



NEWSLETTER

February 2016

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dr. Susan Krueger

Let me share with you highlights of DACHS activities in 2015 and the overflow into 2016.
Susan Krueger

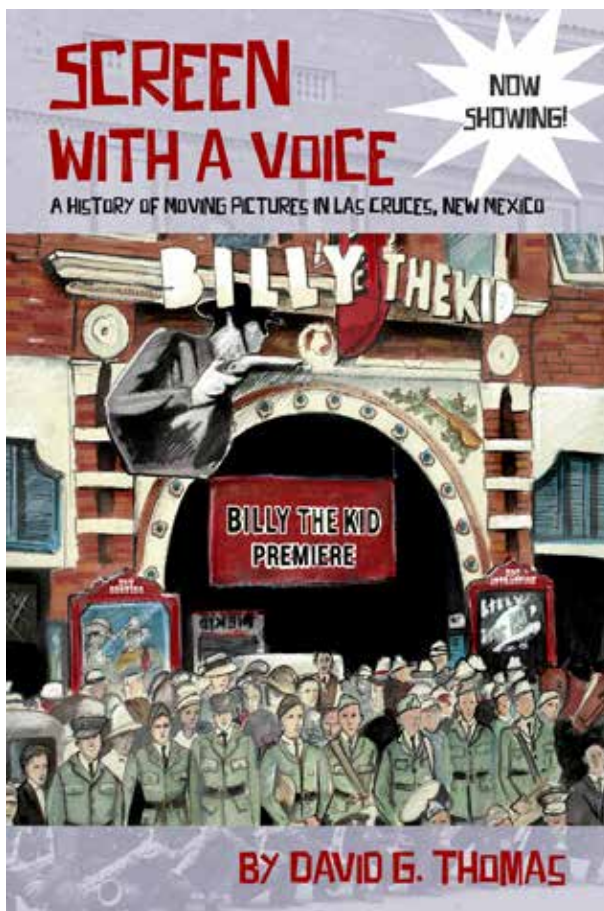
SCHOLARSHIPS

The Board awarded two scholarships to Paul Ward to support his travels throughout the Southwest conducting research for his Masters' thesis on the life and beliefs of New Mexican Lorenzo Torrez. Then in November, Paul presented his thesis findings at a DACHS membership meeting. The Board began reviewing a third scholarship request submitted by Andy Russell seeking matching funds for a National Park Service Grant to study the confinement of Japanese Americans in New Mexico during WWII. The Scholarship Committee will complete the review early in 2016.

FIELD TRIP

Jim Eckles laid the groundwork for a Society field trip in mid- October to the Hembrillo Battlefield located on White Sands Missile Range with an advisory that the timing of the trip would depend on the condition of the mining road and the Missile Range's schedule. Karl Laumbach, a Principal Investigator for Human Systems Research Inc. and an expert on the Battle at Hembrillo, spoke to the membership at the October meeting in preparation for the trip. However, scheduling at the Missile Range cancelled the October date. Not to be deterred, Jim rescheduled the trip to mid-February, 2016.

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Book cover for "Screen with a Voice A History of Moving Pictures in Las Cruces, New Mexico"

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Our presenter at the February 18, membership meeting is David G. Thomas. He will speak about the recently published third book in his Mesilla Valley History Series, *Screen with a Voice A History of Moving Pictures in Las Cruces, New Mexico*. To draw in prospective readers, the back cover provides questions to be answered in the book and a list of events and stories that will accompany the questions:

"The first projected moving pictures were shown in Las Cruces 110 years ago. Who exhibited those movies? What movies were shown? Since projected movies were invented in 1896,

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Presentation from page 1

why did it take ten years for the first movie exhibition to reach Las Cruces? Who opened the first theater in town? Where was it located? These questions began the history of moving pictures in Las Cruces and they are answered in this book.” The back cover continues, describing the photos and illustrations that supplement the history, including aerial photos of drive-in theaters and never-before-published photos of the shooting of Clint Eastwood’s movie HANG ‘EM HIGH. ■

David G. Thomas Brief BIO

David is an accomplished writer known for his exceptional research and an engaging speaker. He received the Society’s Pasajero Del Camino Real Award in 2015 for the first two books in his Mesilla Valley History Series: *La Posta, From the Founding of Mesilla to Corn Exchange to Billy the Kid Museum to Famous Landmark* and *Giovanni Maria de Agostini: Wonder of the Century, Astonishing World Traveler Who was a Hermit*. David is also the author of lascrucesblog.com where he posts notes on



David G. Thomas

his ongoing historical research. He is the founder of WindowDOS Associates, co-founder of Friends of Pat Garrett, a filmmaker, screenwriter, historian, and travel writer. ■

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PRESENTATIONS

Alex Mares began the 2015 program schedule with a selection of traditional winter Dine and Pueblo stories, providing examples of how to live a life of balance and beauty.

Nathan Stone, Manager of the Fort Selden Historic Site, spoke to the membership on the Management Plan for the Fort and how the DACHS membership can become involved. Saving Fort Selden was the immediate goal of those present on September 26, 1963, at the first informal gathering of what was to become the DACHS. Madeleine Vessel’s book *Dona Ana County Historical Society 1963-1994* provides the details of the Society’s work through 1994, and is on line at the DACHS website.

Jim Eckles talked about the 70th anniversary of the world’s first atomic bomb explosion at Trinity Site, including unpublished photos and several pieces of Trinitite, the glass created in the explosion’s fireball.

Dr. Peter Kopp, NMSU history professor, and a team of researchers from NMSU’s history department and museum studies program, presented on the Murals of Las Cruces Project the old fashioned way, speaking to the audience directly without a power point or pictures.

Bill Godby, an archaeologist and cultural resource manager at White Sands Missile Range, gave an overview to the membership on his project to develop historic contexts for the interpretation and evaluation of the Cold War era resources remaining at the Missile Range.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

On January 30, 2016, Jon Hunner will begin a two year term as President and Susan Krueger will begin a two year term as Past President. Board members to be installed on January 30, include Kimberly Miller

as Vice President, Sally Kading as Historian and Sara Wagner and George Helfrich as At-Large Board Members.

A new name appearing in the Board Members box on the back page of each newsletter is Keith Whelpley, Editor of the Southern New Mexico Historical Review. We thank Keith for his contribution and Doyle for the typography. Thanks also go to Susan and Jim who teamed up to produce the 2016 Annual Awards Program booklet.

SCHEDULE OF 2016 SPRING PROGRAMS

As promised in the January newsletter here is the list of spring programs matched up to the Membership Meeting dates.

February 18: David Thomas will introduce us to his just published book *Screen with a Voice, A History of Moving Pictures in Las Cruces, New Mexico.*

March 17: Jim Eckles will talk about how the atomic age and the space age started right here in our backyard.

April 21: Rick Hendricks, New Mexico State Historian, will present a topic of his choosing, relevant to the history of southern NM.

May 19: Sarah Stanley will present on the Chope family and heritage preservation through food.

After May, we break for the summer and begin again in September.

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held in the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

I end my Newsletter contributions as President with this article, and turn over future contributions to Jon and Kimberly. It has been great fun, if somewhat pressured at times; and know that none of it would have happened without Doyle to whom I am so very thankful. ■



The Presidents - Outgoing Past President Marcie Palmer, New President Jon Hunner and Past President Susan Krueger.

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Doña Ana County Historical Society, P. O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004-6045

DACHS Membership Form

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

Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates

Individual \$20 Family \$25 Student \$8 Contributor \$40 Benefactor \$150 Life \$300
Southern New Mexico Historical Review Sponsorship \$50

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

Name(s) _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____ Newsletter via E-mail Yes No

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

The Doña Ana County Historical Society held their annual Awards Luncheon on Saturday, January 30, 2016. The luncheon was held at the historic Double Eagle Restaurant on the plaza in old Mesilla.

The guest speaker was Buddy Ritter, the owner of the Double Eagle reciting some of the many stories from his book, *“Mesilla Comes Alive: A History of Mesilla and its Valley”*



Groundhog Day



Happy Groundhog Day

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