



NEWSLETTER

January 2009

Doña Ana County Historical Society

President's Comments

This is a time of year to both look back and to look forward. Last year was not unlike other years in that we had a number of interesting speakers culminating with Dr. Gerald Thomas's account of his experiences as a pilot during WW-II. We had some enjoyable and informative field trips both to WSMR and the picnic to the Cuevas where Mr. Frank Parrish gave an interesting account of the history of that area. While several of our members have passed away or moved to new locations and will be missed, we have gained some new members. Rick Hendricks produced another outstanding Review and Marcie Palmer and Donna Eichstaedt, of the Awards Committee, contributed to another great Banquet. Ms. Frankie Miller, our first recipient of the Mary and J. Paul Taylor Scholarship, presented an interesting report on her research, has contributed to our next issue of the Review and has joined our Board as chair of the Education Committee to replace Leslie Bergloff who did such a great job of organizing the Society's scholarship and grants program last year. Karen George continues to maintain our records as Historian, and provides responses to the inquiries received from the public. Your Board members have been busy preparing for our next Annual Banquet and Awards Program scheduled for Jan. 17th. Mr. Doyle Piland is producing a very fine newsletter with proof reading and corrections (of my grammar and spelling) by Lorraine Southward. Mary Lou Pendergrass continues to manage our very excellent website. I have often relied on our past presidents, Roger Rothenmaier and Chuck Murrell, and members Buddy Ritter and Felix Pfaeffle for support and advice. Our finances and membership records, now handled by Xandy Church, are being attended to far better than I

ever managed. I am truly thankful for the outstanding job that all of the Board members have done over the last year and the support that our membership has shown. The newly elected board members will provide new energy and fresh ideas and we look forward to 2009 and welcome any suggestions related to desired programs/speakers, new projects, contributions to the Review and support of the Scholarship Endowment. ■



**Meet our new Vice President,
George Hackler**

George is a native of Las Cruces, New Mexico in the Mesilla Valley of the Rio Grande River. He graduated from New Mexico State University with a double major in physics and mathematics. His career included rocket flight determination, heavy construction, and designing and construction of rocket propulsion test facilities.

His interest in Southwest history began at a very early age. His grandfather, Riburn Hackler, was a Tennessee railroad engineer who wanted

See George Hackler on page 2

George Hackler from page 1

to be a cowboy and gave up a secure job to come west to Las Cruces in 1922. He cleared a farm out of the rough gravel hills on the west side of the river below Hatch. There was an Indian campsite and burial ground above the farm on a bluff overlooking the river. There, as a child, he spent endless hours searching for arrow points and potsherds, trying to visualize the lives and times of the people buried there. His other grandfather, George Cross, also came to the valley in 1922 where he worked on a steam-driven dragline bigger than the boarding house he lived in. The dragline was used to channel the river and dig drain ditches; it was later used to dredge for gold at Golddust near Hillsboro. It was from both grandfathers that he learned to harness and work draft horses and mules. It was during his stays on the farms and ranches that he learned what happens to a wagon when you turn a team too short and when a contrary mule steps over the tongue and tangles the traces. These experiences fueled his wonder and appreciation for the pioneers who opened transportation across the the far West. ■

Summary Financial Report

	10/07	10/08
Checking		
Account Bal.	\$9,273.00	\$10,662.00
CD	\$7,357.00	\$ 7,688.00
Endowment	\$0.00	\$ 3,843.00
Total Assets	\$16,630.00	\$21,193.00

Details regarding the DACHS financial records may be obtained by contacting Xandy Church at 526-9774.

Calendar

• Saturday, January 17, 2009 Annual DACHS Banquet and Awards Presentation. Hotel Encanto, 5:30 p.m., Call Xandy Church for reservations.

• Thursday, February 19, 2009 @ 7:00pm Leslie Bergloff: *A Magoffin Family Album*

• All meetings of the Society are normally at 7:00pm on the third Thursday of the months of Feb. - May and Sept - Nov. in the Good Samaritan Auditorium at 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

BANQUET PROGRAM

The program this year will begin with the usual social hour and silent auction followed by dinner. After dinner entertainment will feature *A Broadway Review* presented by *Showtune Showcase*, a group led by Janet Mazdra and joined by Bob Diven, Megan McQueen, Dave Edwards and Josh Shakra. A video presentation featuring this year’s awards will follow after which the results of the silent auction will be announced.

AWARDS

The Pasajero del Camino Real award:
Paula Moore’s book *Cricket in the Web*

Architectural Awards:
Building Adhering to Regional Architecture:
The new Preston Gallery in Mesilla.

Building Worthy of Preservation:
The old CCC building on Melendres

Noteworthy Rehabilitation:
The Linda and Greg Gendall Home on Reymond

Old Timers Award:
The old green Pratt truss steel bridge now at Farm & Ranch

Homes and Buildings of Historical Significance:
To be announced

People Award Recipients:
Hall of Fame Award:
Charlotte Priestley

Heritage Award:
Tony Pennock

SNMHR Writing Awards:
The Gemoets Prize for the Best article in the 2009 SNMHR:
Christopher Schurtz and Cameron Saffell for their article, *“Shalam Colony: Dream in the Desert.”*

DACHS Authors Invitation

Any DACHS member that has written a book is invited to display copies of their work on a hall table outside of the ballroom. If you wish to participate in this endeavor, please contact Xandy Church at 526-9774 by January 10, 2009 so that appropriate space can be provided and details can be discussed. The authors will be responsible for display and sales of their own books. ■

Silent Auction

Items for the silent auction are still needed and it is not too late to help support this important fund-raising activity of our Society. Please call Roger at 521-7531 or Chuck at 521-7833 to make arrangements for pick-up or drop-off. ■

Scholarship Endowment Donors

The Society and the Education Committee wish to thank the following donors to the *Mary and J. Paul Taylor Scholarship Endowment Fund*. This scholarship, for \$1,200, is given annually to a NMSU History student.

- Lee Aguilar
- Chris Buethe
- Robert & Xandra Church
- Gary & Nancy Goodger
- George & Alice Helfrich
- Alex Keatts
- Roger & Celine Rothenmaier
- Morris & Lorraine Southward
- J. Paul Taylor
- The Johnson Controls Foundation.
- DACHS ■

Board Election Results

All members nominated were unanimously elected by the full membership at the regular November 20, 2009 meeting. The election results were as follows:

- Vice President George Hackler
- Secretary Judy Vaughn
- Treasurer Xandy Church*
- Historian Karen George*
- At Large Donna Eichstaedt, Marcie Palmer,*
Martha Shipman Andrews,
Mary Lou Pendergrass, Jim Eckles

* Reelected

George Helfrich (President) and Buddy Ritter (At Large) will be serving the second year of their two-year terms. ■

Amador Museum Foundation

The Amador Museum Foundation is responsible for enlisting several focus groups to meet with the Architect and Museum Planning team to discuss the public concerns, expectations and vision for the Amador History Museum. The Doña Ana County Historical Society has been requested to participate in this effort. If you are interested in attending a meeting for this purpose in early March, please contact Chuck Murrell at 521-7833 or George Helfrich at 522-3477. ■

-----Cut along dotted line-----

DACHS Membership Form

Please renew/enroll my/our membership in the Doña Ana County Historical Society

A check for \$ _____ is enclosed. Date _____ Check # _____

Name(s) _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Newsletter via E-mail Yes No

DACHS Membership Fees

Individual	\$20	Student	\$8	Benefactor	\$150
Family	\$25	Contributor	\$40	Life	\$300

Memberships are active for the calendar year of enrollment. Membership in the Society is 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 Treasurer, Xandy Church at 526-9774 or George Helfrich at 522-3477

We Welcome These
New Members
Don & Birgitta Finke
and
Robert Macklin, below



Did You Know?

On July 9, 1945, Lt Col Harold Turner established then, White Sands Proving Ground, now White Sands Missile Range, and became its first Commander.

We wish to thank our
Corporate Sponsors

Bank of the Rio Grande
Double Eagle Restaurant
Insta-Copy

Since there were no buildings at White Sands Proving Ground, Lt Col Turner was temporarily living at the Amador Hotel in Las Cruces. Then, at 5:29:45 AM on July 16, 1945, while Lt Col Turner was sleeping at the Amador, the world's first Atomic Bomb was detonated on the northern end of his Proving Ground – without his knowledge. And that was only the first week of the White Sands Proving Ground/ Missile Range History. ■



Above, Dr. Gerald Thomas delivering his presentation titled *A Cockpit View of WW-II* at our 20 November meeting. Dr. Thomas's presentation was very interesting and informative. After the meeting, Dr. Thomas's book, *Victory in World War II, the New Mexico Story*, was available for purchase. ■

2009 Board Members
President: George Helfrich
Past President: Roger Rothenmaier
Vice President: George Hackler
Secretary: Judy Vaughn
Treasurer: Andy Church
Historian: Karen George
A-Large Board Members:
Donna Eichstaedt
Marcie Palmer
C.W. "Buddy" Ritter
Martha Shipman Andrews
Mary Lou Pendergrass
Jim Eckles
Publicity: Lorraine Southward
Website: Mary Lou Pendergrass
Newsletter Editor: Doyle Piland
SNMHR Editor: Rick Hendricks
BCC Liaison: Garland Courts
www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org



**DOÑA ANA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 42nd ANNUAL BANQUET
JANUARY 17, 2009 * 5:30-9PM
HOTEL ENCANTO DE LAS CRUCES
(formerly the Las Cruces Hilton)**

BANQUET PROGRAM

The program this year will begin with the usual social hour and silent auction followed by dinner. After dinner entertainment will feature A Broadway Review presented by Showtune Showcase, a group led by Janet Mazdra and joined by Bob Diven, Megan McQueen, Dave Edwards and Josh Shakra. A video presentation featuring this year's awards will follow after which the results of the silent auction will be announced.

AWARDS

Building Worthy of Preservation
Building Adhering to Regional
Architecture
Noteworthy Restoration
An Endangered Building with a
Noteworthy History
Old Timers Award
Pasajero del Camino Real
Hall of Fame
Heritage Award

SOCIAL HOUR

Join us from 5:30-6:30pm for the social hour. Enjoy new and old friendships, Meet special guests and make a bid on items in the silent auction.

SILENT AUCTION

During the social hour, bid on silent auction items, such as books (old & new); prints & paintings, antiques, pottery, textiles, glassware & collectables.

BANQUET MENU

Salmon or Chicken
(Vegetable, a rice dish, salad, rolls, dessert,
Ice Tea and Coffee).

DACHS PUBLICATIONS

Vol. XVI of Southern New Mexico
Historical Review will be available. Copies are free to DACHS members.

****WE STILL NEED DONATED ITEMS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION!***

Please call Roger 521-7531, Chuck 521-7833 or George 522-3477 to make arrangements for pick-up or drop-off. The Silent Auction is the Society's major fund raising project to help fund the Banquet and awards program.

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL BANQUET AND AWARDS INFORMATION
AND
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER**

PLEASE take time before the holiday and travel plans take over your normal activities, and make reservations for the Annual Banquet, renew your membership, donate no longer needed objects to the Silent Auction and support the Mary and J. Paul Taylor Scholarship Endowment Fund. Membership dues, donated items and donations to the scholarship fund are all tax deductible.

This mailing is in place of the monthly newsletter. There will be a newsletter at the beginning of January.

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 42nd ANNUAL BANQUET
JANUARY 17, 2009 * 5:30-9PM
HOTEL ENCANTO DE LAS CRUCES
(formerly the Las Cruces Hilton)**

RESERVATION FORM

Please check one entrée per person:

Grilled Salmon _____ Chicken Supreme _____

(Menu includes: a fresh vegetable, salad, rolls, dessert, Ice Tea & Coffee)

Name _____ Name _____ Name _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ State _____ Phone _____

Reservations: **Members \$32.00** How many? _____ **Non-Members \$35.00** How many? _____
Total Enclosed _____

Total Enclosed

(Mail banquet reservation form & check to Treasurer, Xandy Church % Doña Ana County Historical Society, P.O. Box 16045 Las Cruces, NM 88004 by JANUARY 10, 2009. (2009 dues must be current for member prices to apply.) (Make checks payable to DACHS and membership can be included).

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I/We wish to join the Doña Ana County Historical Society. Membership in the Society is deductible within legal limits for Federal and State income tax purposes. Unsure of your dues status? Call Xandy Church — 526-9774

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP/SPONSOR RATES

Individual \$20.00 _____	Student \$8.00 _____
Family \$25.00 _____	Benefactor \$150.00 _____
Contributor \$40.00 _____	Life Member \$300.00 _____
SNMHR Sponsor \$50.00	

Name _____ Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

(Please make checks payable to DACHS and mail to Xandy Church, Doña Ana County Historical Society P.O. 16045 Las Cruces, NM 88004
