

NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Doña Ana County Historical Society

Bud Russo Will Speak About N.M. Connections

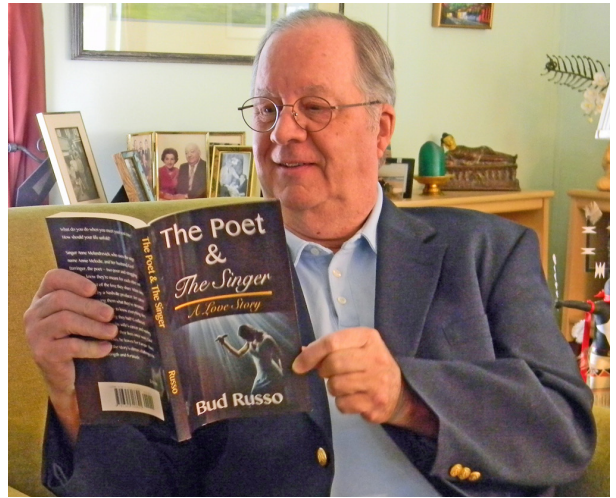
The Doña Ana County Historical Society will continue its fall series of presentations/lectures virtually through the web on Oct. 21. Bud Russo, who was originally scheduled to speak in March, will talk about “Six Degrees of Separation—New Mexico Style.” The talk will begin at 7 p.m. We will use Zoom again.

According to Russo, the talk grew out of his extensive work on New Mexico Mile Markers. Along with business partner Cheryl Fallstead, he created 780 New Mexico Mile Marker radio stories that aired daily on public radio across the state.

He said, “I found it difficult to believe in a state of 122,000 square miles how many people seemed to know each other and be involved in each other’s lives. In the time period of this talk, we’re talking about 100,000 people in the entire state. Equally distributed, they were more than a square mile from each other. Of course, they weren’t equally distributed, which is why they were in constant contact. Still!!!!”

Russo is an award-winning writer who came to New Mexico as a student in the 1960s. When he graduated from New Mexico State University, he wrote about manufacturing and automation for trade journals for 40 years. Then, he returned to New Mexico to retire. His retirement was quite short.

Since 2005, he has written nearly 300 travel features for local newspapers and magazines. He has self-published two novels. *Running Free* is a story about reintroducing wolves to Yellowstone, which won first place for young adult fiction in the creative competition of the National Federation of Press Women. *The Poet and The Singer*, a love story, was a finalist in the Arizona-New Mexico Book Awards. His latest book, *Heroes and Villains*



of New Mexico, is a collection of true stories of historic New Mexicans.

For those of you who missed the September presentation, to listen to Bud you will have to download the Zoom software or app and let it install on your device. This can be done several minutes before you actually join the 7 p.m. meeting. A few days before the 21st, DACHS members will be provided a link in an email. When you click on the link to join the meeting, if you don’t already have Zoom on your device, you will be asked if you’d like to load it on your device. You click yes and the electrons will go to work installing it. It only takes a few minutes.

If the link does not connect you to Zoom, you can always copy and paste the link in your computer’s browser and hit return.

Non-members who wish to “attend” the meeting will have to request the meeting link by email at 19dachs63@gmail.com.

◆**ZOOM presentations are being recorded and can be viewed afterward anytime. Go to the DACHS website and use the links provided, starting with the banner just under the calendar of events/programs.**



**DACC celebrates
Latinx Heritage Month!**

October 12 -15, the DACC Library presents:
A Virtual Program with speakers, presentations,
and performances, with an added bonus
of an online cultural fair.

For more information, visit:
<https://dabcc.nmsu.libguides.com/latinx>



The Dona Ana Community College is presenting a series of online programs to commemorate Latinx Heritage Month. Go to their website for a complete listing of free events that you can enjoy right from your home. The link to their website is: <https://dabcc.nmsu.libguides.com/latinx>

Emailing The Newsletter

Editor's Note: A few DACHS members still wish to receive the monthly newsletter in printed format. That is fine and we will continue to honor their wishes. However, in these times where so much of what we do and promote is online, it is awfully hard to type in those long URLs or links into your browser and hope you haven't made some minor mistake and get whisked away to some porn site or a site selling ranchettes in outer Mongolia.

It is much easier to highlight those addresses in the PDF version of the newsletter, copy and then paste that string of characters into your browser. Check to make sure it looks right and hit return. A good example is the website address listed just above for the community college. Because of that, I'm sending the electronic copy of the newsletter to everyone I have an email for. After all, it is pretty easy to get rid of the file you don't want - DELETE.

A Mesilla Doctor's Love Letter From Almost 140 Years Ago

Editor's Note: The following letter from Dr. William Lyon to Corie Bowman, dated Nov. 19, 1881, is from the Lyon/Bowman letters collection DACHS has posted on its website. If you'd like to see how Corie responded, look under Reference Materials, Volume I - very interesting reading.

My dear Miss Corie,

What witchery is there about you that makes such a miserable coward of me. Do you know that during our ride the other day I was, I don't know how often, on the verge of telling you what you ought to have guessed already, that I have learned to love you very dearly, so much, that it almost frightens me when I think that I do not know that you care for me at all. I feel very greatly ashamed of myself that I haven't the courage to say what I mean, but I was so happy with you that day, I could not risk an unfavorable answer. And today, why I did not say what was on my mind when we were selecting the hymns, and I was thinking of nothing else, is a mystery to me.

You cannot realize how my whole life, my every hope, is centered in you. Yet sometimes you seem to be far removed from me. When I contrast your pure and beautiful life of love and happiness with the wild and reckless desperation with which I have wasted my own, I feel that it would be ungenerous, unmanly to seek your love, and I am afraid to tell you how often I have determined to perform a sublime act of heroism and give up the last and brightest hope of my life. But these resolutions were about as effectual as the Pope's Bull against the Comet, a single kind word or look from you would dispel them and I would find myself haunting your presence until I am afraid I have made myself ridiculous.

The bare possibility of happiness that you might be happy with me has transformed and illumined me. Now I will not give up this hope until you tell me yourself it is hopeless. Oh, Corie, do not crush it unless you have very positive reasons.

I will hand you this tomorrow, and will call in the evening and hear you tell my fortune – you witch – unless you forbid me.

Yours truly, Wm. B. Lyon

You can put this away, properly endorsed and classified, among your collection of love letters. You must have quite a museum now.

Suggestions Needed For Coming Awards Ceremony

The board of directors is still looking for ideas for the January 2021 Awards Presentation. The current plan is to make awards even if we cannot host our usual awards banquet - we will go virtual. Here are some of the award categories DACHS uses. If you have a suggestion, contact Susan: skrueger575@msn.com

Building Adhering to Regional Architecture -- Recognizes a building in Doña Ana County built in recent times that follows the historical architectural style characteristic of New Mexico and the Southwest.

Building Worthy of Preservation -- recognizes a building in Doña Ana County that is distinguished by its age and historical character, its historical significance, or that represents historical architectural character. The purpose of this award is to encourage an owner to preserve the uniqueness of the building.

Buildings and Properties with Historical Significance -- Designation can be applied to a property, including a district, a building, or structure, or an object, which is at least fifty years old. Criteria used to evaluate historic significance of a property include association with a significant historic event or person and / or incorporation within the property of historic characteristics of a period of time or a method of construction or an architectural style.

Noteworthy Restoration/Renovation -- Recognizes a restoration of a historic building in Doña Ana County, not necessarily adhering to strict preservation standards.

Endangered Historic Property -- This designation is used to identify a historic building or structure, a site, or landscape that is endangered because of a threat to its continuing historic significance. The threat may come from neglect or abandonment, urban sprawl, inappropriate zoning, natural weathering or building techniques using incompatible materials.

Old Timer's Award -- Recognition of a cherished object, natural phenomenon, or cultural tradition prominent in Mesilla Valley heritage. Selection is usually confined to that which deserves public attention and that which would otherwise escape recognition as an important part of the physical character of this region. People are excluded.

Heritage Award -- Was "established to be given to a person or persons whose actions or deeds have contributed to the historical or cultural heritage of Doña Ana County and who is (are) not an avocational or professional historian."

Hall of Fame Award -- Designed to recognize an individual chosen by the DACHS Board of Directors for exceptional contributions to the preservation of the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley.

Victorio Peak Treasure Talk On Oct. 13 Through RR Museum

DACHS member Jim Eckles will present a talk on the fabulous treasure of Victorio Peak on Oct. 13 as part of the Las Cruces Railroad Museum's Brown Bag Lecture series. The title of the talk might give you some idea of where Eckles is coming from concerning this legend found in our own backyard. He calls it, *Victorio Peak: One Hundred Tons Of Gold Or Just One Hundred Tall Tales*.

The story involves 100 tons of gold bars, Spanish conquistadors, murder, a shopping cart of conspiracy theories that involve several U.S. presidents and the U.S. Army, years of fruitless searches and a group of believers who have wasted much money and time chasing the legend.

Like most presentations these days, this one will be done virtually via Zoom. It will start at noon and conclude at 1 p.m. **The Zoom link and passcode are:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86496996001>

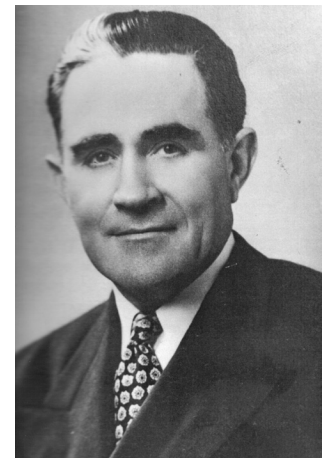
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You can also

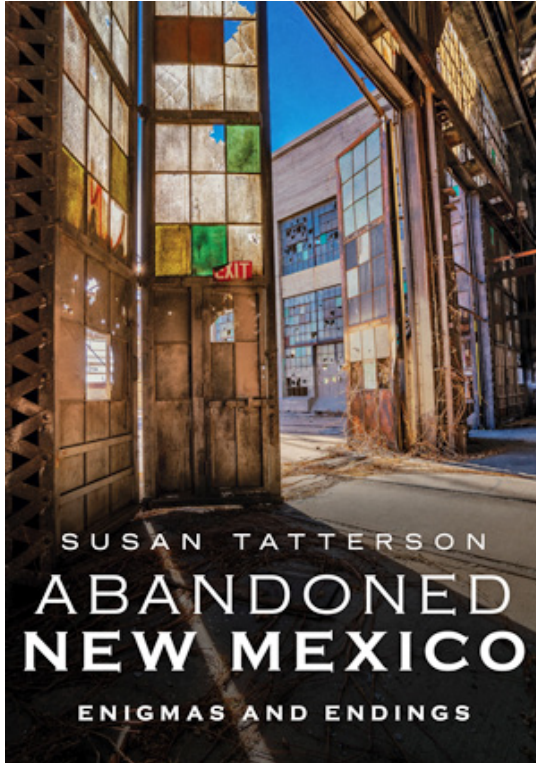
find the link at: [Facebook.com/LCMuseums](https://www.facebook.com/LCMuseums)

For more information, contact Bryan Lee, Education Curator, at 575-541-2217 or BLee@las-cruces.org.

Milton Noss, also known as "Doc," started the Victorio Peak story in 1937. It cost him his life on March 5, 1949 when one of his financial backers gunned him down in Hatch, N.M. The killer, Charley Ryan, was found innocent of murder. White Sands Missile Range Museum Archive.



The Back Page -----



Book Review Opportunity

This looks like it could be an interesting book - just came out in December 2019. The question is, “should I buy it or not?”

There is still time for someone to get this book, read it and compose a short review for the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* which will be published in January 2021. If you are interested in helping us, contact Jim Eckles at nebraska1950@comcast.net

By the way, Tatterson is a professor of digital media at Central Arizona College. She began photographing America’s abandoned landscape in 2008 as part of her Masters of Fine Arts thesis.

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