



# NEWSLETTER

October 2008



Ms. Frankie Miller, October 16 Speaker

## President's Comments:

It is time to get back in the routine of monthly meetings and preparing for the annual banquet. What that means is finishing the awards review process, starting to collect items for the silent auction, producing the banquet program, ordering plaques, arranging for a speaker or entertainment, and selecting the dinner menu. The picnic at La Cueva was very enjoyable. Thanks to Frank Parrish for an interesting talk and to Chuck Murrell for the arrangements. Karen George and I participated in the Cultural Fair in the Branigan Cultural Center courtyard and both felt it gave DACHS a great opportunity to display our publications, meet prospective members, distribute our brochures and visit with other volunteer organizations. Donna's program on the Bear Mountain Lodge was well received and quite interesting. I am sure that some of our members, myself included, will be planning a stay there soon. It was unfortunate that delivery of her book was delayed. It will, however, be available at the October and November meetings and at the banquet. Next month, I hope to be able to report on progress related to the effort to develop a history museum in the old Amador Hotel. Progress is also being made in the conversion of the County Courthouse and I will try to have a report on that also.

## October Program

Ms. Frankie Miller has researched the history of one of Mesilla Valley's most colorful and interesting priests, Father Grange, who for 22 years lived in what is now the Taylor home on the Mesilla Plaza. Father Grange came from France in 1880 and served a number of parishes in New Mexico over a period of 50 years. You will hear of the many talents and contributions of this interesting and kind man, who is remembered as a priest, benefactor, craftsman, bookbinder and wine maker, to name a few of his many endeavors.

*More information on page 2*

## Call for Silent Auction Items

January 17, 2009! The annual DACHS Banquet will soon be here and as usual we are asking all our members to look in their closets and other storage places for almost new, gently used or antique items suitable for our silent auction. This has been one of the Society's best money raising projects, so please consider parting with that little used item which may just be what another member so desperately has been looking for. For information regarding pick-up or delivery, please call Chuck Murrell at 521-7833 or George Helfrich at 522-3477.



## Doña Ana County Historical Society Scholarship Funds

The Doña Ana County Historical Society provides scholarships each year. For more information please go to our website for details and application forms. Please consider making a contribution, memorial, or estate provision to the *Mary and J. Paul Taylor Scholarship* by sending a check payable to the *DACHS Endowment Fund* at DACHS, P.O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004-6045 or call George Helfrich at 522-3477.

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## Frankie Miller

Frankie Miller is a native of Las Cruces and graduated from Las Cruces High School. She is a graduate student at NMSU in the Public History Program under Jon Hunner and is employed by NMSU as a buyer for the University Bookstore. She has a grown son, Joshua and a 14-year-old daughter Jessica who is active in chamber ballet. While doing an internship with Mary Daniel Taylor's research and personal papers for Rio Grande Historical Collections, she found several letters and personal papers of Father Jean Grange, who had lived in the Taylor home at one time. These papers led to Frankie's thesis research on the contributions of Father Grange and his work as the pastor of San Albino in Mesilla. She has used the Mary and J. Paul Taylor Scholarship to research the Grange years Diocese archives in Tucson, Santa Fe, Las Cruces and El Paso.

Frankie has also been active on the New Mexico Centennial Committee and is the coordinator of a speakers series related to describing events of the last 100 years.



## Cultural Connections Fair

On September 13, 2008 DACHS participated in the first (hopefully annual) Cultural Fair sponsored by the City of Las Cruces Museum System held in the courtyard of the Branigan Cultural Center. A display of the Society's publications along with brochures, past newsletters and free copies of past overstocked *Reviews* attracted many people who came by while visiting the Saturday Farmers and Crafts Market. Although the morning started out quite cloudy with a few drops of rain, the skies soon cleared and by 10:00am, Karen George reported that activity really picked up with a lot of interest in the Society's programs, publications and activities. The fair was held to showcase volunteer organizations supporting the arts, history, music, theater, hobbies, and craft activities. A number of people who stopped by our table were new to the area and interested in learning about the history of our valley. Ms. Stephanie Long, City of Las Cruces Museum Collections Curator and DACHS member was the coordinator of this event and did a great job of preparing for and assisting participating organizations in making this a very successful event.

## Calendar

Thursday, October 16, 2008 @ 7:00pm  
Ms. Frankie Miller: *Father Grange of San Albino, Mesilla*

Thursday, November 20, 2008 @ 7:00pm  
Dr. Gerald Thomas: *A Cockpit View of WW-II*

December there will be no meeting.

January 17, 2009 *Annual DACHS Banquet and Awards Presentation*

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.



Karen George sits at the Society's Information Table at the Cultural Connections Fair



## Southern New Mexico Historical Review

Opportunity knocks if anyone is interested in assisting with the production of the current issue (2009) of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* with an eye to becoming the editor of the next issue (2010). Please contact the current editor, Rick Hendricks, at 650-3205 or rhend03@comcast.net.

## DACHS Fall Field Trip and Picnic

For those who participated in this year's picnic at the La Cueva Picnic facility near the Dripping Springs Park on Saturday afternoon, September 13, a really great time was had by all. The weather was beautiful, the setting spectacular and visiting with members, friends and guests, both before and after the splendid talk that Frank Parrish gave on the history of the area,



**La Cueva as seen from the picnic pavilion**

will long be remembered. Not only did Frank discuss the history of the area, going back thousands of years, he also provided details related to "El Ermitano" The Hermit. Frank talked about what little is known of this interesting and mysterious person's background, his arrival in this area and his death at the site we were visiting. Bob Pick showed up with the remainder of the Society's supply of dead chicken T-shirts causing a frenzy of buying. For those who did not attend - Sorry, they're all gone and if you want to know what a

dead chicken T-shirt is, you'll just have to ask Bob. Thanks to Chuck Murrell for reserving the pavilion and for doing the honors at the barbeque grill.



**Frank Parish discusses the history of the Dripping Springs area, and La Cueva in particular**



### CENTENNIAL SPEAKERS SERIES PRESENTS

**Dr. John Nieto-Phillips**

Lectures on his book, *The Language of Blood: The Making of the Spanish-American Identity in New Mexico, 1180s-1930s*

October 16, 2008  
3:00 P.M. to 4:30 p.m.  
NMSU BOOKSTORE CORBETT CENTER

For further information, please call 646-1427.

-----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

Monte & Phyllis Shriver  
Cheryl & David Lither



Good times become  
good memories.

Bad times become  
good lessons.



DONATIONS NEEDED FOR  
OCTOBER GARAGE SALE  
TO BENEFIT THE ANIMAL  
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DONNA EICHSTAEDT 382-  
8679 FOR DONATIONS. I  
CAN PICK UP.

We wish to thank our  
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Above, Donna Eichstaedt  
presenting her program on  
the Bear Mountain Lodge  
at the September 18 meet-  
ing.



Left, new members David  
and Cheryl Lither at the  
Society meeting September  
18.

2008 Board Members  
President: George Helfrich  
Past President: Roger Rothenmaier  
Vice President:  
Secretary: Donna Eichstaedt  
Treasurer: Xandy Church  
Historian: Karen George  
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