



# Newsletter

August 2006

**Dona Ana Historical Society**

## PRESIDENT'S STUFF

ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER pm SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 CHUCK MURRELL'S HOUSE 5265 REDMAN

We hope to help the annual rain fall totals by having our outdoor dinner in my backyard and dare the rain to come. Actually, we can move inside if necessary, and with a little "Double-Dog Dare" to the rain gods we may do the County some good. Bring a food dish, family, friends, and potential members. The Society will furnish drinks, plates, and plastic ware. Directions: Go south on Las Alturas past the University Golf Course to Tellbrook. Turn left towards the mountains. Turn right on Remmington. Turn right on Superstition and then left on Redman.

You will find a full page dedicated to the Amador Hotel CALL YOUR COUNCILOR AND COMMISSIONER project in this newsletter. George Helfrich, Buddy Ritter, and I have had numerous meetings with those concerned with the Amador. The bottom line seems to be that the County and the City managers are still trying to negotiate the best deal for the respective governmental entities. The County would prefer to sell the Amador for some cash. If the City accepts the Amador they want the building transferred to them at no cost and money raised to renovate, repair, or replace various aging parts of the building. For the City to take on the expense of staffing and ongoing maintenance there needs to be public support. The elected Councilors and Commissioners have, in general, been supportive (some have been fantastic). But they will need to know how this will be paid for and that there is a perceived need on the part of the citizens for a dedicated history museum.

Overriding all this is also the preservation of one of the few remaining historic buildings in Las Cruces. We feel it will be more secure and safe in the hands of the City and a professional museum staff rather than private ownership.

It looks like there will be renovation money available for a history museum through various sources such as public gifts, State and Federal appropriations, and miscellaneous grants. We just have to convince the County and City that we can raise the money and that there is support for this effort. That is where you, our membership, come in. We will meet with the City Council on this issue on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August. We need you to contact your City Councilor and County Commissioner before that and let them know you are for this project; that a history museum is a major need for the area and that preserving the Amador is the responsibility of all who are concerned with the history and heritage of Las Cruces.

Find contact numbers and email addresses in this issue.

The summer is winding down and soon we will be back to the regular schedule of meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. Check out what Roger Rothenmaier has in store.

Also remember to look for the guided trip to Dripping Springs in the fall. *Chuck*

## Additional Authors

In last month's newsletter we listed the names and titles of books authored by some of DACHS members. Here are additional names and titles. Please submit further names to the editor if we have forgotten anyone.

Jim Hurst - "*Villista Prisoners of 1916 – 1917*"

Walter Hines – "*Aggies of the Pacific War.*"

Frank Parrish – "*Pancho and the Power*"

Ray Sadler – Co-author of "*The Texas Rangers and the Mexican Revolution: The Bloodiest Decade, 1910 – 1920*"



Congratulations to Becky Beckett on receiving the NAMI's Family to Family Award at their national convention in Washington DC.



## REPORT ON THE SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW

Rick Hendricks, Editor of the SNMHR, relates that the Review is coming along nicely with some articles almost ready for proofreading. There is a good selection of subjects and basically enough material to complete this year's edition. However, Rick says there is always a need for articles and if the fit is right, he might be able to use more in this issue.

Also, Rick would like to have some volunteers to contact him to do some book reviews. If you can do this or have an article for him to look at, call Rick at 505 521-3385.



## Planning Meetings for the Centennial of New Mexico Statehood

On July 12, 2006, Las Cruces was one of the six communities in the state to hold preliminary community meetings to plan for the Centennial of the statehood of New Mexico. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, we will hold a follow-up meeting to continue the discussions. Come and exchange your ideas on how Las Cruces can collect, preserve, and exhibit the culture and heritage of our ancestors and our community.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of statehood will be in 2012. In order to prepare for how Las Cruces can get involved in the statewide celebration, now is the time for brainstorming and planning. We welcome educators, heritage and religious organizations, community leaders, and interested residents.

## AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2006, 6:00-7: 30 P.M. N.M. FARM AND RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM

For more information please contact Frankie Miller or Dr. Jon Hunner, Director of the Public History Program at NMSU. Frankie Miller can be reached at 505/646-766 or [Frankie@nmsu.edu](mailto:Frankie@nmsu.edu), and Jon Hunner can be reached at 505/646/2490 or [jhunner@nmsu.edu](mailto:jhunner@nmsu.edu).

Would you like to know more about people and living conditions in Southern New Mexico between 1905 and 1955? Dr. Jerry Cox, a retired scientist and currently a high school teacher in Carlsbad, has spent 6 years researching and writing a book entitled, "*Ghosts of the Guadalupe*". This book is a factual history of agriculture, families and violence in the area around the Guadalupe Mountains (primarily Chaves, Doña Ana, Eddy, Lincoln and Otero Counties). In the book Dr. Cox documents the impacts of intimidation, bank foreclosures, bank failures, bank robberies, stealing money from banks by owners and falling livestock markets on ranchers in Southern New Mexico. If you enjoy reading about Old Timers, murder, mayhem, and how life was in "The Good Old Days" the "*Ghosts of the Guadalupe*" is the book for you.

Dr. Cox will be talking about the "*Ghosts of the Guadalupe*" in our DACHS monthly meeting on October 26 at 7pm, (see our announcement on page 3.) A Book review on Dr. Cox, important work will be presented in next month's newsletter.

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CITY COUNCILOR AND COUNTY COMMISSIONER!!!!**  
**BEFORE THE AUGUST 7th COUNCIL MEETING**  
We believe the Amador should be transferred to the City at no cost and entered into their museum system as a historic museum. We are in the process of writing a Memorandum of Understanding to the City that will be presented to the City Council on Monday, August 7, 2006 at 1 PM. The Memorandum states that we intend to help form a stand-alone foundation that will be responsible for raising money to refurbish and ready the Amador for it's role as a historic museum. The City will continue to provide staff, maintaince, and other ongoing expenses.

**WE ALSO ASK YOU TO ATTEND THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 7 AT 9AM IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND BE COUNTED AS SUPPORTERS.**

Doña Ana County Commissioners:  
COUNTY RECEPTIONIST: ACCESS TO VOICE  
MAIL 505 647-7200

District 2 Commission Chairperson Dolores Saldana-Caviness

District 1 Commissioner Oscar Vasquez Butler

District 3 Commissioner Paul Curry

District 4 Commissioner D. Kent Evans

District 5 Commissioner William J. "Bill" McCamley

Las Cruces City Councilors: CITY  
RECEPTIONIST:

ACCESS TO VOICE MAIL 505 541-2000

Mayor Bill M. Mattice

District 1 Councilor Jose Frieze

District 2 Mayor Pro-Tem Dolores Connor

District 3 Councilor Dolores C. Archuleta

District 4 Councilor Steven Trowbridge

District 5 Councilor Gil Jones

District 6 Councilor Ken Miyagishima

**SEE YOU ON AUGUST 7th at 9AM**

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

All presentations are at the Stucky Auditorium downstairs in the main activities building of University Terrace Good Samaritan Village at 7 pm.

**Thursday, September 21, 2006**

Dr. Ben Brown will speak on Leon Trousset, an itinerant French painter that traveled through the Southwest in 1885. He painted urban landscapes

of Mesilla, LasCruces, Socorro and Albuquerque. His paintings reflect the changes brought about by the introduction of the railroad and record how the west began evolving as the industrial revolution appeared on the scene. An electronic version of his book: *Leon Trousset: An Itinerant Painter in New Mexico* can be found at [www.leontrousset.com](http://www.leontrousset.com)

**Thursday, October 26, 2006**

Dr. Jerry Cox will present a program entitled "*Unknown Ranchers of Southern New Mexico and West Texas*". He will discuss family histories and the difficulties encountered by early New Mexicans. Dr. Cox is the author of *Ghosts of the Guadalupe: A Factual History of Agriculture, Families and Violence Between 1905 and 1955 in Southern New Mexico*.



The Oral History Society asked us to publicize their programs and in turn they will announce our programs at their dinner meetings as well. You could call them a sister organization in the sense we are all involved in celebrating and preserving our historic legacies and heritage.

The Oral History Society meets for dinner in the Columbus Room of the Mesilla Valley Inn on Avenida de Mesilla on the 1st Thursday of the month at 5pm. Reservations must be made 3 days in advance (by Monday) by calling their Queso Grande, Charlotte Priestly, 523-1137.

August 3rd Dorothy Rivera will speak on the Jose and Marie Rivera family history  
September 7th Al Tombaugh will speak about his father Dr. Clyde Tombaugh, astronomer and discoverer of the planet Pluto.

October 5th John Hawley will talk on "Ground Water Resources of the Mesilla Basin; a New Point of View"



Welcome New Contributing  
Members:

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Majestic

The members of our society  
note with sadness the death of  
long time members:

Elizabeth McNew

Len Sugerman

Marjorie Day



If you have not yet received your copy of  
the SNMHR Volume XIII, it can be  
picked up at the Branigan  
Cultural Center or call 522-3477 to make  
other arrangements.

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

A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Fees:**

Individual \$ 15      Student \$ 8      Benefactor \$ 150

Family \$ 20      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, please call  
Membership Chairman, George Helfrich, at 522-3477.

**Doña Ana County Historical Society**  
**P.O.Box 16045**  
**Las Cruces, NM 88004**  
**[www..zianet.com/dachs](http://www..zianet.com/dachs)**

2005 Officers:

President - Dr. Chuck Murrell

Past President – Austin Hoover

Vice President – Roger Rothenmaier

Secretary – Donna Eichstaedt

Treasurer – George Helfrich

Historian – Karen George

Board Members-at-Large -

Marcie Palmer

Felix Pfaeffle

Buddy Ritter

Wanda Tourney

Newsletter Editor – Felix Pfaeffle

Public Relations – Mary Lou Pendergrass

**We wish to thank**  
**our Corporate Sponsors:**  
**Steinborn Realty, Bank of the Rio**  
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**and Insta-Copy.**

