



# NEWSLETTER

September 2013

## DACHS Scholarship Chair Dr. Jon Hunner



Dr. Jon Hunner has taught in the History Department at NMSU since 1995. Jon has published several books, including most recently *Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the Cold War, and the Atomic West*. He is also active in preserving nearby history and local heritage through his research and writing and by serving on many boards and committees in New Mexico, nationally, and internationally. In particular, he has helped celebrate the centenary of New Mexico's statehood over the last year. Before he became a historian, he hung art in museums, drove art around the country, waited tables, and in 1976, he juggled from Santa Fe to Albuquerque for the NM Arthritis Foundation. ■

## Our September Program

Our September 19th meeting will begin at 7:00 PM at the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

Dr. Jon Hunner and Dr. Peter A. Kopp will speak on "Doing Public History at NMSU." Their talk will be about new directions in their public history program, including recent digital history projects and a push to better internationalize. Highlights will include a discussion of the international Bridging Ages Conference that they hosted this spring, and an overview of their new involvement with a digital history project called Next Exit History. They'll also provide updates on their graduate students and the projects they are working on, as well as discussing the new museum studies and cultural resource management graduate certificates now offered.



Dr. Peter A. Kopp

Peter A. Kopp is an historian of the American West. His specific interests reside in the history of agriculture, labor, science, and tourism—all themes addressed in his book project, called *Hop-*

*topia: Agriculture, Beer, and Place in Oregon's Willamette Valley*. As director of the Public History Program at NMSU, Kopp is committed to training the next generation of public historians for a variety of settings and broadening connections between the university and the community. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Nevada in 2012. ■

# Road Trip: Jornada del Muerto

By: Susan Krueger

On May 18, 2013, an enthusiastic group of DACHS members with water bottles and lunch in tow gathered at the car pool location and headed out just after 9 a.m. on a tour of a portion of the historic Jornada del Muerto, which is a section of the historic El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro.

Our first stop was the Village of Dona Ana. The highlight here was the De La O Saloon (circa 1845), situated along the original El Camino Real. The building was recognized by the DACHS in 2010 as a historically significant, endangered building worthy of preservation.

The restoration project, funded by a million dollar capital outlay appropriation secured by then Senator Mary Jane Garcia, was completed in 2012.

The Saloon and two adjacent buildings, now functioning as a community center/museum, were again recognized by the DACHS in 2012, now as a Noteworthy Restoration.

Out next venture on the tour was a side trip to Paraje San Diego, a stopping off place, a camp site, adja-



The Jornada del Muerto tour group at the Point of Rocks Trailhead Kiosk. Tour leader, Mary Kay Shannon sits in the middle holding the FAT Boys book, *On the Road with the FAT Boys: Jornada del Muerto*.

Photo courtesy: Bob Gamboa

cent to Tonuco Mountain at the head of an arroyo, now with cattle holding pens.

Then off we went to the Point of Rocks Trail Head. We walked up the half mile loop to the top of a rock outcropping that once served as a landmark for this

waterless stretch of the Camino Real appropriately named the Jornada del Muerto, the Dead Man's Journey. For caravans moving south from Santa Fe, this landmark signaled there was water ten miles ahead. There are interpretive signs along the trail and a panoramic view of this part of the Jornada with a hint of what travel might have been in the 1590's. We returned to the kiosk for lunch with fruit for dessert and lots of chatting.

The tour included special sights in every direction, lots of history and perfect camaraderie. Our many thanks to the tour leaders: Eric Fuller, Daniel D. Aranda and Emilio Tapia and Mary Kay Shannon, all members of the FAT Boys Historical Research Group (Eric Fuller, Dan Aranda, Emilio Tapia, and Mary Kay Shannon) and authors of *On the Road with the FAT Boys: Jornada del Muerto*. ■



Part of the Jornada del Muerto tour group, including Eric Fuller's Dog Ruby, at one of the Interpretive Signs along the trail to the Point of Rocks.

Photo courtesy: Bob Gamboa



## Fall Programs Announced

The Historical Society will begin its fall program series on Thursday, September 19, 2013. Dr. Jon Hunner, Head of the Department of History at New Mexico State University and Chair of the DACHS's scholarship committee, will be joined by Dr. Peter A. Kopp, Director of NMSU's Public History Program. They will speak on "Doing Public History at NMSU."

Other fall programs include "Range Tales, 1945 to 1959" presented by Jim Eckles, a DACHS At-Large Board Member, describing the "golden" days of White Sands Missile Range.

Bill Cavaliere, who gave our April program on early border settlers, will return with a choice of programs, either on the history of the Sheriff's Department with emphasis on the US/Mexican Border region; or on the surrenders of Geronimo, first, in March 1886, to General George Crook in Mexico, and, finally, in September 1886, to General Nelson Miles in Skeleton Canyon, Arizona. The surrender negotiations are illustrated with a series of remarkable photographs. ■

## Billy the Kid Makes the News Again

By: Susan Krueger

The headline article in the Las Cruces Sun News, on Sunday, August 18, 2013, proposed a "historic

find:" a new photograph of Billy the Kid made from a tintype. It has long been thought that Billy the Kid was one member of this two person photograph; however the thought had never been thoroughly investigated until recently.

The owner of the tintype, who wishes to remain anonymous, asked Frank H. Parrish to use his expertise in photography and New Mexico history and his research in Billy the Kid memorabilia to authenticate the identity of the two people in the photograph. You may recall Frank as the Society's presenter in September 2012, updating the status of the Billy the Kid collection once housed in the George Griggs Museum.

The results of his investigation brought Frank to positively identify, both, the image of Dan Dedrick, a good friend of Billy's, and the image of Billy the Kid as the two people in the tintype photograph.

If someone without any particular expertise looks at the universally recognized image of Billy Kid in a classic outlaw pose side by side with the tintype image, subtracts a few years from the outlaw, removes his hat, closes his mouth, trims his hair and adds a clean white shirt and suit, then perhaps an image of a younger Billy the Kid does begin to emerge.

In the article, Frank welcomes additional research from other experts challenging and supporting his findings. Further, he is quoted as saying that: "The full story of the research and evidence leading to the ultimate identification of Dedrick is a fascinating tale to be told at a later date." Maybe, when that tale is ready to be told, the DAC Historical Society will be the venue. ■

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

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

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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 Treasurer, Rebecca Slaughter, at 575-541-2154 (during business hours) or the President, Marcie Palmer, at 575-496-4736.

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David Soules

When we last met back in May, David Soules, who was our speaker at our March meeting, returned for Part II of his Historic Archaeological presentation.

David started his presentation with a tutorial on the Google Earth software he uses to do some of his re-

search and documentation. He did this because many people requested that he do that because they were so intrigued by the things he showed at the March meeting.

David showed photos of several archaeological sites to include one of Billy the Kid's hideouts. He showed several heliograph sites and their relationship to each other so there was line-of-sight between them. He explained how these heliograph sites were used as a communication network to report movement and locations of troublesome Indian groups. The heliograph sites used mirrors and the sun to communicate between sites, finally ending up at Forts for possible action. ■

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