Railway Station*, Las Cruces. *Reynolds/Chavez House*, on Calle de Picacho, Mesilla.

1983: *Bentley Store*, originally the Williams Brothers Store, Organ. *Francis E. Lester house*, now the Ilka Feather Minter Home, corner of Bowman Street and Conway Avenue, Mesilla Park.

1984: There was no banquet this year.

1985: *The Crooked Hacienda*, 521 West Brownlee Avenue, Las Cruces.

1986: *Henry and Carolyn Bunch Home/Adobe Patio Gallery*, directly behind San Albino Church on Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. *James M. Hoy Home and Tanus Freije Store*, Rincon.

1987: *Scott and Virginia Taylor's Adobe Complex*, West Picacho Avenue and Bamert Road, Fairacres.

1988: *Elias Day Home*, corner of Griggs Avenue and Reymond Street, Las Cruces. *San Pedro Street*, Mesquite Historic District, Las Cruces.

1989: *Our Lady of Purification Church*, Doña Ana. *Rincon Elementary Schoolhouse*, Rincon.

1990: *Vestal/Barker House*, Mesilla Park.

1991: *Sunshine Grocery Store*, corner of Mesquite Street and Hadley Avenue, Las Cruces.

1992: *Court Junior High School*, Las Cruces.

1993: *Griggs/Chavez House*, Calle de Picacho, Mesilla (second time honored, see 1970).

1994: *Manasse Homes*, 202 and 208 North Miranda Street, Las Cruces.

BUILDINGS ADHERING TO REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE

An award for a Building Adhering to Regional Architecture is given by the Society at the Annual Banquet to recognize a significant building in the county that has been constructed in recent times and has followed historic architectural style characteristic of New Mexico and the Southwest.

1967: *Thomas Branigan Memorial Library* (now Branigan Cultural Center, Pueblo Design, 500 North Water Street, Las Cruces. *Ernst and Eugenia Artschwager Home*, Territorial Design, 520 Brown Road, Las Cruces.

1968: *The Popular Dry Goods Company*, Pueblo Design, 139 Downtown Mall, Las Cruces. *Sarah Gay Home*, Territorial Design, Calle de Parian, Calle de Picacho, Callejon Guerra, Mesilla.

1969: *Sosa Building*, Pueblo Design, 330 S. Reymond Street, Las Cruces. *Louis E. Freudenthal Home*, Pueblo Design, 539 West Las Cruces Avenue, Las Cruces.

1970: *Los Arcos*, Mexican design, Mesilla. *Casa Tio Manuel* (Cano Home), Pueblo Design, Mesilla.

1971: *Citizen's Bank of Las Cruces*, restored Amador Hotel, now Doña Ana County Offices, 180 West Amador Avenue, Las Cruces. *Newman's Hardware Building* (Old Las Cruces Post Office), Downtown Mall, Las Cruces.

1972: *Jay Druxman Building*, Pueblo Design, 113 South Main street (Downtown Mall), Las Cruces. *Ajax Simpson Home*, Pueblo Design, Mesilla Park.

1973: *Doña Ana County Court House*, Pueblo-Spanish Colonial Design, 251 West Amador Avenue, Las Cruces. *M. A. Thomas Home*, Pueblo Design, 2600 Solano Drive, Las Cruces.

1974: *Dean F. Stahmann Home*, Traditional Hacienda Design, La Mesa. *Landis Shoe Shop*, 490 South Esperanza Street, Las Cruces.

1975: *Home of the Good Shepherd* (Emerick Home), Hacienda Design, 3120 Good Shepherd Road, Mesilla Park. *La Esquina*, Southwestern Design, 300 North Downtown Mall (at Las Cruces Ave.), Las Cruces.

1976: *Las Cruces Municipal Building*, Mexican Colonial Design, Church Street and Las Cruces Avenue, Las Cruces. *Numa Frenger Home*, 331 West Las Cruces Ave., Las Cruces.

1977: *St. Andrew's Episcopal Church*, Mission Design, 518 North Alameda Boulevard, Las Cruces. *Holiday Inn de Las Cruces*, Territorial Design, 201 East University Avenue, Las Cruces.

1978: *Casa Sheck*, (Ron Potter Home), Pueblo Design, Fairway and Regal Ridge, Las Cruces. *Pueblo Plaza*, Southwestern Design, 1100 South Main Street, Las Cruces.

1979: *Rancho Chico* (Skip Prichard Home), Pueblo Design, 1305 West University Avenue, Mesilla. *Woman's Improvement Association Clubhouse*, Southwest Design, Court Avenue and Raymond Street, Las Cruces.

1980: *John Conniff Home*, Territorial Design, Rainbow Drive, Las Cruces. *Southwest Abstract and Title Building*, Southwest Design, Las Cruces Avenue and North Alameda Boulevard, Las Cruces.

1981: *Bob Pattison Houses*, Southwest Design, south of Mesilla. *Immaculate Heart of Mary School*, Territorial Design, 865 East Idaho Avenue, Las Cruces.

1982: *Bruce Streett Home*, Territorial Revival Design, 795 West Conway Avenue, Mesilla Park. *Boutz Plaza*, Territorial Revival Design, Boutz Road at Marquess Street, Las Cruces.

1983: *Hess Terrace*, Spanish, Spanish-Mission, and Pueblo Design, Las Cruces. *Pan-Am Plaza*,

Territorial Design, University Avenue between Locust and I-25, Las Cruces.

1984: No banquet was held this year.

1985: *Casa del Corazon del Valle* (Kent Jacobs Home), Spanish Colonial Design, 3610 Southwind Road, north of Las Cruces.

1986: *Richard and Carol Warren Home*, Pueblo Revival Design, 4808 Gambel Court, Las Cruces. *New Mexico State University Music Center*, Las Cruces.

1987: *COAS Bookstore*, Santa Fe Design, 317 North Downtown Mall, Las Cruces. *Sisbarro BuickPontiac-GMC, Inc.*, Pueblo Design, 425 West Boutz Road, Las Cruces.

1988: *Bar-F Headquarters Building*, 230 South Alameda Boulevard, Las Cruces. *Arroyo Plaza*, Territorial Design with Mexican Influence, East Lohman Avenue between Walnut and Del Monte Streets, Las Cruces.

1989: *Mesilla Taylor Construction Co.*, Mesilla. *Loretto Towne Centre*, Pueblo Design, Las Cruces.

1990: *Kent Hall*, New Mexico State University, now NMSU Museum, Spanish Design, Las Cruces.

1991: *Coca Cola Building* (Darden Building), 505 West Las Cruces Avenue, Las Cruces.

1992: No award given.

1993: *Samuel Bean House*, Territorial Design, 428 West Griggs Avenue, Las Cruces.

1994: No award given.

NOTEWORTHY RESTORATIONS

The Society has given three awards for noteworthy restorations.

1974: *La Posta*, Territorial Design, Mesilla.

1976: *Double Eagle*, Territorial Design, 308 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla.

1985: *The Small Mall* (W. W. Cox Home), 523 East Idaho Avenue, Las Cruces. *The Begin Building*, Southwest Design, Boutz Road and Espina Street, Las Cruces. *Las Cruces Water Storage Tanks* (Anthony Pennock Murals), Las Cruces.

HALL OF FAME AWARDS

The Hall of Fame Award is designed to recognize an individual who is known for his or her exceptional contribution to preservation of the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley. The contribution should be of a substantial nature and be evidenced by enduring and observable worth to the Doña Ana County Historical Society and the community at large. The person being recognized can be living or dead, but, in the latter case, a descendent should be locally available to receive the award. Selection should be guided by strict adherence to the preservation, history, and culture aspects of the award description.

1967, Elizabeth Armendariz: Armendariz was the first person to be named to the Hall of Fame. She had kept things which had belonged to her family and had started the Gadsden Museum.¹

1968, Herbert Watts Yeo, Posthumously: Yeo was recognized for his important contributions to the study of the Rio Grande. He wrote "Large River," and "Hydrographic and Irrigation Conditions in the Rio Grande Valley—New Mexico." The latter work was written as a report while he was an engineer in the Reclamation Service on the Rio Grande Project between 1908 and 1917. It continues to be an important source of information on the extent of irrigation in Elephant Butte area during the early part of the twentieth century. He was also recognized for his contributions to New Mexico archaeology. His archaeological work covered at least nine New Mexico counties.²

1969, General Hugh Meglone Milton II: General Milton was recognized not only for great achievements in the military and in education, but also for contributions to preservation of the culture and traditions of the Mesilla Valley. A charter member of the DACHS, his work resulted in Fort Selden's being designated a state monument.³

1970, Helen Pauline Caffey: Caffey was honored for her work during the previous twenty years to preserve the culture and traditions of the Mesilla Valley. She was the Director of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library from January 1, 1950,

until she retired in 1971. One of the people involved in establishing a Mesilla Valley Museum, "she tracked down, acquired, and stored roomful of priceless and irreplaceable relics and records of the Valley's colorful past."⁴

1971, George Adlai Feather: Feather was honored as a cheerful and entertaining speaker on Doña Ana County history and on other fields in which he had become a respected authority. He was also recognized as a researcher and writer of the history of the Doña Ana County. By the time Feather was inducted into the Hall of Fame, he had "visited most of the approximately 2,000 past and present New Mexico town sites and [had] studied their existing records. He [had] studied and researched the history of Doña Ana County and [had] compiled a collection of records that is used in various institutions as an original source of information."⁵

1972, Katherine Doughty Stoes, Posthumously: Stoes was honored for her productive life in the Mesilla Valley. She was a founder of the old Museum Society and the library that became the nucleus of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. As an authority on local history, she wrote many articles for the local weekly papers as well as for the *New Mexico Historical Review*.⁶

1973, Fabian Garcia, Posthumously: Garcia was recognized as a man whose life was "characterized by great industry and by gentleness and compassion. . . . As a humorist, a naturalist, a scientist, and an educator, he left an unequalled legacy."⁷ He had dedicated his life to improving agriculture in the state of New Mexico.

1973, J. Paul Taylor: Taylor was recognized for his work in preserving the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley through his work with the Society, the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, and the newly established Rio Grande Historical Collections, and also for his work in many other professional and educational associations. He was especially acknowledged for his work with children "because of his past and present efforts to give to

our children that most precious gift of all gifts: self-respect through the awareness of their treasured culture and history.”⁸

1974, William A. Sutherland and Minnie Newberry Sutherland, Posthumously: The Sutherlands were recognized for being an “integral part of the culture and history of Doña Ana County.” They were best known for their work educating Filipino students. “In 1903, the Philippine Commission passed a law that would finance the education of young Filipinos in the United States at the Philippine’s expense. Civil Governor Williams Howard Taft assigned this project to Sutherland, who had been his Spanish Secretary, and Minnie Sutherland. Mr. Sutherland wrote *Not By Night* about the Philippines.”⁹ He was known as Mr. Aggie at NMSU.

1975; Hunter Lewis, missionary, Episcopal Church, and Edith Lewis, teacher; Posthumously: An Episcopal missionary, Hunter’s “determined figure was recognized by half the state for its attributes of small satchel strengthened by yards of adhesive tape, his clerical collar and the knitting bag from which streamed the handmade caps, his gifts to the thousands of babies he christened.

Edith was known and loved by the pupils and patrons of Grandview School in Las Cruces where she taught for years and ‘never knew a bad child.’”¹⁰

1976, Louis E. Freudenthal: “A charter member and first president of the Doña Ana County Historical Society, he devoted much time and energy to preserving local and regional history. He compiled short histories of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, the Don Bernardo Hotel, Aztec Lodge, and the Mutual Building and Loan Association.”¹¹

1977, Opal Lee Shore Priestley: Priestley was recognized for her work as a writer, a public speaker, a library trustee for Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, for her years of service to PEO Sisterhood, Wednesday Literary Club, and St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, for her work on the Board of the Rio Grande Historical Collections, and her wholehearted interest in the his-

tory of her state and community. But most of all she was recognized for her many years of service to the Doña Ana County Historical Society. “Year after year we have sat at our annual banquet and enjoyed the well-planned programs, with scarcely a thought for the weeks of preparation and research that have gone into them. Back of it all was the guiding hand, the creative mind, the gentle wit and humor of our friend, Opal Lee.”¹²

1978, Edmund Gaines and Aileen Shannon: Edmund Shannon was recognized for his significant civic and cultural contributions, particularly for his work on the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library Board on which he served from 1938 until his death in 1968 and for his desire to see a fine arts center in Las Cruces. Mr. Shannon hoped to honor his wife, Aileen, who was an artist of national fame, by bequeathing his Alameda Avenue home and his wife’s major art works to the city of Las Cruces. Sadly, this was never realized.

Aileen Phillips Shannon was honored for her many civic and cultural contributions, particularly her art work which is “a legacy in representative art of people and places of the Mesilla Valley.”¹³

1978, Harriet Hanson McGuire: McGuire was honored as a teacher, farmer, musician, scholar, and conversationalist who spent her life awakening peoples’ cultural consciousness.¹⁴

1979, Keith J. Humphries: Humphries was recognized for “preserving with brush and pen the culture and traditions of the Southwest.”¹⁵

1979, The Day Sisters (Grace Chance, Hester Roach, and Ruth Lisle): The Day Sisters, who were born, raised, and had spent their whole lives in the community, were recognized as embodying “the quality of the people of Las Cruces.” All three had “an abiding interest in civic affairs, an openmindedness, and a deep affection for life in the Southwest.”¹⁶

1980, Ira G. Clark, Jr.: One of the DACHS’s charter members, Clark was recognized for his article, “The Elephant Butte Controversy, A Chapter in the Emergence of Federal Water Law” which was published in the *Journal of American History* in March 1975 and named by the Western History

Association as the best article on Western history published in that year. Since then, he has published *Water in New Mexico: A History of Its Management and Use*, an important book on the history of water usage and regulation in New Mexico.¹⁷

1981, Eva Pendleton Henderson: Eva, who grew up in the Pecos Valley of New Mexico, became a ranch wife when she married Tom Pendleton in 1912. When Tom died in 1937, she ran the ranch herself, eventually paying off all its debts. In 1941, she married Lee Henderson, owner of the Steeple Ranch. Four years later, she was again widowed and managing a cattle ranch alone. Later, when she was ready to give up ranch life, she moved to Las Cruces where she helped found “Welcome Strangers,” and gave talks and wrote articles on the history of the area.¹⁸

1981, Margaret Page Hood: Hood was recognized for her career in journalism. Over the course of her career, she was published in the *El Paso Herald Post*, the *Rio Grande Farmer*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and the *New Mexico Sentinel*. While she wrote for the *New Mexico Sentinel*, she had the opportunity to interview numerous historic figures. Two were Governor George Curry and Oliver Lee. She also published several books of fiction. *Ellery Queen Magazine* published some of her short stories, one of which was adapted for television.¹⁹

1982, Carmen Kahn Freudenthal: Freudenthal was recognized for her “lifelong dedication to preserving the best of the old in the Mesilla Valley and her determination to improve the quality of life for everyone who shares her love and concern for fellow citizens.”²⁰ She belonged to too many organizations and received too many honors to list here. However, she was especially interested in human and civil rights. For example, she worked on the local and district Youth Councils to draft the first New Mexico Children’s Code and lobbied to secure women’s testamentary rights in community property. She was also interested in historic preservation. She served on the Board of Directors of both the Rio Grande Historical

Collections and the Dona County Historical Society, and donated many important papers and pictures to the Rio Grande Historical Collections.²¹

1982, The Cox Family: W. W. (Bill) and Margaret Cox moved to the San Augustine ranch in 1893 and subsequently founded a ranching empire and a family dynasty. Cox became both a prominent and controversial figure in the area’s political and economic history.

The Cox family also had a residence in Las Cruces, the five bedroom two-story Victorian structure now known as Henry J’s. In town, Bill Cox was an officer in the Bowman Bank and Trust Company and, at one time, treasurer of Doña Ana County.

When White Sands Proving Ground was established, quite a lot of the family’s San Augustine land was sold to the United States government.²²

1983, Mary D. Taylor: Taylor was recognized for her “research and writing that has preserved so much history of the Mesilla Valley and the Rio Grande region.”²³ In 1947, Taylor began collecting oral histories from the Mesilla Valley. Nona Barrick joined her in this work in 1949. Their historical research took them to the archives of the University of Texas at El Paso, and to Juarez, Chihuahua, and Durango. Together, Mary and Nona published many articles and a monograph, *The Mesilla Guard, 1851-1861*. At the time of the award, their *History of the Mesilla Valley* was completed and scheduled for publication, and Mary was working on two long-term projects: one about the Spanish Colonial period along El Rio Intermedio and a biography of Father Ramon Ortiz.²⁴ Today, as a result of Mary’s correspondence with the Archdiocese of Durango, valuable ecclesiastical records from Durango are presently being microfilmed by the Rio Grande Historical Collections.

1985, Herman Weisner: Weisner was recognized for his research and writing about the area’s history. After he moved to Organ in 1955 to work at White Sands, he began tape-recording old-timer’s recollections. Later he searched books, county and state records, university archives, and

the National Archives in Washington, D. C., to collect historical materials that would benefit other researchers. He amassed the Bentley Collection which gives insights into the history of Organ and the Organ Mountains area and also collected materials pertaining to the Lincoln County War and the Free Masons. Upon retirement from White Sands, he began writing articles on local history. At the time the award was given, he was described as having “an infectious, almost overwhelming way of making history live.”²⁵

1986, Ilka Feather Minter: The daughter of George Adlai Feather, Ilka was recognized for her “dedication to the preservation of the traditions and culture of this area.” Ever since the Branigan Cultural Center was established, Ilka Minter has performed untold tasks to advance its exhibits and activities.” She is a long-time member of DACHS and has served the Society in many capacities. Potluck suppers on the lawn at Ilka’s house came to be a long-standing tradition of the Society. Ilka is particularly known for her ability to delve into all kinds of documents and for her ability to understand county record filing systems. She is responsible for much of the material published in *Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey*.²⁶

1987, Calvin Lee Traylor: Traylor was recognized for his years of civic and community work. He has twice served as president of the Doña Ana County Historical Society

1988, Leon Claire Metz: Metz, a historian from El Paso is a long-time member of the Society. He was recognized for his contribution to the history of the Southwest through research and writing. He has written several award-winning books. *John Selman: Texas Gunfighter* won the Texas Institute of Letters award for biography in 1966. *Pat Garrett: The Story of a Western Lawman* won the Border Regional Library Award in 1974, and *Western Writers of America*, in 1985, judged it to be one of the 35 best western biographies of all time. The Texas Historical Commission judged *Fort Bliss: An Illustrated History* to be the best historical book published in Texas in 1981. In 1985, Western Writers awarded Leon Metz the Golden

Saddleman, their highest honor, for excellence in Western writing.²⁷

1989, Lee and Christine Myers: The Myers were recognized for their dedication to recording and assisting in the recording of local history. Lee was recognized for his western history writing. Two focuses of his writing were southern New Mexico and western military posts. Christine, one of the charter members and a DACHS past president, was honored for her love of history and for her work assisting researchers of history, especially for her *New Mexico Local and County Histories: A Bibliography*.²⁸

1990, Michael Romero Taylor: The son of J. Paul and Mary D. Taylor, Michael was recognized for his work in surveying and excavation and for “over fifty reports detailing the findings of these investigations.”

From 1976 to 1979, Taylor surveyed a vast area northeast of El Paso for the University of El Paso’s Centennial Museum, supervising the “locating, recording, mapping, and plotting of over 10,000 prehistoric and historic archaeological sites.” Simultaneously with this project, he assisted the Museum of New Mexico Monuments Division to “excavate, identify, map, clean and preserve, catalog, photograph, and properly store historic material at Fort Selden State Monument.”

More recently, assisted by a \$200,000 J. Paul Getty Conservation Institute grant, Taylor conducted an adobe test wall project at Fort Selden.

As Surveyor for the Historic Buildings Survey between 1979 and 1981, he inventoried “over two thousand extant historic structures by architectural trait, style, physical condition, and significance.”

At the time this award was given, Taylor had also served as the Structures Preservation Chief for New Mexico State Monuments, Museum of New Mexico and as an archaeologist with the National Park Service.²⁹

1991, Patrick Beckett: A descendent of the Luceros and the Becketts, both long-time residents of the Mesilla Valley, Beckett was recognized primarily for his “outstanding work as Chairman

of the State of New Mexico, Cultural Properties Review Committee.” In addition, Beckett was recognized for extensive community work and work in archaeology. In 1973, the Mr. and Mrs. Beckett established COAS Publishing and Research, and began collecting and selling books on archaeology, anthropology, and the history of the Southwest. He has also written too many archaeological surveys and edited too many monographs to list here. Beckett’s most appreciated work is perhaps the research he has done on the village of Tortugas. He has been “unofficially recognized as the historian of Tortugas and officially made an honorary member of the Tiwas.” At the time the award was given, he had recently co-authored *Tortugas* with Terry Corbett.

The Becketts own the COAS: My Bookstore³

1992, Louis Ray Sadler: Dr. Sadler was recognized for his expertise on the “history, resources, problems, and possibilities of the U.S. Mexican Border.”

He came to New Mexico State University in the fall of 1969. At the time of this award, he was an Associate Professor of History. Between 1975 and 1978, he chaired NMSU’s Department of History, and between 1979 and 1989, he “served concurrently as director of the Joint Border Research Institute and director of the Center for Latin American Studies, both agencies under auspices of New Mexico State University.” He became a member of the New Mexico Border Commission in 1981, “serving various terms as chairman, vice chairman, and commissioner. He was also executive officer for the New Mexico-Chihuahua Border Commission in 1980-1981.” In addition, he was a member of the Cultural Properties Review Committee of the State of New Mexico, under appointments by Governor Bruce King in 1979 and 1981-85.

“Besides his concurrent careers in education, history, and Latin American affairs, Dr. Sadler has maintained a prolific publication record, including books and articles on the Mexican border, and contributions to *Encyclopedia Americana Yearbooks* on Cuba and Central America.”³¹

1994, Bradley A. Blake: Director of the New Mexico State University Museum, Professor of Anthropology, and past Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. “Dr. Blake (Brad to his friends) came to New Mexico 27 years ago as the first anthropologist to be employed by NMSU. His excellence in teaching won him the Westhafer Award in 1969 and the Donald C. Roush Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1984 and 1987.”

He was “instrumental in starting NMSU field schools in the Mimbres area of New Mexico. . . . His love of New Mexico culture and history has resulted in his speaking to just about every service club and organization in southern New Mexico. The University Museum under his leadership has flourished and continues to attract people of all ages to their many activities.”³²

1994, Jesse Scroggs: Head of the Social Science Department at Mayfield High School, Scroggs was recognized for his ability to bring history to life for his students. At the time of this award, Scroggs, who was interested in global history, was constantly educating, reading ten to fifteen books a month and traveling on a regular basis to Europe, Japan and Russia. Because of his expertise, he “has been the principal contributor to three history curricula, has been tapped as a visitation expert for North Central accreditation teams, and has been consulted by the New Mexico State Department of Education on curriculum matters. Students, too, have appreciated his ability, naming him Mayfield’s Teacher of the Year in 1979.”³³

1995, Alice Gruver: A long-time DACHS member, Gruver was recognized for her work in journalism, especially as it contributed to preserving the culture and history of the Mesilla Valley.

For years, she was a stringer for the *Arizona Republic*, the *Las Cruces Sun-News*, the *El Paso Times*, and the *Albuquerque Journal*. She got her big break at the onset of World War II:

“When World War II broke out and there was a shortage of men reporters, the *Las Cruces Sun-News* hired Gruver full-time to do the wire service and cover court cases. Doing the wire intimately

involved Gruver in the dramatic conflict of World War II, especially as it affected the community of Las Cruces. Many of the local boys were soldiers. Gruver's court reporting covered the gamut from the mundane to the extraordinary. She is re-spected for her coverage of the Cricket Coogler and Reies Tijerina court cases. Gruver's interest in the 1949 Cricket Coogler case and her belief that there was more to it than the mysterious death of an eighteen year-old party girl resulted in its being widely publicized. Eventually, corruption, illegal gambling, and many important New

Mexico politicians were linked to Coogler's death.

After marrying Homer E. Gruver, publisher of the *Las Cruces Citizen*, in 1948, Gruver became the weekly paper's managing editor and remained in that position until the paper was sold in 1959. The National Federation of Press Women named the *Las Cruces Citizen* the best weekly newspaper edited by a woman.³⁴

Today, Gruver is a popular guest speaker and freelance writer.

OLD TIMER AWARD

The Old Timer Award was first presented at the eighth Annual Banquet on January 24, 1974, and has been given sporadically since. The award was conceived by Opal Lee Priestley to identify a cherished object, a natural phenomenon, or a cultural tradition which deserves public attention and which would otherwise escape recognition as an important part of the physical character of the Mesilla Valley. An interesting twist was added in 1976 when the Old Timer Award temporarily became the Old Chimer Award and again in 1991 when it became the Doña Ana County Treasures Award.

1974, *Garcia Trees*, pecan trees, "distinguished pioneers of the Mesilla Valley"

1975, *Depot Lane Mulberries*

1976, *The bells of San Albino, the bells of St. Genevieve, the Hendricks Mission bells, and the Doña Ana Mission bell*

1977, *Harvey Gin's Cotton Wagon #1*. At the time this award was given, the wagon was on the Harvey Gin lot on Compress Road being used to haul cotton. The first known owner of the wagon was Jack Bower who probably owned the wagon in the 1920s.²

1980, *LeRoy and Ruth Carver's fall custom of preparing a Harvest Home arrangement of grain and fruits and vegetables at their farm home on Avenida de Mesilla*

1983, *The Story Tree, NMSU Campus*

1986, *the Rio Grande*, Mesilla Valley's great-

est natural phenomenon

1987, *The Pieta located at the corner of South Main and Lohman*. It was dedicated in 1941 to "Our Sorrowful Mother" to commemorate the founding of the Order of Loretto in Kentucky in 1812. Ten feet and one inch high and weighing 690 pounds, the statue is made of Orobronze by the Duprato Statuary Studio of Chicago. "It represents Mary, the Mother of our Blessed Lord, holding her Dying Son in her arms after He was taken down from the cross."³

1988, *Butterfield Trail*. "Originally called Cooke's Wagon Road, it was contracted by the U. S. Government to John Butterfield in 1858 to establish what became known as the Butterfield Overland Mail service. Locally, there was a Butterfield station at Picacho, Mesilla, and Fort Fillmore. The Butterfield Trail route through Doña Ana County was abandoned in 1861."⁴

1989, *Dripping Springs*. Dripping Springs is located in a green canyon near a water fall in the Organ Mountains seventeen miles from Las Cruces. From 1872 to 1915, it was the site of a summer resort and health camp operated by Major Eugene Van Patten. Later it was owned by Dr. Nathan Boyd, Dr. and Mrs. T. C. Sexton, the A. B. Cox family, and the Nature Conservancy. At the time the award was given, Dripping Springs belonged to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). On account of its acquisition by the BLM, Opal Lee Priestley was moved to write: "Ten rare

plants grow on the land in the shadow of the towering Organs. Four of them are found no place else in the world. Now the Organ Mountain Pin-cushion Cactus, the Nodding Cliff Daisy, the Evening Primrose and the Figwort will be safe for future generations. And so will the cool green beauty of Dripping Springs.”⁵

1991, *Luminarias of La Mesilla and Las Cruces Acquia Madre* were honored with the special Doña Ana County Treasure Award. The tradition of placing luminarias on the plaza in Mesilla on Christmas Eve began with Josephine Gamboa Emerson. Originally, she put luminarias only around her house. Gradually, over the years, she expanded the number of luminarias she put out to five hundred lining the sidewalks of the plaza. In 1983, when she felt she could no longer carry out the work, she challenged the Lions Club of Mesilla to help her. At the time the award was given Los Leones were providing the labor and material, residents of the village were lighting the candles, and the fire department was collecting the refuse afterward.

ditch which has supplied water to the Las Cruces area since January 3, 1849. It has also been known as the Santa Genoveva Ditch and the Saint Genevieve Community Ditch. It originates at the southern end of the Leasburg Canal and divides inside Las Cruces near Alameda and Three Crosses Avenue into the Armijo Contra Acquia, which runs between Valley Drive and the Masonic Cemetery, and the Las Cruces Acquia, which winds through town and continues south past Tortugas.⁶

1992, *New Mexico’s “El Camino Real”* was recognized as a Doña Ana County Treasure.

1993, *The Millstone known as El Molino* ground the first wheat in Las Cruces. It is preserved “mounted on a pedestal near the northeast corner of the First National Bank.” “The accompanying plaque was erected by the First National Bank of Doña Ana County” “El Molino was built by Salvador Cordova in 1849. The Mill was also known as the Jacob Schaubin Mill.” “The great stone gave it’s name, El Molino, to the street where the first grist mill, powered by water from the ditch beside it, produced wheaten flour, a new staff of life in an old land.”⁷

“LOS TESOROS VIVOS” LIVING TREASURES

On January 27, 1987, at the twentieth Annual Banquet, the Society presented special awards to “three unique individuals in the community who had quietly preserved and interpreted certain cultural traditions that enrich the history of the region:”³⁵ Francisca F. Apodaca, Santiago “Jimmy” Brito, and Emma Narvaez. The three individuals were to be known as Los Tesoros Vivos, Living Treasures of the Mesilla Valley.

Former DACHS President J. Paul Taylor remembered in 1994: “It was Frances (Kika) Apodaca who had made the costumes for Los Pastores from the very beginning. She’s the one who every year made the bread flowers for the Corpus Christi procession from the Church around the plaza in Mesilla. She was also active in the Cedar Meal at Holy Cross Retreat.¹

The Las Cruces Acquia Madre is a historic

Jimmy Brito interviewed many people who had lived and made history during the early days of Las Cruces, especially with regard to the people of Tortugas, and had “generously shared this knowledge with those seeking to record it for the benefit of future generations.”²

Emma Narvaez, whose mother was the daughter of Felipe Roybal, a full-blooded Tewa Indian and early Cacique of the Pueblo of La Placita de Guadalupe, or Tortugas Pueblo, learned the Tewa Songs and chants and grew up participating in the feast of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Emma served as secretary of the Tortugas Pueblo’s corporation from 1947 through 1961 and continued to work to “preserve the Tewa traditions—and to interpret them beautifully and lovingly so that they will continue to live for future generations.”³

PASAJERO DEL CAMINO REAL AWARD

In 1988, Vice President Paxton Price conceived the idea of giving the Pasajero del Camino Real Award at the Annual Banquet. Price designed the award to honor an author or authors of a significant historical publication about events, persons, places, or issues in Doña Ana County or in the nearby vicinity. Neither the fact that an author had or had not received a previous award nor recency of publication would be a condition of candidacy for this award. Further, Price felt that the Society should strongly consider works by its members and by other persons living and writing in Doña Ana County. "Giving this award is our one means of honoring accomplished historians."¹

Because the title of the Pasajero del Camino Award implicated the Old Camino Real, Price turned to his friend, Jose Cisneros, for permission to use some of his drawings as illustrations during the Annual Banquet on January 31, 1990. Cisneros responded, not only by displaying some of his drawings, but also by giving the Society a drawing of a typical character from the 1880s and 1890s in our Southwestern history. The drawing, which has since been adopted as the DACHS logo, is now framed and hanging in the Branigan Cultural Center.²

1989, Ira G. Clark for his book *Water in New Mexico*

1989, Opal Lee Priestley for her book *Shalam: Utopia on the Rio Grande*

1990, Darlis A. Miller for *Soldiers and Settlers: Military Supply in the Southwest, 1861-1885*

1990, Jose Cisneros for *Riders Across the Centuries: Horsemen of the Spanish Borderlands*

1991, John P. Wilson for *Merchants, Guns, and Money: The Story of Lincoln County and its Wars*

1992, Monroe Billington for his "contributions to understanding of the multi-cultural history of this region, particularly for his interest in the history of Black culture in the South and Southwest." At the time of this award, Billington had a book in progress, *Blacks in New Mexico, 1539 to the Present*. Other significant previous publications include the following books: *New Mexico's Buffalo Soldiers, 1866-1900*, *Southern Politics Since the Civil War*, and *The Political South in the Twentieth Century*. A relevant article, "Civilians and Black Soldiers in New Mexico Territory, 1866-1900: A Cross-Cultural Experience," was published in *Military History of the Southwest*.³

1993, Opal Lee Priestley for *Journeys of Faith*

1993, Herman B. Weisner for *Politics of Justice, A. B. Fall and the Teapot Dome Scandal, a New Perspective*

1994, Leon C. Metz for *Southern New Mexico Empire*

HERITAGE AWARD

The Heritage Award was "established to be given to a person whose actions or deeds have contributed to the historical or cultural heritage of Doña Ana County and who is not an avocational or professional historian." The first Heritage Award was given posthumously to Florence Cox in 1992.

This award [was] made in acknowledgment

of Florence Cox's agreement to sell the Dripping Springs Ranch to the Nature Conservancy thus insuring its preservation and providing a long term green belt to the east of Las Cruces. It [was] also given for the family's protection of the cultural resources against vandalism and land development in the area while under their ownership.¹

THE CRADLE OF COMMUNITY CULTURE

The Women's Improvement Association Clubhouse, which was recognized as a building worthy of preservation in 1979, was recognized as the "cradle of community culture." Opal Lee

Priestley wrote of it, "Name almost any element that makes life richer in Doña Ana County and it will have begun with the Women's Improvement Association."¹

Appendix C

SUGGESTED IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIETY PURPOSES

APRIL 1989



Purpose: Greater appreciation of history of New Mexico and especially of Doña Ana County

1. To create public awareness of Society interests and objectives, the Society, as an organization, should participate in public programs and initiate some of its own.

2. Hold Book and Author (local historians) Fairs to hear author descriptions of research difficulties and to increase public awareness of available book purchase opportunities.

3. Hold public demonstrations of historic tools and crafts.

4. Prepare feature-type articles on historical events, persons and places for newspapers and magazines.

5. Conduct historic place tours for the public.

6. Conduct for Society members an Historical Treasure Hunt with prizes for winners.

7. Maintain a Speakers Bureau and offer this service to civic and other clubs in the Mesilla Valley.

8. In programming for monthly meetings, use some programs on history of the rest of New Mexico.

9. Make use of local descendants of original or early settlers in the county

10. Encourage members to prepare and present local historical programs.

11. Renew the tie with public schools' "History Day" offering to provide a judge for student presentations.

12. Cooperate in programs and/or field trips with the NMSU history students' organization.

13. Exhibits or booths at fairs and fiestas.

14. Hold joint programs, meetings, projects with other local or regional historical societies.

15. Explore with KRWG-TV programming the offering of longer historical features.

16. Maintain stronger and more active participation in the Historical Society of New Mexico.

17. Be active in preservation workshops and activities.

18. At program meetings, offer audiences further readings on topics presented and information on new published books and journal articles.

Purpose: Publication of historical material

1. Publish compilation of Society's annual banquet awards descriptions. For possible sale.

2. Publish county map showing locations of historic sites. Distribute.

3. Offer a course to interested members on how to do historical research and writing.

4. Consider commercial publication of a compilation of existing professional writings about Doña Ana County or regional history

5. Using a checklist, determine if local bookstores stock in-print Doña Ana County historical publications.

6. Advise publishers which historical publications are in scarce supply and which need re-publishing.

7. Issue a monthly bulletin containing information about meetings, events, people, preservation, museum exhibits and news about research underway about Doña Ana County

History. Issues could carry information about various historical journals that may interest members with strong historical reading habits.

Purpose: Marking historic routes and sites

1. Assist current movement underway to mark the Camino Real and Chihuahua Trail.
2. Stimulate the marking of stage stops in Doña Ana County of the Butterfield Overland Mail.
3. Establish markers on the camp sites across the Jornada del Muerto.
4. Establish markers showing location of Fort Fillmore and Fort Thorn and Fort Cummings and other little-known military camp or station sites.
5. Publish the information currently used on State Highway markers in Doña Ana County and give their locations. Recommend other markers needed or useful to the State Highway Department. Keep that Department informed of any damage to existing markers.

Purpose: Establishment of historical collections and museums

1. Collect oral histories from existing persons having been involved with historical events.
2. Offer volunteer work with existing collections.
3. Collect information about obscure and unrecorded burials of people in the past.
4. Give continuing assistance to the Branigan Memorial Library and the Rio Grande Historical Collections to increase their holdings.
5. Canvas local residents for existence of personal historical materials that have not been previously revealed such as diaries, expository accounts, photos or other illustrations.
6. Collect biographical information from resident old-timers and publish and deposit with local historical collections.
7. Provide strong support for the program of the Branigan Cultural Center.
8. Arrange for the transfer of the Society's collection of museum artifacts to one of the existing

museums where better preservation and exhibition is managed.

9. Support existing museums rather than try to start and maintain another.
10. Support any local movement and effort to acquire and operate the deserted Santa Fe depot building.

Purpose: Preservation of historic documents, artifacts, and published materials of importance

1. Preservation is best left to trained professional such as those in the NMSU Archives and existing museums.
2. Establish an information directory of services available qualified to service or advise inquirers about preservation methods.
3. Promote the existing services available to the public of NMSU Archives.
4. Assist the Rio Grande Historical Collections and NMSU Archives to grow with new deposits.
5. Conduct seminars for "amateurs" on how to preserve historic documents, artifacts and published materials of importance.

Purpose: Purchase and preservation of historic landmarks

1. Maintain a directory of unidentified historic landmarks preparatory for the day when some local authority can make an acquisition.
2. The Society can act as a transfer agent when some historic landmark becomes available for acquisition by a new owner.
3. The Society may act as an interested public organization by inquiring about the existing or prospective desire of an owner of a landmark to dispose of such property and assist in relocating ownership with establishments of proper capability and authority.
4. The Society can offer volunteer assistance in maintaining a landmark that exists or will be established.

END NOTES

Introduction

¹Doña Ana County Historical Society (hereafter DACHS), “Long Range Plan,” 9/17/92.

²DACHS Bylaws (11/25/63), p. 1.

Part I Founding

¹DACHS Tenth Annual Banquet Bulletin (1/22/76), pp. 3-5. “Rotary Hears Valley History,” *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 10/10/63, p. 1.

²DACHS Minutes, 9/26/63. Westphall, Victor. *Organizing Local Chapters of the Historical Society of New Mexico*. n.c.: Historical Society of New Mexico, n.d.

³DACHS Tenth Annual Banquet Bulletin (1/22/76), pp. 3-5. “Rotary Hears Valley History” *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 10/10/63, p. 1.

⁴DACHS Minutes, 10/3/63. DACHS Bylaws, “Duties of Officers and the Board of Directors,” 11/25/63.

⁵Treasurer’s records pertaining to 10/63. DACHS Minutes, 9/26/63, 10/22/63.

⁶Treasurer’s records pertaining to 10/63. DACHS Minutes, 9/26/63, 10/22/63.

Part II Saving Historic Landmarks

Chapter 1

Fort Selden

¹Dorothy Seager, “Amid Decay of Selden, Vibrant History Remains,” *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 8/4/72, p. 14.

²Doña Ana [County] Bicentennial Commission (hereafter DABC). *Fort Selden: Echoes of an Era 1776- 1976* (Las Cruces: Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, n.d.), n.p. Seager, “Amid Decay,” *Las Cruces Sun-News*, p. 14. Allan James Holmes, “Fort Selden, 1865-1891: The Birth, Life, and Death of a Southwestern Fort” (M. A. thesis, History Department, New Mexico State University (hereafter NMSU), 1990). p. 2.

³DABC. *Fort Selden*. Holmes, “Fort Selden,” p. 2. Application for Grant for Historic Preservation

Purposes. Historic Site Information. Form HUD-6781A. Directed to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1972. (hereafter Hist. Site Inf.). Billington, Monroe Lee, *New Mexico’s Buffalo Soldiers, 1866-1900* (Niwot: UP of Colorado, 1991), p. 35.

⁴Holmes, “Fort Selden,” p. 2. David F. Myrick, *New Mexico’s Railroads: A Historical Survey*, Rev. ed. (Albuquerque: U of New Mexico P, 1993), p. 11. According to Myrick, the Rio Grande, Mexico and Pacific Railroad was affiliated with the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Rail Road Company.

⁵DABC, *Fort Selden*. Milton II, Hugh M, *Fort Selden: Territory of New Mexico 1865-1890 (Las Cruces: np, 1971)*, p. 19. Seager, “Amid Decay,” *Las Cruces Sun- News*, p. 14. Timothy Cohrs & Thomas J. Caperton, *Fort Selden* (Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press, 1993), pp. 28-29.

⁶Cohrs & Caperton. *Fort Selden.*, p. 28. Hist. Site Inf.

⁷Seager, “Amid Decay,” *Las Cruces Sun-News*, p. 14. Dorothy Seager, “Stabilization of Ft. Selden Helps Revive Past,” *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 8/6/72, p. 4.

⁸Hugh M. Milton II (1/21/69) to Honorable William B. O’Donnell. Hugh M. Milton II (12/10/64) to Adlai Feather. Letters among DACHS papers in Rio Grande Historical Collections. Lee Gemoets, “Hugh M. Milton II: Educator Soldier - Distinguished American,” *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* 1.1 (1994), pp. 62-70.

⁹“Object: To Save a Fort: The Effects of 7 Years Telling,” *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 3/27/1970, p. 6.

¹⁰Hugh M. Milton II (1/17/63) to Harry Newton Bailey, Letter among DACHS papers at NMSU.

¹¹Ibid

¹²Milton (12/10/64) to Feather. Though Bailey did not give reasons for giving the land in installments, General Milton presumed it was for tax purposes.

¹³Ibid

¹⁴Hugh M. Milton II (2/4/63) to General Douglas MacArthur. Letter among DACHS papers at NMSU.

¹⁵“Twenty-sixth Legislature,” *Journal of the State of New Mexico*, 2/12/63, p. 3; 2/19/63, p. 7; 2/20/63, p. 11; 3/3/63, p. 3.

¹⁶“Senate Bill No. 302,” Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of New Mexico, 1963.

¹⁷DACHS Minutes, 10/3/63.

¹⁸General Milton eventually expanded on the history. *Fort Selden: Territory of New Mexico 1865-1890* was sold by the DACHS for \$1.50 a copy, and profits from the sale went into the DACHS treasury

¹⁹Milton (12/10/64) to Feather.

²⁰Hugh M. Milton II (12/31/63) to Rosy (last name unknown). Letter among DACHS papers at NMSU.

²¹New Mexico State Park and Recreation Commission (hereafter NMSPRC) Minutes, 1/16/64.

²²Milton (12/10/64) to Feather.

²³Milton (12/10/64) to Feather. “Section II Actions of the Doña Ana County Historical Society & Legislature,” Report to DACHS among DACHS papers at NMSU.

²⁴Milton (12/10/64) to Feather.

²⁵DACHS Minutes, 10/22/63.

²⁶DACHS Minutes, 11/25/63.

²⁷Milton (12/10/64) to Feather. DACHS Minutes, 11/19/64.

²⁸DACHS Minutes, 1/28/65; 2/25/65. ²⁹“Object: To Save a Fort,” *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 3/29/70, p. 6.

³⁰DACHS Minutes, 2/24/66, 4/22/65, 3/20/66.

³¹DACHS Minutes, 9/22/66, 2/23/67, 10/26/67.

³²Calvin L. Traylor, interview by Madeleine Vessel, tape recording, 8/3/94, Las Cruces. DACHS Minutes, 9/18/69, 10/23/69.

³³Milton (1/21/69) to O'Donnell. DACHS Minutes, 11/27/68.

³⁴Milton (1/21/69) to O'Donnell. Calvin Traylor remembered in 1996 that he had many conversations with Jack Jones, head of the NMSPRC, about turning Fort Selden into a state park.

³⁵Cultural Properties Review Committee and New Mexico Historic Preservation Bureau. *Historic Preservation New Mexico*. n. p.: State Planning Division, Department of Finance and Administration, n.d.

³⁶“Object: To Save a Fort,” *Las Cruces Sun-News*, p. 6.

³⁷DACHS Minutes, 4/23/70.

³⁸“Hist. Site Inf.”

³⁹“Ft. Selden Ceremonies Evoke ‘Spirit’ of Army,” *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 7/5/73, p. 1. Fort Selden is not, in fact, New Mexico’s first official state monument. Coronado, for example, is older.

⁴⁰Howard Klein, President of the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce (9/10/74) to Louise Garrett. Letter among DACHS papers at NMSU.

⁴¹DABC, *Fort Selden*. “Hist. Site Inf.”

Chapter 2

Fort Fillmore

¹Colonel M. L. Crimmins, “Fort Fillmore,” *New Mexico Historical Review* (Hereafter NMHR) 6.4 (1931): pp. 327-333. Frank D. Reeve, ed., “Puritan and Apache: A Diary” *NMHR* 23.4 (1948): p. 279. F. Stanley, *The Fort Fillmore, New Mexico Story*. (Pantex, Texas: published by author, 1961), p. 3. Richard Alan Powder, “Research Design for Fort Fillmore, New Mexico”(M. A., New Mexico State University, 1988), p. 4. Corinne C. Mozer, “A Brief History of Fort Fillmore, 1851-1862,” *El Palacio* 74.2 (1967): p.11.

²Gouvenear Morris to D. C. Buell, Headquarters, 3rd Infy., Brasito, undated, U.S. Army Commands, 9th Military Dept., Letters received, 1851, NARG98.

³Lydia Spencer Lane, *I Married a Soldier*, (Albuquerque: Horn & Wallace, 1964), p. 103. ⁴Stanley, *Fort Fillmore*. , p. 16.

⁵Reeve, “Puritan and Apache,” p. 279. Lansing B. Bloom, “The Rev. Hiram Walter Read: Baptist Missionary to New Mexico,” *NMHR* 17.2 (1942): p. 143. Alice Gruver, “Ft. Fillmore Excavation Dramatizes History,” *The El Paso Times*, 6/9/66, p. 1-C. Crimmins, “Fort Fillmore,” p. 327. Powder, “Research Design,” p. 4.

⁶Crimmins, “Fort Fillmore, p. 327.

⁷Lydia Spencer Lane, *I Married a Soldier*, (Albuquerque: Horn & Wallace, 1964), p. 99.

Part III Saving Historic Buildings

Chapter 3

Urban Renewal Threatened Historic Buildings

¹Countess-Jones, "Proposed Outline for Future of Downtown is Drafted," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 1 / 8 / 67, pp. 1-2. Countess-Jones, "Business Redevelopment Goal of Las Cruces Project," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 1/9/67, pp. 1-2. Countess-Jones, "Current Estimates Peg Project at \$6 Million," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 1/10/67, pp. 1-2.

²J. Paul Taylor, interview by Madeleine Vessel, tape recording, 9/14/94, Mesilla.

³Charlotte K. Priestley, interview by Madeleine Vessel, tape recording, 12/22/94, Las Cruces.

⁴J. Paul Taylor interview, 9/14/94.

⁵J. Paul Taylor interview, 9/14/94.

⁶DACHS Banquet Program, 1/26/67.

⁷DACHS Banquet Program, 1/26/67.

⁸DACHS Banquet Program, 1/26/67.

⁹J. Paul Taylor interview, 9/14/94.

¹⁰J. Paul Taylor interview, 9/14/94. DACHS Banquet Program, 1/26/67.

¹¹J. Paul Taylor interview, 9/14/94. DACHS Banquet Program, 1/26/67.

¹²DACHS Minutes, 3/23/67.

Chapter 4

The Preservation and Restoration Committee

¹Opal Lee Priestley, interview by Madeleine Vessel, tape recording, 8/12/94, Las Cruces.

²"Final Report Goals & Objectives," Doña Ana County 7/71.

³Lumarion Day, "The Amador - A Museum Site," "CitiSun," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 3/23/69, pp. 4-5, 12.

⁴Samuel Larcombe, DACHS files, 1/22/71, to Calvin L. Traylor.

⁵Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, DACHS files, 12/27/78, to J. Paul Taylor.

⁶*A History of the Armijo House*. Pioneer Savings & Trust. n.p.: no publisher, n.d.

⁸Loomis Morton Ganaway, "New Mexico and the Sectional Controversy, 1846-1861: The Secession Movement in Southern New Mexico," *NMHR* 9 (1942): p. 68.

⁹F. S. Donnell, "The Confederate Territory of Arizona, as Compiled from Official Sources," *NMHR* 19 (1942): p. 152. Lane, *I Married Soldier*, p. 115. A. F. H. Armstrong, "The Case of Major Isaac Lynde," *NMHR* 36 (1961): pp. 27-34.

¹⁰Powder, "Research Design," p. 7.

¹¹DACHS Minutes, 9/30/65. In 1967, Corrine Mozer's paper appeared in *El Palacio*, the Museum of New Mexico's quarterly journal.

¹²John P. Wilson, *Fort Fillmore, New Mexico* 1966, Preliminary Report submitted to the National Park Service, 1966, p. 1-2. Gruver, "Ft. Fillmore," p. 1-C.

¹³DACHS Minutes, 9/22/66.

¹⁴DACHS Minutes, 10/27/66.

¹⁵Powder, "Research Design," p. 9. DACHS Minutes, 3/23/67.

¹⁶DACHS Minutes, 11/16/66.

¹⁷DACHS Minutes, 2/23/67.

¹⁸DACHS Minutes, 10/26/67.

¹⁹DACHS Minutes, 4/25/68. Cultural Properties Review Committee and New Mexico Historic Preservation Bureau. *Historic Preservation New Mexico*. State Planning Division, Department of Finance and Administration. n.p., n.d.

²⁰From notes left by Louise Garrett in DACHS's files. From newspaper clipping in DACHS's files. Name of newspaper, date of publication, and page number do not appear on clipping.

²¹From an undated page of a DACHS's flyer which was probably written in 1973.

²²DACHS member Mary Taylor provided an outline history of Fort Fillmore in order to facilitate its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

²³Powder, "Research Design," p. 9.

Chapter 5

The Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey

¹Kapp, Anne E. and Guylyn N. Nusom, ed. *The Las Cruces Historic Buildings Survey*. Las Cruces: City of Las Cruces Print Shop, n.d., pp. 2-5. Doug DesGeorges, "Book Exploring Las Cruces History Ready for Debut," *El Paso Times*, 2/23/82, p. 1B. ²James N. Allen, DACHS files, 2/21 /79, to DACHS.

³Christine Myers, interview by Madeleine Vessel, telephone, 10/23/96, Las Cruces. Doug DesGeorges, "Book Exploring Las Cruces," p. 1B.

⁴Opal Lee Priestley interview 8/12/94. Marianne Thaeler, interview by Madeleine Vessel, telephone interview, 10/27/96, Las Cruces. Mary Steeb, Branigan Cultural Center Survey files, 4/22/80, to Thomas W. Merlan, the State Historic Preservation Officer. Guylynn Nusom, interview by Madeleine Vessel, telephone interview, 8/12/94, Las Cruces.

⁵Doug DesGeorges, "Book Exploring," p. 1B.

Part IV

Establishing a Historical Collection

¹DACHS Bylaws, 11/25/63. From rough draft of Charlotte Priestley's speech in DACHS files. The First Annual DACHS Banquet was held on 1/26/67.

Chapter 6

Acquiring a Collection

¹"Live Cannon Balls Found at Old Fort Selden," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 9/22/63, pp. 1-2. General Hugh M. Milton II, DACHS files in NMSU Rio Grande Historical Collections, 9/30/63, to General Douglas MacArthur.

²"Ft. Selden Cannon Balls Sported a Fancy Fuse," *Las Cruces Citizen*, 10/17/63, p. 1. "Live Cannon Balls Found at Old Fort Selden," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 9/22/63, p. 1-2.

³"Section II Actions of the Doña Ana County Historical Society & State Legislature," DACHS files in NMSU Rio Grande Historical Collections.

⁴DACHS Minutes, 1960s. Property notes in DACHS files.

⁵DACHS Minutes, 10/26/67.

⁶Charlotte K. Priestley interview, 8/11/94.

⁷Calvin L. Traylor remembered this during a review of the manuscript in December 1996.

⁸From an undated DACHS flyer apparently from 1973.

⁹DACHS Minutes, 9/18/69. Editorial comments by Calvin L. Traylor during review of manuscript, 12 /96. Charlotte K. Priestley, interview by Madeleine Vessel, tape recording, 11 August 1994, Las Cruces.

¹⁰Notes from DACHS files.

¹¹DABC. "Log Cabin." *Echoes of an Era 1776-1976* (Las Cruces: Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, n.d.), n.p. Local Home Builder's Auxiliary, "Bicentennial Cabin Project Under Way," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 12/21/75, p. 2.

¹²Fragment of Doña Ana County Report listing goals, DACHS files, July 1971.

¹³DACHS Minutes, 11/25/63, 1/23/64, 9/22/66, 2/23/67.

¹⁴DACHS Minutes, 11/27/68, 9/18/69. Charlotte K. Priestley interview, 8/11/94.

¹⁵DACHS Minutes, 3/27/69, 9/18/69, 4/23/70.

¹⁶Charlotte K. Priestley interview, 8/11/94. Elizabeth Gillette, interview by Madeleine Vessel, telephone, 10/31/96, Las Cruces.

¹⁷From notes in DACHS property file. Caption under picture of coach in the *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 2/19/76. Editorial comments by Calvin L. Traylor during review of manuscript, 12/96.

Chapter 7

Finding a Home for the DACHS Collection

¹DACHS Minutes, 4/22/65, 5/27/65.

²DACHS advertisement clipping, 8/9/70. ³Calvin L. Traylor, interview by Madeleine Vessel, tape recording, 8/3/94, Las Cruces. News clipping, 9/24/70.

⁴Notes in DACHS files.

⁵"Historical Group at NMSU Gets Board Members," *Albuquerque Journal*, 1/25/72.

⁶DACHS Regular Meeting Announcement, 1/23/75. Eva Artschwager, interview by Madeleine Vessel, in person, 1993, Las Cruces.

⁷*Thomas Branigan Memorial Library History, 1935-1979*. Report to Las Cruces City Commissioners

from the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library Board, 7/7/77.

⁸Ilka Minter, interview by Madeleine Vessel, telephone, 9/13/93, Las Cruces.

⁹DACHS Minutes, 9/18/69. Charlotte K. Priestley interview, 8/11/94. Madeleine Vessel, DACHS files, 4/28/93, to DACHS Board.

Part V Marking Historic Sites

Chapter 8

Marking Historic Sites

¹Colin Rickards, *Sheriff Pat Garrett's Last Days* (Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 1986), pp. 15 and 50.

²Calvin L. Traylor interview, 9/14/94. Editorial comments by Calvin L. Traylor during review of manuscript, 12/96. DACHS was not involved in placing the state highway sign on U.S. 70 that marks Pat Garrett's murder site.

³Information provided by Christine Myers during review of the manuscript, 12/96.

⁴Leon Metz, DACHS files in Rio Grande Collections at NMSU, 8/25/71, to Louise Garrett. Caption under photograph entitled "Planting Ceremony," *El Paso Times*, 2/10/72. Louise Garrett, DACHS files in Rio Grande Collections at NMSU, 7/21/72, to Adlai Feather. International Boundary Monument No. 1 is located in El Paso across the Rio Grande, west of the ASARCO smelter and south of the brick yard.

⁵Hugh M. Milton II, "New Mexico-Old Mexico Boundary 1848-1850 (undated and unpublished manuscript). Marvin Tessneer, "We Came Within Hair of Being Mexico," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 2/27/83, pp. 5B and 7B.

⁶Milton, "New Mexico-Old Mexico Boundary 1848-1850."pp. 1-9. Tessneer, "We Came Within Hair of Being Mexico, pp. 5B and 7B.

⁷Tessneer, "We Came Within Hair of Being Mexico, pp. 5B and 7B. Milton, "New Mexico-Old Mexico Boundary," pp. 1-9.

⁸Opal Lee Priestley interview, 8/12/94.

⁹Milton, "New Mexico-Old Mexico Boundary," pp. 1-9. John Russell Bartlett, *Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico,*

California, Sonora, and Chihuahua 1850-1853, 2 vols. (Chicago: Rio Grande Press, 1965) (Originally published in 1854). pp. 205-206.

¹⁰DACHS Resolution, 3/14/82.

¹¹Austin Hoover, NMSU, 6/17/82, to Joseph J. Hewett, Chief Highway Administrator.

¹²DACHS press release probably issued sometime after 6/17/82.

¹³Austin Hoover, NMSU, 6/17/82, to Joseph J. Hewett, Chief Highway Administrator.

¹⁴DACHS Minutes, 4/17/84.

Part VI Publishing History

¹DACHS Bylaws, 11/25/63.

Chapter 9

Good Publishing Ideas that didn't Pan Out

¹DACHS Minutes, 1/23/64, 9/24/64.

²DACHS Minutes, 10/26/67.

³DACHS Meeting Notice, 5/16/90.

⁴Paxton Price, 12/94 to Madeleine Vessel. DACHS Minutes, 2/16/92.

Chapter 10

Successful Publications

¹Charlotte Priestley interview, 12/22/94.

²DACHS Minutes, 2/27/64, 2/14/89.

³Linda G. Harris, "The View From the President's Box," *DACHS Newsletter*, 1/30/93. DACHS Minutes, 2/18/93, 3/3/93, 8/3/94.

Chapter 11

Southern New Mexico Historical Review

¹DACHS's "Long Range Plan," 9/17/92, p. 2. Eye-witness observations made by author, Madeleine Vessel.

²El Paso artist Jose Cisneros donated the "Pasajero del Camino Real," a pen and ink drawing, to the DACHS at the annual DACHS banquet on January 31, 1989.

³Publications Committee Meeting Minutes, 6/21/93.

⁴Publications Committee, DACHS files, 7/10/93, to the DACHS Board of Directors.

⁵Martin and Doris Gemoets, DACHS files, 7/10/93, to Linda Harris. Publications Committee, DACHS files, 7/9/93, to J. Henry Gustaafson. DACHS flyer

distributed at DACHS picnic, 7/15/93.

⁶DACHS Minutes, 8/26/93.

⁷Linda G. Harris, DACHS files, 8/27/93, to DACHS Board of Directors. Notes taken during Collingwood visit, DACHS files.

⁸Doris and Martin Gemoets, DACHS files, 9/7/93, to DACHS Board of Directors.

⁹Gemoets to DACHS Board of Directors, 9/7/93.

¹⁰DACHS Minutes, 9/16/93. Gemoets to DACHS Board of Directors, 9/7/93.

¹¹DACHS Minutes, 9/16/93.

¹²*Southern New Mexico Historical Review* Vol. 1, No. 1, 1/94.

¹³Martin Gemoets, DACHS files, 12/3/93, to Linda Harris. Margie Walton's comments during review of this section of the manuscript, 12/96. ¹⁴*Southern New Mexico Historical Review* Vol. 1, No. 1, January 1994.

¹⁵DACHS Newsletter, 2/17/94. Linda G. Harris, interview by Madeleine Vessel, tape recording, 8/10/95, Las Cruces.

¹⁶DACHS Minutes, 3/2/94.

¹⁷Margie Walton's comments during review of this section of the manuscript, 12/96.

¹⁸Ibid

Part VII DACHS Presidents

Louis E. Freudenthal

¹Annual DACHS Banquet Program, 1976. Elsa Altschool, interview by Madeleine Vessel, telephone, 10/28/96, Las Cruces.

²DACHS Minutes, 10/3/63. "Duties of Officers and the Board of Directors," Doña Ana County Historical Society Bylaws, 11/25/63.

³DACHS Minutes, 10/22/63. Affiliation Agreement, 10/22/63.

⁴First National Bank of Doña Ana County Bank Statement, 10/23/63. Treasurer's records 10/63.

⁵DACHS Bylaws, 11/25/63, p. 1.

⁶Today, regular DACHS meetings are held the third Thursday of every month except June, July, and August. Ordinarily, the DACHS meets for a potluck supper in July. DACHS Minutes, 10/63-11/64. Today, DACHS business is handled during Board of Directors meetings instead of during the DACHS regular meetings.

⁷DACHS Minutes, 10/3/63.

⁸DACHS Minutes, 10/3/63 to 11/19/64. In the end, DACHS was not able to acquire either a locomotive or Fire Department Hose Reel #1. The DACHS did, however, receive certain Court House papers.

⁹DACHS Minutes, 4/30/64, 9/24/64, 11/19/64. "Hall of Fame' Honors Three Figures In History," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 10/18/64, pp. 1-2. "Hall of Fame Banquet Tickets Still Available," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 10/16/64.

George Adlai Feather

¹DACHS Annual Banquet Program, 1971. ²J. Paul Taylor interview, 9/14/94.

³DACHS Minutes, 10/22/63.

⁴DACHS Minutes, 11/19/64 to 11/19/65. George Helfrich, interview by Madeleine Vessel, telephone, July 1996, Las Cruces.

J. Paul Taylor

¹J. Paul Taylor's 1990 Vita.

²J. Paul Taylor's 1990 Vita.

³Annual DACHS Banquet Program, 1973. Flyer for "Faces and Places Photography Exhibition" by Mary Taylor. DACHS Newsletter, 9/94. J. Paul Taylor's 1990 Vita.

Charlotte K. Priestley

¹Charlotte K. Priestley interview, 12/22/94. The letters P-E-0 are not initials; they do not stand for anything else. OES stands for Order of Eastern Star.

²Charlotte K. Priestley interview, 12/22/94.

³During DACHS's early years, many of its members were young family people. Today, DACHS members are mostly retired people. Charlotte K. Priestley interview, 12/22/94.

⁴Charlotte K. Priestley's term of office exceeded two years because the installation of officers was moved forward from November to January 30, 1969, to take place at the Hall of Fame Banquet. New officers have been installed at Hall of Fame Banquets since then.

Calvin L. Traylor

¹Calvin L. Traylor interview, 8/3/94. Written biographical information provided by Calvin L. Traylor. TIP, an organization of business people, stands for tip as in a useful hint.

²Calvin L. Traylor interview, 8/3/94. Calvin L. Traylor's Vita updated during review of this manuscript 12/97. DACHS Minutes, 9/18/69.

³DACHS Minutes, 4/23/70.

Louise Garrett

¹Obituary clipping, undated, probably from the *Las Cruces Sun-News*.

²DACHS Bylaws, 2/24/72.

³"Historical Group at NMSU gets Board Members," *Albuquerque journal*, 1/25/72.

⁴Annual DACHS Banquet Program, 1/24/74.

⁵DACHS notice to members, July 1971.

⁶Undated notice to DACHS members.

⁷Christine Myers, interview by Madeleine Vessel, tape recording, 11/22/94, Las Cruces. Opal Lee Priestley interview, 8/12/94. DACHS Activities Bulletin. May 1974.

James McNeil

¹James McNeil's Obituary, *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 6/22/93.

²"Bicentennial Tribute Lasting," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 2/22/76. Agenda for DACHS Meeting, 9/25/75. In 1997, Calvin L. Traylor remembered, "On the new downtown mall, the DACHS used some of the raised brick-sided planters on which to mount various historic displays. They were under plastic bubbles, about six feet in diameter. Unfortunately, the bubbles acted as solar collectors and became very hot inside. Moisture collected on the underside of the bubbles. After a few years they became fogged, and had to be removed. General Hugh Milton was responsible for the display concept.

³Marianne Thaeler, interview by Madeleine Vessel, telephone, 10/27/96, Las Cruces.

⁴James McNeil to DACHS Membership, 3/10/76.

J. Paul Taylor

¹J. Paul Taylor interview, 9/14/94.

²J. Paul Taylor interview, 9/14/94.

Opal Lee Priestley

¹Joe Smith, "Women have played leading role in Mesilla Valley media," *Las Cruces Bulletin*, 4/26/89. p. B4. Karen Williams, "Local Treasure: History at Finger Tips of Las Cruces Gem," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 7/3/94, p. C1 & C6. Annual DACHS Banquet Program, 1977. PEO does not stand for anything else.

Austin Hoover

¹Austin Hoover's term of office exceeded two years because the Society just didn't get around to having an election until six months after what would have been the next term of office.

²Austin Hoover's Vita as of 1995.

³DACHS meeting notice, 6/26/82.

⁴DACHS meeting notice, 2/20/83.

⁵Christine Myers, DACHS files, Branigan Cultural Center, 6/30/83, to Rita Chegin.

⁶Marianne Thaeler interview, 10/26/96.

Christine Myers

¹Christine Myer's was President for 3.5 years instead of four years to get the Society back on track with a January Hall of Fame Banquet and a January installation of officers.

²Annual DACHS Banquet Program, 1989.

³Information acquired from Christine Buder Myers during review of manuscript 12/96.

⁴Information acquired from Christine Buder Myers during review of manuscript 12/96.

⁵DACHS press release, August 1984.

⁶Erin Whalen, "Aging Mission to be Restored," *El Paso Times*, 3/20/86. It was most unusual for a building to receive two awards for the same honor. It is probable that DACHS's 1989 building award committee was unaware of the previous award in 1970.

⁷DACHS Minutes, 4/17/84.

⁸DACHS Newsletter, 11/86. Elsa Altshool telephone interview, 10/28/96.

⁹Annual DACHS Banquet Program, 1/27/87.

James H. Powell

¹Grady E. McCright and James H. Powell, *Jessie Evans: Lincoln County Badman* (College Station: Creative Publishing Company, 1983), book jacket.

²Paxton P. Price to Madeleine Vessel, 12/6/94; 12/7/94.

³Paxton P. Price, DACHS files, Branigan Cultural Center, 11/10/89, to Christine Myers.

⁴Opal Lee Priestley Interview, 8/12/94.

Paxton P. Price

¹Paxton P. Price to Madeleine Vessel, 12/6/94; 12/7/94.

²Paxton P. Price to Membership Committee, 2/15/89. Notes in DACHS files.

³DACHS Minutes, 1989 and 1990.

⁴DACHS Minutes, 3/7/89.

⁵DACHS Minutes, 3/7/89.

⁶DACHS Minutes, 3/7/89.

⁷Paxton P. Price, DACHS files, Branigan Cultural Center, 2/6/89, to Opal Lee Priestley. Paxton P. Price, DACHS files, Branigan Cultural Center, 4/10/89, to Opal Lee Priestley.

Calvin L. Traylor

¹Calvin L. Traylor interview, 8/3/94.

²DACHS Minutes, 1991. *Society Signals*, 1991.

³Linda G. Harris, DACHS files, Branigan Cultural Center, 4/16/92, 5/29/92, 7/22/92, 8/27/92, to Special Projects Committee. DACHS Newsletter, 9/92.

⁴"Long Range Plan," 9/17/92.

⁵"Long Range Plan," 9/17/92.

Linda G. Harris

¹Linda G. Harris, interview by Madeleine Vessel, tape recording, 8/10/95, Las Cruces. Biographical information provided by Linda G. Harris after transcript of interview was approved..

Appendix B

Hall of Fame Awards

¹J. Paul Taylor interview, 9/14/94.

²Annual Banquet Program, 1/25/68.

³Annual Banquet Program, 1/30/69.

⁴Annual Banquet Program, 2/27/70.

⁵Annual Banquet Program, 2/10/71. *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 2/11/71.

⁶Annual Banquet Program, 1/27/72.

⁷Annual Banquet Program, 1/25/73.

⁸Annual Banquet Program, 1/25/73.

⁹Annual Banquet Program, 1/24/74.

¹⁰Annual Banquet Program, 1/23/75.

¹¹Annual Banquet Program, 1/22/76.

¹²Annual Banquet Program, 2/16/77.

¹³Annual Banquet Program, 2/16/78.

¹⁴Annual Banquet Program, 3/16/78.

¹⁵Annual Banquet Program, 3/6/79.

¹⁶Annual Banquet Program, 3/6/79.

¹⁷Annual Banquet Program, 3/19/80.

¹⁸Annual Banquet Bulletin, 4/23/81.

¹⁹Annual Banquet Program, 4/23/81.

²⁰Annual Banquet Program, 5/20/82.

²¹Annual Banquet Program, 5/20/82.

²²Annual Banquet Program, 5/20/82.

²³Annual Banquet Program, 10/20/83.

²⁴Annual Banquet Program, 10/20/83.

²⁵Annual Banquet Program, 1/20/85.

²⁶Annual Banquet Program, 1/30/86.

²⁷Annual Banquet Program, 1/27/88.

²⁸Annual Banquet Program, 1/31/89.

²⁹Annual Banquet Program, 1/31/89.

³⁰Annual Banquet Program, 1/20/91.

³¹Annual Banquet Program, 1/20/92.

³²Annual Banquet Program, 1/30/93.

³³Annual Banquet Program, 1/30/94.

³⁴Annual Banquet Program, 1/28/95.

Old Timer Awards

¹Annual Banquet Program, 1/24/74.

²Annual Banquet Program, 2/16/77.

³Annual Banquet Program, 1/27/87.

⁴Pat Beckett, Annual Banquet Program, 1/27/88.

⁵Annual Banquet Program, 1/31/89.

⁶Dr. John C. Nunemaker, Annual Banquet Program, 1/20/91.

⁷Annual Banquet Program, 1/30/93.

“Los Tesoros Vivos” Living Treasures

¹Christine B. Myers, DACHS files at Branigan Cultural Center, 1/5/87, to Emma Narvaez.

² Paul Taylor interview, 9/14/94.

³Annual Banquet Program, 1/27/87. J. Paul Taylor interview, 9/14/94. Jimmy Brito’s father, Frank, was one of Theodore Roosevelt’s Rough Riders.

Pasajero del Camino Real Awards

¹PaxtonPrice, DACHS files at Branigan Cultural

Center, 11/10/89, to Christine Myers.

²DACHS Minutes, 11/12/89. Information contained in the Pasajero del Camino Real Award and Heritage Award entries was summarized from DACHS Annual Banquet Program articles.

³Annual Banquet Program, 1/18/92.

Heritage Award

¹Annual Banquet Program, 1/18/92.

The Cradle of Community Culture

¹Annual Banquet Program 1/18/92

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AFTERWORD

Reflections on the Presidency of Charles Miles DACHS President, 1995-1997

By

Robert L. Hart

Chuck Miles was an active Society president and continued efforts begun by his predecessor, Linda Harris, to revitalize the organization. With a background in retail sales and marketing, this President specifically concentrated on raising Society visibility. He repeatedly advocated joint sponsorship of public events to the Board of Directors, as well as an aggressive stance in recruiting new members.

Two major public events were sponsored by the DACHS during 1995-1996 and both were financial successes. The first event was held on the 65th anniversary of the discovery of Pluto (April 7, 1995), at the Las Cruces Hilton to honor astronomer Clyde W. Tombaugh and his wife, Patsy. Sponsorship of the event was shared with the Branigan Cultural Center Foundation. The guest speaker was David H. Levy, Professor Tombaugh's biographer. The audience was also treated to a litany of Tombaugh humor in the form of crow jokes and the event was a sellout.

The second major public event was a sesquicentennial symposium commemorating New Mexico's Year of Destiny, 1846. This symposium was one of the few events held in the state to commemorate the American acquisition of New Mexico during the Mexican-American War. Held on March 30, 1996, the Doña Ana County Historical Society and the Academy for Learning in Retirement shared sponsorship. Presenters included Dr. Thomas E. Chavez, Dr. Oscar J. Martinez, Dr. Ward Alan Minge, Dr. John Porter Bloom, Dr. F. Ross Peterson, and Robert J. Torrez. Dr. G. L. Seligmann summarized the symposium presentations and historian Leon Metz presented the lunch address. An impressive two-hundred twenty persons attended the symposium and prompt publication of the symposium papers followed.

Society publication efforts continued with *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* volumes three and four. Editorship of the *Review* shifted to Christine B. Myers for volume three and Winifred Y. Jacobs for volume four. Volume four also represented a change in format size and almost doubled the content of the publication. As the financial health of the Society improved, the continued necessity for the previously established policy of selling sponsorships for the *Review* was repeatedly discussed by the Board of Directors, but not altered. The DACHS history publication project continued under Historian Madeleine Vessel, but was not ready for publication by the end of Chuck Miles' term of office.

During the Miles presidency Society membership increased by 47% and operating funds nearly doubled. Significantly, the official non-profit status of the Society was reestablished almost singlehandedly by the efforts of Society member Fred Mesenbrink. And for the first time in seventeen years (1996), new bylaws were approved and distributed to the membership. A lack of current bylaws had severely handicapped efficient Board operation in relation to questions of established Society policies concerning use of funds, as well as other topics. The President regularly suggested to the Board of Directors community projects he thought worthy of consideration for Society financial support. Among the many projects on which the Board of Directors concurred were a patio railing for Branigan Cultural Center, oral history transcription equipment for the Thomas Branigan Memorial

Library, an emergency book appropriation to replace books lost to mold infestation at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, and operating fund gifts for the multicultural Heritage Days celebration.

With increasing revenues the Society found the resources to commission a lectern and purchase audio equipment for its meetings. Monthly Society meetings at the beginning of the period took place at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library and shifted to the new Society headquarters at Branigan Cultural Center by early 1996. Chuck pushed for a continuing accounting for Society artifacts in the care of the Cultural Center, and requested public display of Society life member plaques and other commemorative items at the Center. A Society horse-drawn wagon and buggy were transferred from temporary storage at the Miles garage to the newly-established Doña Ana Sheriff's Museum.

Other miscellaneous Society activities included the recording of buildings and the provision of historical photographs to a local restaurant. The Society's historic preservation committee was active during 1995 under the leadership of Director Thad Box photographing and recording outlying buildings along State Highway 28 and in the village of Organ. The President also took the opportunity to arrange for historic photographs to be provided for display at the new Applebee's Restaurant at the corner of Telshor and Lohman.

The Miles presidency is recent history. Historians generally agree that it is treacherous to try and evaluate historical significance without the benefit of some temporal distance. However, if personal dedication and effort, future vision, and organizational financial health are relevant, the Society was well-served by this President.