

NEWSLETTER

January 2023

Doña Ana County Historical Society

Reserve Your Place At The Annual Awards Banquet

Please join us at **noon on Jan. 28** at the Double Eagle in Mesilla to honor those who are making a difference in preserving and promoting our local history. It is the annual Doña Ana County Historical Society's awards banquet. In addition it is an opportunity to meet with other members and swap stories.

Here are the awards in the order they will be presented - immediately following the presentation of the Pasajero del Camino Real Award, Crow and Karla will perform a few songs from the album:

- *Gemoets Prize - Mike Jacoboice for his article on handshakes back to the Wild West.
- *Hall of Fame – Darren Court, White Sands Missile Range Museum Director, the man behind the new WSMR museum exhibits.
- *Heritage Award - the DACHS committee that rewrote the scholarship/grants require-

ments - Luis Rios, Jerry Wallace, Jose Aranda and Heather Reed.

- *Noteworthy Renovation - Cliff Schlothauer for 233 and 225 South San Pedro St.
- *Old Timers Award - Tortugas Mountain.
- *Pasajero del Camino Real Award - Dan Crow for his album of songs about SW history.

TO ATTEND, WE NEED YOUR RESERVATION BEFORE JAN. 25. You can clip, fill out the form below and mail it in with your check OR you can call in your reservation to Susan Krueger at 575-525-0654 and then pay at the door. If no one picks up at Susan's, leave your information. The cost is \$25 per person.

****Note that if you decide to pay at the door, this is a buffet so the DACHS is on the hook to pay for the number of reservations made - whether you attend or not.**

Doña Ana County Historical Society's Annual Awards Luncheon
Saturday, January 28, 2023, Double Eagle Restaurant

Seating for the Annual Awards Luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the buffet lunch served at 12. The cost is \$25 per person payable in advance or at the door. Note the form below includes spaces to list all your guests. You may print this form, fill it in and mail it to Susan c/o DACHS; P.O. Box 16045; Las Cruces, NM 88004. Be sure it gets to the PO Box by Jan. 25.

Menu = green chile cheese enchiladas, beans & rice, tossed salad, ice tea and coffee

RESERVATION FORM DUE BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023

Name _____ Name _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

\$25 per person TOTAL enclosed \$ _____ Will pay at the door

DACHS Gives Up Ownership Of Picacho Cemetery

In December, 2022 DACHS President Dennis Daily turned in the warranty deed for the old Picacho Village cemetery to the Doña Ana County Clerk's office thus ending the historical society's 5-year ownership of the cemetery. The property now belongs to the DiMatteo Family which has promised to watch over and maintain the property.

The DiMatteo family has a stake in the cemetery as the only remaining headstones belong to graves of family members. Organizations such as the Knights of Columbus have pledged to help keep the grounds free of invading weeds and brush.

The Doña Ana County Historical Society purchased the cemetery in December 2017 for \$500 in back taxes. Sally Kading, DACHS historian at the time, brought the cemetery to the group's attention because it was covered in brush, people were dumping debris on its edges and it was totally unprotected.

Once the property was procured, Kading, helped by Bob Gamboa, led an effort to clean up the grounds and then build barriers on the boundaries to limit entry to pedestrians only. She also led a research effort to identify as many graves as possible. The earliest grave is from the 1860s. The result was a plaque that has been erected at the cemetery's entrance listing 34 known burials. Locals claim there may be as many as 200 interments.

To get an idea about the number of graves, Kading enlisted the help of CSTI, Inc. This company volunteered to use their ground penetrating radar to go over the grounds. In their two reports they conclude that there are many burials on the property the DACHS owned and the adjoining lot to the south. All of this research is being given to the NMSU Archives for storage and anyone's use.

Because of this community service project, the DACHS was awarded the L. Bradford Prince Award by the Historical Society of New Mexico. The award is given to recognize significant work in the field of historic preservation in New Mexico.

Special Award Given Years Ago

On January 27, 1987, at the 20th Annual Awards Banquet, the DACHS 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."

The three were Francisca F. Apodaca, Santiago "Jimmy" Brito, and Emma Narvaez. In a nice touch, the society stated the three individuals were to be known as Los Tesoros Vivos, Living Treasures of the Mesilla Valley.

This kind of information can be found in Madeleine Vessel's history of DACHS at our website.

Work Progresses At The Amador Hotel - Update From Deb Dennis

I don't know if you have driven passed the Amador lately but I encourage you to do so if you haven't seen the newly installed windows. Following discussions with the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, the building is being restored to its appearance in the mid-1930s. This includes the nubly white lime plaster and blue windows. When we removed paint chips last year, we couldn't tell if the color was dark blue, dark brown or black. The color was identified following months of archival research and laboratory tests on paint chips taken from the original windows.

The current blue paint matches the results of the

chemical analysis. Once all the windows are installed, they will be boarded up with thick plywood to protect them as work moves to the south elevation. Historic photos will be placed over sheets of plywood so people passing the Amador will see something more interesting than plywood.



DACHS Membership Form

Please renew OR sign me up for the Doña Ana County Historical Society. Memberships are active for the calendar year of enrollment and fees are deductible within legal limits for Federal and State income tax purposes. If you are unsure of your status or have questions regarding membership, please contact Susan Krueger, at 575 525-0654.

Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates

Individual \$25 Family \$30 Student \$10 Contributor \$40
Benefactor \$150 Life \$300

Donations

In addition, I would like to make a donation in the amount of \$ _____

Please specify use for your donation _____

Is this a change of information? Yes No A check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Date _____ Check # _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone # _____

You will automatically receive the *Monthly Newsletter* in your email as a PDF. Would you also like a paper, printed copy mailed later to the above postal address? Yes No

Your membership includes a copy of the annual *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*(SNMHR). In addition to a printed copy, you can download copies of the whole document or individual articles from the DACHS website.

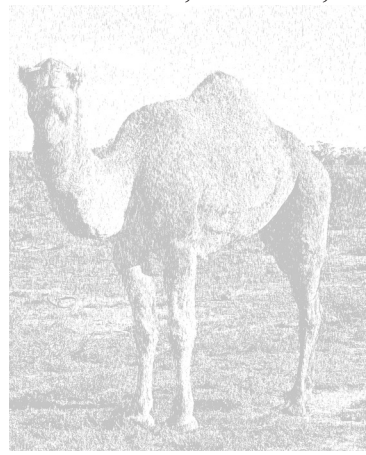
***Review* copies are first made available @ the awards banquet. They will also be available at the regular February presentation. We mail to non-locals & non-attendees.**

The Back Page -----

Editor's Note: Mike Jackoboice will receive the Gemoets Prize for his article about linking to the Wild West via handshakes. In some of the information he provided about himself was this paragraph about camels in the Southwest. Not all of it made it into the banquet program. Here it is in its entirety.

Mike's article doesn't include his family's connection with a colorful chapter of Western history. Shake his hand and connect to his 1st cousin Enon Lanfear and the wild desert camels of the Southwest (three generations back). A Smithsonian Magazine article in 2015 described the U.S. Army's 1856-57 importation of 75 camels to Camp Verde, Texas for desert freighting (another source lists 70 Arabian and four Bactrian camels). For example, "Small pack trains were deployed to El Paso and Fort Bowie..." By 1866 the Army auctioned off all of the cam-

els. Texas lawyer Bethel Coopwood bought 32 for freighting, and Perryville resident Enon Lanfear joined the venture. For three years the camels carried mail and more between San Antonio, Laredo, Brownsville and Mexico City. Eventually, Coopwood sold camels to traveling circuses and others. These owners, over time, lost and released camels



into the desert. *Smithsonian Magazine* recorded, "A young Douglas MacArthur, living in New Mexico in 1885, heard about a wild camel wandering near Fort Selden." Camels can live up to 50 years, which explains other sightings into the 1900s.

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