



# NEWSLETTER

February 2009

## President's Comments

The forty-second DACHS Banquet is now history and for those unable to attend, it can best be described by a press release prepared by Lorraine Southward that reads as follows:

### Historical Society Awards for 2009

The Doña Ana Country Historical Society met on January 17 at Hotel Encanto. After a social hour complete with a Silent Auction that netted over \$1,300 for its general funds, and a spirited rendition of Broadway songs by a quartet of local talent led by David Edwards, DACHS presented the following individual awards: Hall of Fame - Charlotte Priestley; Heritage Award - Anthony Pennock; Old Timers Award - the historic Green Bridge now installed at Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. Writing awards were presented to Paula Moore for her book about the Cricket Coogler murder and to Christopher Schurtz and Cameron Saffell for an article about Shalam Colony published in the 2009 *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. Architectural awards were received by the building occupied by Human Systems Research and owned by Pat Beckett at 535 S. Melendres as Building Worthy of Preservation; Gregory and Linda Gendall for their home at 1107 N. Reymond as Noteworthy Renovation, and the Preston Contemporary Art Center at 1755 Avenida de Mercado as Building Adhering to Regional Architecture. In addition to the foregoing awards, the Society presented the Mary and J. Paul Taylor Scholarship to Stacie Pritchett, an NMSU student researching the history and activities of the Las Cruces Women's Improvement Association. ■



Ms Sharon Cowell portrays Octavia Magoffin - Photo courtesy Leslie Bergloff

### February Program:

#### *A Magoffin Family Album*

(See page 2, Calendar, for date, place & time)

For an enlivened introduction to the Magoffin Family and El Paso's only house museum, join Sharon Cowell as she portrays the life and times of Octavia Magoffin. You will learn what it was like in El Paso before the turn of the century for women and their families. Sharon has an MA from UTEP and was employed as a teacher for eleven years and a school counselor for twenty-three. She has served as a docent and volunteer at the Magoffin Home State Historic Site for fifteen years. She is a member of the Casa Magoffin Compañeros, Harvey Girls Association, El Paso Historical Society, Corral of Westerners, and the Concordia Heritage Association. ■

Doña Ana County Historical Society

## Meet Our New DACHS Secretary



Judy Vaughan, the new Secretary for DACHS - Photo by Felix Pfaeffle

Judy Vaughan is an Arkansas native. She graduated from Russellville High School in 1958. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at Arkansas Tech University. In 1985 she received a Master of Arts degree at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. She taught in Arkansas until she returned to Tennessee to complete a Ph.D. in Sociology with specialties in Social Psychology and Criminology. She then taught at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, but the long, cold winters were not to her liking. In 1990, when a position came available in the Behavioral Sciences Department at Arkansas Tech University, she returned there, earning tenure as Associate Professor. During time spent on the Faculty Senate, she served as Secretary. She is a past president of the Arkansas Sociological Association. As a volunteer with the Arkansas Archeological Survey, she pursued a long-time interest in Native American artifacts and culture and early territorial settlement and history. She divorced her first husband in 1983 and later, while teaching in Arkansas, married Mike Wilson. They shared numerous interests, including travel, archeology, and history. Travel brought them to Las Cruces, and they decided to retire here. Judy moved here in 2001, but Mike continued working in Arkansas until 2004, when they both became residents here. Judy taught at New Mexico State University in the Criminal Justice Program. Mike worked for a private contractor at White Sands. They joined DACHS in 2006. Unfortunately, Mike succumbed to lung cancer in 2008. Judy serves on the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Commission, is a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, and a member of the United Methodist Women's Elizabeth Circle. DACHS is privileged to have this accomplished lady serve as Secretary on the 2009 Board. ■

## Calendar

● Saturday, January 17, 2009 Annual DACHS Banquet and Awards Presentation. Hotel Encanto, 5:30 p.m., ● Call Xandy Church for reservations. ●

● Thursday, February 19, 2009 ● Sharon Cowell portrays *Octavia Magoffin* ●

● Thursday, March 19, 2009 ● *Chautaugua Program La Llorona* ●

● Thursday, April 16, 2009 ● Lydia Sanchez - *History of Fort Stanton* ●

● Thursday, May 21, 2009 ● Bob Alexander - *Deming Train Robbery* ●

● 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. ●

● **Award Series** - This first in a series of articles from the Banquet Program features one of the awards presented at the 2009 Banquet. ●



Charlotte Priestley at left, is presented the Hall of Fame Award 2009 by Shan Nichols - Photo by Morris & Lorraine Southward

### The Hall of Fame Award 2009 Charlotte Ann Kincheloe Priestley

Charlotte Priestley is a charter member of DACHS and has remained a member since its inception in 1964. She served as President in 1967-68 and has been chair-

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man of various committees since then. Charlotte was instrumental in getting the Rio Grande Historical Collection established at New Mexico State University. In conjunction with Hugh Milton and others, Mrs. Priestley was responsible for the preservation of Fort Selden including the transfer of the land, piece by piece, from property owner Lee Bailey, to the State of New Mexico. One of her greatest satisfactions has been helping DACHS rescue items of historic interest from the devastation caused by urban renewal in hopes that someday Las Cruces will have a museum. She has also been a member of the Board of Directors of Human Systems Research and has belonged to the Oral History Club as a member and advisor since 2004. Active in her community, Charlotte has worked with the Ruth Laws Assembly #55, Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and the Las Cruces Chapter of Demolay as well as a past president of the Las Cruces Panhellenic and a member of the Wednesday Literary Club. For keeping alive the tradition of the "cerco", more commonly known as Rabbit Run, Mrs. Priestley was made an Honorary Member of the La Corporación de los Indigenes de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Currently Charlotte is working to have the cemetery of Ft. Fillmore designated as a historic site. The site lies on land she owns and resides on, and Dr. Jon Wilson (retired foremost archaeologist) and Richard Wadsworth (authority on forts and cemeteries) estimate that there are graves of 60-70 brave soldiers who died there. So far only the grave of Captain Stanton has been disinterred and reinterred. It is our great honor to present the Hall of Fame Award to Charlotte Priestley. ■

**Special Announcements**

Volume XVI of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* is now available and was distributed at the Banquet. Each membership is entitled to one free issue. Members are encouraged to pick up their copy at the next regular monthly meeting. ■

**Doña Ana County Historical Society  
Scholarship Funds**

The Doña Ana County Historical Society provides scholarships each year. Please go to our website ([donaanacountyhistsoc.org](http://donaanacountyhistsoc.org)) 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. ■



New Mexico A&MA Aggies - circa 1940s. Photo courtesy NMSU PSL

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**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**

**Paula Moore**

**Clinton & Deon  
Woodward**

**Alex Keatts**

### **Membership Information**

Membership in the Doña Ana County Historical Society is on an annual basis and dues are payable at the start of each calendar year. Each membership will receive a copy of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. DACHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so your dues and any other contri-

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tions are deductible for both State and Federal tax purposes. Members are encouraged to send their dues in a timely manner so that mailing lists can be maintained and copies of the Review can be distributed. Members are also encouraged to pick up their copies of the Review at the February or March regular meetings to lessen mailing costs. Local 2009 members who have not received their copies of the Review by April may request that they be mailed. All non-local 2009 members will receive their copy of the Review by the end of February.



**Kent Hall, New Mexico A&MA (NMSU) circa 1940's - Photo courtesy NMSU PSL.**



**Adopted Member Micah Pfaeffle ☺**

**2009 Board Members**  
President: George Helfrich  
Past President: Roger Rothenmaier  
Vice President: George Hackler  
Secretary: Judy Vaughn  
Treasurer: Andy Church  
Historian: Karen George  
At-Large Board Members:  
Donna Eichstaedt  
Marcie Palmer  
C.W. "Buddy" Ritter  
Martha Shipman Andrews  
Mary Lou Pendergrass  
Jim Eckles  
Publicity: Lorraine Southward  
Website: Mary Lou Pendergrass  
Newsletter Editor: Doyle Piland  
SNMHR Editor: Rick Hendricks  
BCC Liaison: Garland Courts  
Education Chair: Frankie Miller  
[www.donaanacountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.donaanacountyhistoricalsociety.org)

