

# NEWSLETTER

September 2020

Doña Ana County Historical Society

## We Will Have A September Lecture -- Online Jim Eckles Will Talk About Trinity Site At 75

We are still in a defensive mode concerning the Covid-19 virus so the DACHS is still not holding its monthly meetings in person. However, on Sept. 24, we will present a talk at 7 p.m., given by Jim Eckles, that will be available to DACHS members and the public via Zoom and the internet.

Because 2020 is the 75th anniversary year for the first atomic bomb test just up the road at Trinity Site and the end of World War II, Eckles will be talking about some of the myths that have developed since the bomb test on July 16, 1945. He will also tell us things that the most well-read historian may not know about the site.

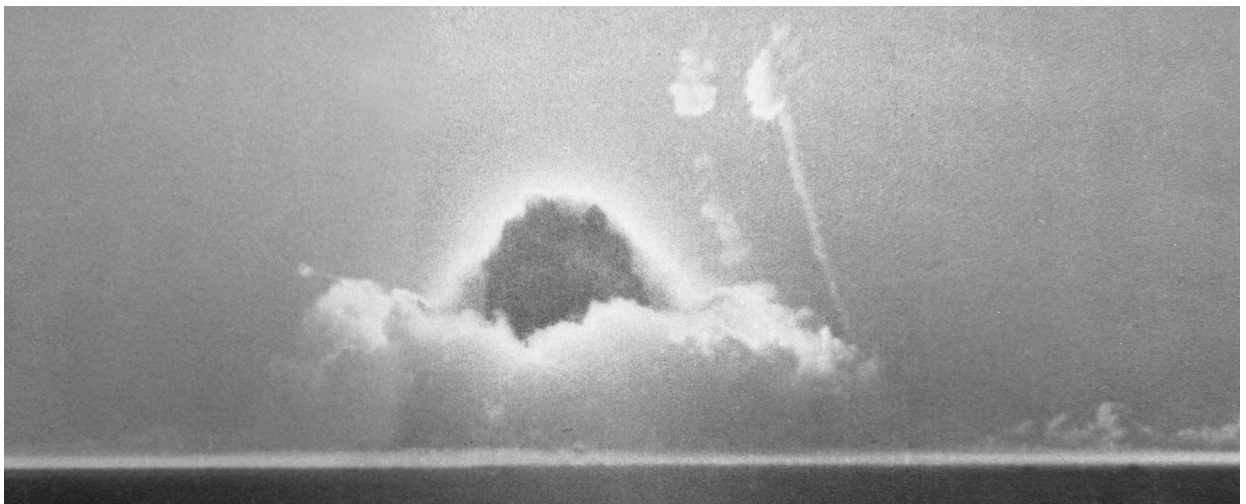
Digital technology is going to allow us to provide a live talk while you are comfortably seated at home and our speaker is at his home office desk. All it requires is that you have a device to connect to the internet. This can be a laptop or desktop computer, a tablet like an

iPad or Chromebook, and even your smart phone.

To make it work, 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. 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.

Non-members who wish to "attend" the meeting will have to request the meeting link by email at [19dachs63@gmail.com](mailto:19dachs63@gmail.com).

The plan is to send you a detailed email the week before the lecture. It will include more instructions on how to join the meeting, where to go to watch instructional videos, and the link to actually hook up on the 24th.



*This is the Trinity Site atomic bomb explosion from 75 years ago - July 16, 1945. It is only about 2-3 seconds after detonation. Tune into the Sept. 24 lecture by Jim Eckles to find out about those little puffs above the fireball, just to the right of center. What are they?*

# It Has Been A Busy Summer For Picacho Cemetery

Sally Kading and Bob Gamboa, the DACHS leads for our Picacho Cemetery Project, have had a busy summer. Pictured here you can see the plaque which will soon be permanently mounted at the cemetery's entrance.

Also, they and other volunteers, like Dave Moeller and Carol McIntyre, have been helping. Bob had the piles of sand and debris removed from the west edge. Sally and her husband have erected small, white wooden crosses to mark what appear to be obvious graves.

A nice story featuring Sally and Bob appeared in the August issue of *Picacho Living* magazine - we emailed everyone a PDF of the article back in August.

Although the magazine article and appeals to friends have generated some more donations through the GoFundMe site or directly to the DACHS, we are still a little short. The heavy metal plaque alone cost \$1,100 and the stone stand we will mount it on is going to be another \$400.

We hope to return the cemetery to Picacho by 2021 so there is still a chance to help out financially. To use the GoFundMe site just type GoFundMe/Sally Kading in your search engine and you'll get a link directly to the page. Also, you can make a donation with your credit card on the DACHS website. Make sure you label it as a cemetery donation.



## DACHS Vehicles Now Going To N.M. Historic Sites

The DACHS board of directors conducted a virtual board meeting in September and voted to donate the farm wagon and buggy to New Mexico's Historic Sites organization. There was talk of the wagon going to Fort Selden and the buggy to Lincoln.

In our Special Summer Issue #2, Dennis Daily outlined the history of the two vehicles - how the DACHS came to own them, how they were donated to the Dona Ana County Law Enforcement Museum in 1995, and why they were returned to us recently.

Since the DACHS has no permanent facilities of our own, it was a fairly easy decision to give the artifacts to a historical organization that preserves and educates. The two animal-drawn vehicles are currently being kept safe by Susan Krueger, pictured here in the buggy.

The New Mexico Historic Site system was established in 1931. In the ensuing years, 16 historic sites were designated. Over the years, five of the historic sites were transferred to the National Park Service and others were removed for one reason or another. Today, seven sites are active and open to the public.



# Help Us With Ideas For DACHS Awards In January

Even though the DACHS board of directors is unsure if we will have the annual awards banquet in January, the board agreed to go ahead and seek nominations so we can honor those people out there making a difference in the community. If there is a banquet, the awards can be presented there. If not, the board will make arrangements to make the awards in another way in January.

Susan Krueger has agreed to chair a committee to seek and organize nominations. She can be reached by email at: [skrueger575@msn.com](mailto:skrueger575@msn.com).

Details about the DACHS awards can be found on our website at: <http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org>. Go down the left side of the page and there will be a link to the “award categories.”

There are people awards that include the Hall of Fame and the Heritage Award. There are awards for

authors who have a significant historical publication about southern New Mexico or who are recognized for their article in the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. Then there are a number of awards for buildings and places. The building awards are for endangered historical structures, for restorations, for buildings adhering to regional architecture and several other categories.

Also in this group is the “Old Timer’s Award” which is not for an old person. It is for a “cherished object, natural phenomenon, or cultural tradition.”

If you are interested in seeing who received these awards in the past, there is a link on the front page under Award Categories and Forms that says “Go Here.” It will take you to the lists.

If you have any suggestions for an award, please pass along the information to Susan.

## Articles Are Still Being Sought For 2021 Historical Review

The deadline for final submission of articles for the Southern New Mexico Historical Review isn’t until the end of October. That means there is still time to submit an item about some aspect of our history in the southern half of the state - we just need to know it is coming. Biography, local and family

histories, oral history, student papers and articles as well as book reviews and museum reviews will be considered. Small monetary awards are available for some pieces.

Contact Jim Eckles at: [nebraska1950@comcast.net](mailto:nebraska1950@comcast.net) for more information.

## There Is Now An Opening On The DACHS Board Of Directors

We are sad to announce that Sara Wagner, a longtime member of the DACHS, is leaving the community. She has served for years on the board of directors and her departure means there is an opening.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact our DACHS president Dennis Daily. He can be reached via

email at: [ddaily@nmsu.edu](mailto:ddaily@nmsu.edu). His phone number is 575-646-4756.

The position is as an at-large member with no set duties but an expectation to attend board meetings as a voting member and help when you can. You would stand election for the position at our upcoming annual election.

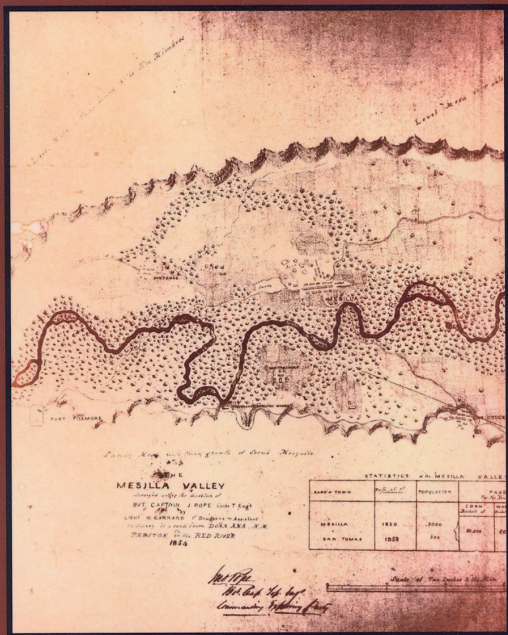


### Pat Garrett Hearse Finds New Home

In addition to the two vehicles returned to the DACHS by the closure of the Sheriff’s Museum, the hearse purchased by the Las Cruces Women’s Improvement Society in 1894 had to find a new home as well. The hearse bears Garrett’s name because it was used to carry his body to his grave after he was killed in 1908. The New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum accepted the hearse and it is shown here safely stored indoors.

The hearse was discovered and purchased by Cal Traylor, an active DACHS member for decades. He donated it in 2012.

SAGEBRUSH AND SAND DUNES  
An Anthology of Southern New Mexico History



Martha Shipman Andrews and Rick Hendricks, editors  
With an Introduction by Rick Hendricks

## DACHS Anthology Still Available

For you newer members of the DACHS and as a reminder to you old-timers, this anthology of articles from the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* during the period 1994 to 2012 is still available. It is \$15 and available on Amazon.

Martha Shipman edited the book and Rick Hendricks wrote the introduction for DACHS so the society is the publisher. Profits from sales on Amazon come back to DACHS.

The 274-page paperback was published in 2012. It contains 17 articles that were purposely selected to cover a broad range of topics.

The map on the cover is from 1854 and was created by the Army Corps of Engineers. West is at the top and Mesilla is almost in the center. Fort Filmore is over on the left edge and Las Cruces is on the right edge. Note how crooked the river is.

Christmas is coming.....

[www.donaanacountyhistoricalsoc.org](http://www.donaanacountyhistoricalsoc.org)

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