



# Newsletter

October 2006

**Dona Ana Historical Society**

## **PRESIDENT' STUFF**

**NEXT MEETING: DR. JERRY COX speaks on *Unknown Ranchers of Southern New Mexico*. THURSDAY OCTOBER 19, 2006**

**DAY TRIP: Dripping Springs Hike with BLM Speaker Dan Aranda Saturday October 21, 10am at the Visitors Center.**

The dedication of the J. Paul Taylor State Monument occurred on September 14 and was attended by a number of DACHS Board members and a full crowd of interested locals. The dedication reinforced how fortunate the area is to have the Taylor family



donate such a culturally and historically valuable property. It will be a travel destination for anyone wanting to see and learn about the heritage of Mesilla and southern New Mexico.

During the above dedication, the Amador Hotel Historical Museum Committee was fortunate to be able to take Mr. Stuart Ashland, New Mexico Cabinet Secretary of Cultural Affairs, on a tour of the Amador

Hotel. As we walked through the building we were able to tell him of our progress to date and our eventual goal of National Historic Registration and aspirations to have a museum celebrating area history and culture. He was enthusiastic and gave good advice as to people to involve on the state level concerning our plans.

We have met with Cornerstones, a consulting and preservation group. They will begin laying the groundwork for the development of a long range plan for repairs and maintenance of the Amador. This type of long term approach is in the best interest of preserving the structural and historical character of the Hotel, and is also important for convincing any donors (granting institutions or private contributors) that we are serious about the long term health of the building and are not going with bandaid fixes to get the museum up and running.

We will meet with the City and County officials on the 5th of October to see what negotiations have taken place between the two, and what the City expects of the Amador Museum Foundation. This will be a very interesting and informational meeting. We are confident in our ability to handle the project, and assume the City will feel likewise.

Please remember the Society has committed to handle docent responsibilities for the King Tut Exhibit at the Branigan Cultural Center on Friday, October 20. Please call Marcie Palmer at 523-0621 to get more information. The success of this Exhibit and how our area supports it both in attendance and volunteering will say a lot about our community's focus and concern for historically significant events. I feel we have been slowly awakening in our area and are ready to take part and support this and other future major cultural happenings.

*Chuck*

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**DAY TRIP TO DRIPPING SPRINGS** October 21, 2006. Call Karen George, 233-3529

### DOÑA ANA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENING PROGRAMS

All presentations are at the Stucky Auditorium downstairs in the main activities building of University Terrace Good Samaritan Village at 7 pm. Thursday, October 19, 2006 ( change from previous schedule).

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*.

Thursday, November 16, Pat Beckett, owner of COAS Book Stores and life long resident will talk on his family’s history in the Mesilla Valley and his work with the Camino Real as president of CARTA (Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association.)

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 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 Priestley, 523-1137.

October 5th John Hawley (DACHS lifetime member) will talk on “*Ground Water Resources of the Mesilla Bolson; a New Point of View.*”

November 7 Dr. Greg Mac will present a program on the “*Rio Grande Rift*”.

December 7 Dan Kotovsky will talk on Pearl Harbor.

Human Resource Services Quarterly Lecture Series will present Martin Campbell on November 14, location to be announced. Martin will speak on his experiences growing up as a member of the Amador family in the Amador Hotel.

### DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

By Donna Eichstaedt

Do you remember when Cal Traylor was president of DACHS? (1969-71 and again 1991-93). Probably most of you know Cal and maybe some of you receive his monthly newsletter on Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid. (It has gone international now—with readers from England and Canada!!!) Probably the foremost authority on both of those notable characters, Cal was born in Melrose, New Mexico when he father was agent for the Santa Fe Railroad in nearby Tolar.

Having earned BBA and MBA degrees, Cal’s career included that of insurance agent, self-employed investment banker, and owner of employment agencies, a business college and a gifts wholesale business. In addition to being past president, Cal is a member of DACHS Hall of Fame and served as president twice. He is a Rotarian, a member of the Dona Ana County Archaeological Society, Las Cruces Community Concert Association, Beloved Vagabonds, TIP, and the Coalition for Preservation of “A” Mountain. (to name a few)!

Cal Traylor may also be one of the precious few people living today who actually knows where Pat Garrett was shot! For those of you would like to receive Cal’s newsletter and learn more about “Pat and Billy”, his email address is [Trayloroo@yahoo.com](mailto:Trayloroo@yahoo.com) He is to be commended for all that he has done to preserve the history of Dona Ana County and New Mexico.

## Roger Rothenmaier, V.P., Doña Ana County Historical Society

Both my wife and I were born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I was born there in March of 1934, she probably wouldn't appreciate my telling her birth date. I attended both elementary and high school there and graduated from Pulaski High School in 1952. I took an electrical apprenticeship after high school, and then was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1956-1958. I was assigned to a radio repair team in Wiesbaden, Germany, for about 16 months.



My wife and I were married in 1959 and had four children, Pam, Angie, Mary, and

Mike. They are now scattered about the country. My son is in Chicago Ill. so that makes a good

meeting place for us all.

I worked mostly for the Reliance Electric Co. in Milwaukee and then for the Johnson Controls Co. where I did electrical supervision and project management. I retired from Johnson Controls in April of 1996.

We first came to Las Cruces in the fall of 1997, and were snow birds for a few years. Our summers were spent at our place at Fence Lake on the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation in Northern Wisconsin. We relocated here permanently in 2003, after the tribal leaders informed us non-tribal members could not renew leases.

I like to fish and golf, however I was spoiled by being able to catch smallmouth bass from home, so since we moved here I have given that up.

I am an Aggie fan, mostly basketball, and we have season tickets. We attend a lot of the volleyball games, which we enjoy. I enjoy the Academy for Learning in Retirement, and being on the DACHS board.

### Our Hike to Dripping Springs

Daniel Aranda, long time member of the Doña Ana County Historical Society and volunteer for the Bureau of Land Management will be conducting a tour of the **Dripping Springs** historic site on **Saturday October 21, 2006**.

We will meet at the Dripping Springs Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. where Mr. Aranda will give a 20 minute talk on the site.

After the talk, we will hike the trail to Dripping Springs and back. The walk is on a well maintained gravel surface about 3 miles in total length. Members are invited to meet later at the **La Cueva** for an additional talk on the "hermit" where we will enjoy lunch. Members not wanting to hike the trail may meet at the La Cueva for the lecture and lunch from your own "brown bag."

Mr. Aranda has just published an article in *Wild West Magazine* on the "Hermit" so this should be a great time for all.

Please fill out the form below if you would like to join us for any or all of the events!!! Mail back to Karen George P.O. Box 37, Mesquite, NM 88048 (tele:233-3529)

Dripping Springs Visitor Center is reached by heading East on University Avenue to Dripping Springs Road. The visitor center is at the end of the road. There will be a \$3.00 parking charge.

Further information on the location of the center may be found at

<http://www.rozylowicz.com/retirement/drippingsprings/dripping.html>

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Yes, I would like to attend the lecture, enjoy the hike to Dripping Springs, and bring a brown bag lunch to La Cueva \_\_\_\_\_ no. of persons.

\_\_\_\_\_ Name and Phone #

Yes, I would like to attend the lecture and later meet at La Cueva with my brown bag lunch.

\_\_\_\_\_ no. of persons. \_\_\_\_\_ Name and Phone #

**We welcome new Members:**  
La Esperanza, Inc.



**King Tut is coming!**

King Tut exhibit day for the  
Dona Ana County Historical  
Society to handle docent  
responsibilities  
will be October  
20: 2 hour shifts. Call Marcie  
Palmer, 496-4736.



**Membership Form**

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  
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