46th Annual Banquet
Picacho Country Club, Las Cruces
Saturday, January 26, 2013
The Doña Ana County Historical Society was founded in 1963 to encourage and foster a better understanding of the County’s far reaching history for future generations. Emphasizing research, education, and preservation, the society encourages a greater appreciation of New Mexico history, especially that of Doña Ana County.

**Founding Members**
John Atshool, Betty Bowen, Helen Caffey, Laiten Camien, Martin Campbell, Ira Clark, Adlai Feather, Louis Freudenthal, Dorothy Mechem, Hugh Milton, Thomas Mitman, Helen Shomer, David Streeter, J. Paul Taylor, and Mark Thompson
46th Annual Banquet
Doña Ana County Historical Society
January 26, 2013

Luncheon

Master of Ceremonies ......................... Scott Green, Driver
Butterfield Overland Stage

Welcome ........................................ Marcie Palmer, President

Introduction of Officers and Board Members

Recognition of our Past Presidents ........ Susan Krueger, Vice President

Butterfield Overland Trail ....................... Gretchen Ward,
National Park Service
National Trails Intermountain Region

Award Presentations

Property of Historical Significance,
Endangered Historic Property, and
Property Worthy of Preservation .................. Butterfield Trail

Old Timer Award ............................... Picacho Peak

Heritage Award ................................. George Hackler
Cal Traylor

Hall of Fame ................................. Sally Kading
Doña Ana County Historical Society
2013 Board

Marcie Palmer - President
Susan Krueger – Vice President
George Helfrich - Past President
Linda Galloway - Secretary
Xandy Church - Treasurer
Rebecca Slaughter – Historian

At-Large Board Members
Martha Shipman Andrews, Jim Eckles,
Doyle Piland, Buddy Ritter, Mary Kay Shannon, and Sara Wagner

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Southern New Mexico Historical Review:
Martha Shipman Andrews, Editor
Liaison to City Museums: Stephanie Long
Website: Mary Lou Pendergrass
Newsletter: Doyle Piland, Editor
Education/Scholarships: Jon Hunner
Publicity: Jim Eckles
Book Sales: Carl Eichstaedt, Sara Wagner

Awards: Susan Krueger, Stephanie Long, Marcie Palmer, Mary Lou Pendergrass, Rebecca Slaughter, and Mary Kay Shannon
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<th>Our Past Presidents</th>
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<td>*Louis E. Freudenthal</td>
<td>Oct 1963 – Nov 1964</td>
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<td>*George Adlai Feather</td>
<td>Nov 1964 – Nov 1965</td>
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<td>J. Paul Taylor</td>
<td>Nov 1965 – Nov 1996</td>
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<td>Feb 1977 – Mar 1979</td>
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<td>Calvin L. Traylor</td>
<td>Jan 1969 – Feb 1971</td>
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<td>1991 - 1993</td>
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<td>*Louise Garrett</td>
<td>Feb 1971 – Fall 1974</td>
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<td>*James McNeil</td>
<td>Fall 1974 – Feb 1977</td>
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<td>*Opal Lee Priestley</td>
<td>Mar 1979 – April 1981</td>
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<td>Austin Hoover</td>
<td>Apr 1981 – Oct 1983</td>
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<td>Jan – Dec 2004</td>
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<td>*Christine Myers</td>
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<td>*James H. Powell</td>
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<td>*Paxton Price</td>
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<td>Charles (Chuck) Miles</td>
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<td>Clarence Fielder</td>
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<td>Eva Jane (Janie) Matson</td>
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<td>Roger Walker</td>
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<td>Beverly Pirtle</td>
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<td>Robert L. (Bob) Hart</td>
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<td>*Donna Eichstaedt</td>
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<td>Roger Rotenmaier</td>
<td>2007 – Jun 2008</td>
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<td>George Helfrich</td>
<td>Jul 2008 – 2009</td>
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<td>George Hackler</td>
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* Deceased
The Butterfield Overland Trail

In 1857, the U.S. Congress contracted with John Butterfield to provide mail and passenger service, in 25 days or less, between St. Louis, Missouri to San Francisco, California. The contract stated that there would be two runs per week in each direction and there would be no exceptions for bad weather, breakdowns or hostile attacks.

Butterfield set a southern route to avoid harsh northern climates. Stations were established and spaced about 15 to 20 miles apart; water sources were secured; new roads were surveyed and old roads were improved. Supply bases and repair shops were set up. 1200 horses and 600 mules were procured and distributed along the route; contracts for hay and fodder were secured; coaches were built; and men were hired for a variety of tasks.
The first Butterfield mail coach left St. Louis on September 15, 1858 and arrived in San Francisco twenty-three days later. For two years, the Butterfield Trail connected the nation with regular mail delivery and passenger service. In 1861 as the country faced Civil War, operations ceased.

Company records, old maps, newspaper accounts journals, and diaries make it a Significant Historical Resource. Time, the elements, and man have destroyed almost all evidence of the Trail making it an Endangered Historic Resource. The Dona Ana County Historical Society commends the efforts of the National Historic Trails program and concur that the Butterfield Overland Trail is indeed Worthy of Preservation.
The conspicuous cone of Picacho Peak has long been a geographic landmark. It rises to an elevation of 4,954 feet and is connected by low ridges to the Robledo Mountains seven miles to the north.

The old village of Picacho, located on the southeastern slope of the peak (the side facing Las Cruces), was established around 1854 by settlers from La Mesilla lead by Juan Evangelisto Chavez. In 1854, Col. Joseph Mansfield included a hand-drawn map of the Mesilla Valley in his report on the condition of the Western Forts. It shows Picacho Peak and the military road. The road left Mesilla, stayed west of the Rio Grande, and passed through Picacho. The trail then traveled north, passing Picacho Peak on the east side before turning west through Box Canyon.

This is the route that the Butterfield Overland Mail Line followed. The Picacho relay station operated from 1857 to 1861. Here the horses were changed for mules for the arduous trip west past Cooke’s Peak. The last remains of the stage stop in Picacho were torn down in 1954.

Today a major thoroughfare, two schools, a gun club, a water association, a country club and golf course, residential development, and a BLM recreation area are all named for the prominent cone north west of Las Cruces. Picacho Peak is truly a cherished feature and an old time landmark in Doña Ana County.
Recent Recipients:
- 2004 Pecan Industry
- 2005 Gadsden Museum
- 2006 Rock Walls of Las Cruces
- 2007 Jardin de Mesquite Gateway
- 2008 Seed House & Story Tree
- 2009 Green Bridge
- 2010 Cotton Gins
- 2010 Olin Calk Roadrunner
- 2011 The City Hall Lions

Old Timers Award:
The Old Timer’s Award identifies a cherished object, natural phenomena or cultural tradition prominent in Mesilla Valley Heritage that deserves public attention and that might otherwise escape recognition as an important part of the character of this region.

The Heritage Award:
The Heritage Award was "established to be given to a person or persons whose actions or deeds have contributed to the historical or cultural heritage of Doña Ana County and who is (are) not an avocational or professional historian."

Recent Recipients:
- 2004 Jose Tena
- 2005 Veterans’ Wall researchers
- 2006 Irene Oliver Lewis & Sylvia Camunez
- 2007 Amador Museum Foundation
- 2008 LesLee Alexander
- 2009 Anthony Pennock
- 2010 Col. Gerald P. Schurtz (Ret.)
- 2011 Keith Humphries

Information on all of our awards and previous recipients has been posted to the Historical Society web site.
Heritage Award 2013:
George Hackler

Las Cruces native, George Hackler, graduated from New Mexico State University with a double major in physics and mathematics. His career included rocket flight determination, heavy construction, and design 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 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 camp site and burial ground above the farm on a bluff overlooking the river. As a child George spent endless hours at the farm 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. George learned to harness and work draft horses and mules from both grandfathers. During his stays on the farms and ranches he learned what happens to a wagon when the team is turned too short and when a contrary mule steps over the tongue and tangles the traces.

Author of The Butterfield Trail in New Mexico, George is an authority on the trail. He has visited and documented the sixteen sites in New Mexico and coordinated modern surveys in respect to those made by historians in the 1930s. The Pasajero del Camino Real Award was presented to George in 2006 for his book. It quickly went out of print and became highly collectable. Due to demand, a second printing is now available from Amazon. George is a past president and a life member of the Doña Ana County Historical Society.
Heritage Award 2013:
Cal Traylor

Cal Traylor is a lifelong New Mexican and history buff with a particular fondness for information related to the murder of Pat Garrett. Twenty years ago he began a search to find the hearse that carried Garrett to this grave in 1908.

In 1894 the Women’s Improvement Association purchased a hearse for Las Cruces. The new horse-drawn hearse sported glass windows, velvet curtains, and fancy carved molding on the corners. The hearse was in service until 1912. Traylor found the hearse in Piños Altos and after years of persistence finally purchased it in August 2012. He then donated it to the Doña Ana County Sheriff’s Department for permanent installation in the Historical Museum of Lawmen, located inside the lobby of the department's headquarters at 845 N. Motel Blvd. in Las Cruces.

"It was simply misplaced at its former location," said Traylor, whose research concluded the Women's Improvement Association sold the hearse to local rancher Hal Cox, who converted it to a trailer before selling it to Grant County resident and antique collector Frank Tatsch in 1935. Tatsch later restored the hearse and placed it in the Pinos Altos art museum. After Tatsch's death, his son sold the hearse to Traylor.

Traylor is a past president and life member of the Dona Ana County Historical Society. He was added to the Hall of Fame in 1987 He is now added to the recipients of the Heritage Award for his dedication in acquiring the WIA Hearse.
Doña Ana County Historical Society
Hall of Fame

1964  Elizabeth Fountain Armendariz
1965  Herbert Watts Yeo
1966  General Hugh M. Milton II
1967  Helen Pauline Caffey
1968  George Adlai Feather
1969  Katherine Dougherty Stoes
1970  Fabian Garcia
1971  William & Minnie Sutherland
1972  Hunter & Edith Lewis
1973  Louis E. Freudenthal
1974  Opal Lee Shore Priestly
1975  Harriett Hanson McGuire
1976  Edmund & Aileen Shannon
1977  The Day Sisters
1978  Keith Humphries
1979  Ira G. Clark, Jr.
1980  Eva Pendleton Henderson
1981  Margaret Page Hood
1982  The Cox Family
1983  Carmen Freudenthal
1984  Mary D. and J. Paul Taylor
1985  Herman Weiner
1986  Ilka Feather Minter
1987  Calvin Lee Taylor
1988  Leon Metz
1989  Lee & Christine Myers
1990  Michael R. Taylor
1991  Patrick Beckett
1992  Louis Ray Sadler
1993  Bradley Blake
1994  Jesse Scroggs
1995  Alice Wilbur Gruver
1996  Gerald W. Thomas
1997  William P. Stevens
1998  Archie Beckett
1999  Austin Hoover
2000  Gordon Owen
2001  Charles Miles
2002  Karl Laumbach
2003  Eva Jane Matson
2004  Bob Pick
2005  George Helfrich
2006  Jo Tice and John Porter Bloom
2007  Donna Eichstaedt
2008  Dr. Jon Hunner
2009  Charlotte Ann Priestley
2010  Marcie Palmer
2011  Allan Holmes
2012  not awarded

Hall of Fame Award: The Hall of Fame Award is designed to recognize individuals who are known for their exceptional contributions to the preservation of the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley. The contribution should be of a substantial nature and be evidenced by enduring and observable worth to the Doña Ana Historical Society and the community at large.
Hall of Fame 2013:
Sally Kading

For many years, Sally Kading has been volunteering at Thomas Branigan Memorial Library providing expert assistance in genealogy research. The library has copies of some church records from San Albino and St. Genevieve that had been partially transcribed and typed. Looking through the material, Kading immediately saw the value, but knew that more was needed. The data needed to be extracted and put into some format that researchers could readily use.

To accomplish this Kading organized a group of volunteers to translate and transcribe church records of marriages, baptisms and burials into a searchable database. Dubbed the “Mesilla Valley Pioneer Project,” the group is going beyond what was found in the library. To capture as many people as possible, Kading lead the group to include other churches, including the Methodist and Presbyterian records. After three years, Kading and her small group of dedicated volunteers have transcribed over 15,000 entries into a master file.

The project documents the lives of the men and women who came to the Mesilla Valley. Small villages, gone today, like Bosque Seco, Colorado, Nombre de Dios and Santa Barbara are mentioned and take their place in valley history. Deaths by Indians, drowning and murder are often noted. Also noted are the many deaths from illnesses such as diphtheria, distemper, tonsillitis, small pox and fever as well as childbirth. In many cases the marriage and baptismal records list, not only the name of the person receiving the sacrament, but also the names of parents, grandparents and witnesses at these events.

Far beyond the genealogical information, Kading sees patterns that show villages fading away, the impact of Civil War soldiers marrying into Hispanic families, and the changes brought by the railroad. This gold mine of information will be made available to anyone doing research on the Southwest.

It only takes one person to make great things happen and Sally Kading is doing it right before our eyes. For this reason she rightfully takes her place in the Doña Ana County Historical Society Hall of Fame.
Special Thanks

**Martha Shipman Andrews** for her hard work on the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*.

**George Helfrich** for his many years of devotion to DACHS from being a charter member, then board member, president and now serving in the role of past president.

**Mary Lou Pendergrass** for keeping the beautiful DACHS website up and running.

**Doyle Piland** for his dedication to producing great newsletters.

**Corporate Sponsors** for their generous contributions to further the work of the Doña Ana County Historical Society.

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and to the individuals who contributed to the production of

Sagebrush and Sand Dunes
An Anthology of Southern New Mexico History

Martha Andrews Shipman and Rick Hendricks, co-editors
Dean Wilkey and staff at NMSU Archives and Special Collections
Kristopher Laumbach
Bonnie Coleman Iapoce
Jim Eckles
SAGEBRUSH AND SAND DUNES
An Anthology of Southern New Mexico History

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

*Sagebrush and Sand Dunes*
is now available from area book stores,
on line, and at meetings of the Historical Society

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