



# NEWSLETTER

November 2009

Doña Ana County Historical Society

## President's Comments

By: George Helfrich

The October program brought to us by Mr. Tom Sullivan, former Sheriff of Lincoln County, concerning his investigation into the death of Billy the Kid was very informative and interesting. He discussed some of the controversial aspects of Billy's death or survival and the investigation of the identity of several who claimed or were reported to be the world famous outlaw.

Our recent field trip to Fort Stanton was a resounding success and the picnic could not have been held at a more beautiful location. Please note the following articles regarding the annual election of board members, details associated with publication of the Review, and plans for the Annual Banquet and Awards program. You are also reminded that it is time to renew your membership. ■

## Southern New Mexico Historical Review

As explained in last month's newsletter, the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* (SNMHR) will be produced in electronic form (available on the Society's website at [www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org](http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org) or on a Compact Disc) or in a printed form. You will be able to download all or part of the review from the website. All members are requested to indicate their preference by completing a membership renewal form by checking the Printed, Website, CD, or No Preference box. If the "No Preference" box is checked, we will assume that you are not interested in reading the Review or will access it via the website. Please help us update our membership records by fully completing the renewal form including how you want your name/names to appear. ■

*Note: Our program for the November meeting was to be Lynda Sanchez giving a talk on Eve Ball. However, Lynda has now been scheduled for surgery and has been told it will take 6 weeks to recover and will not be able to do the November program. Lynda will be rescheduled for sometime early next year. We wish her a speedy recovery.*

Jim Eckles has come to the rescue and will be the speaker for the November program. Jim worked at the Public Affairs Office at White Sands Missile Range for 30 years, before retiring in 2007. In his job, Jim had the opportunity to visit and re-

search many aspects of the history of White Sands Missile Range, as well as the history of the property that now makes up the Missile Range.

Jim will be talking about "Ghost Towns on White Sands Missile Range" to include Estey City, the old copper mining community, and Red Canyon Range Camp, a modern-day military ghost town. For Estey City he'll outline its development and failure plus try to answer the question, "Was it a scam or not?" Red Canyon was a training and demonstration community that received worldwide attention in the 1950s and yet no one has heard of it. Jim has lots of pictures to tell both stories. ■



Jim Eckles, larger than life, with people watching the screen as he gives a talk on the V-2 Rocket exhibit at the WSMR Museum.

.....

## Calendar

The Society meets at the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle

November, 19, 2009

Jim Eckles – **Ghost Towns on White Sands Missile Range**

December – **No Meeting**

January 30, 2010 – **DACHS Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony**

.....

## Field Trip

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, thirty-three DACHS members and guests, loaded down with rain gear and picnic lunches headed for Fort Stanton. George Hackler was in charge of weather and after leaving Las Cruces under a very

cloudy sky and prediction of rain, he managed a clearing process that resulted in a perfect clear blue fall sky by the time we arrived at Ft. Stanton and were greeted by Linda Sanchez. She guided us on a wonderful tour of the Fort including the normally inaccessible prisoner-of-war camp and spoke of the many facets of the history of the place and the interesting people that have been there. We had our picnic lunches either in the shade of some of the porches of the buildings facing the parade ground or under the many old elm trees nearby. We also learned of and saw some of the restoration work in process there since it became a state park. ■



Lynda explaining the History and Restoration of one of the original buildings at Fort Stanton



Lynda Sanchez leading the tour of Fort Stanton



Commanding Officer's Quarters



Lynda briefs the group inside the Commanding Officer's Quarters

All Fort Stanton Photos by: Bob Gamboa

## Amador Update

There is little to report concerning the Amador preservation. The final results report of the \$170,000 Kells & Craig preservation and reuse study has not been received although several months ago it was reported at a City Council work session that there was not sufficient interest to support its use as a history museum. Instead the report will support plans for its reuse as an events center and restaurant with slightly less than 10 per cent of the facility being devoted to a gift shop and several rooms depicting Amador family and hotel history. ■

## Nominations

Only one At Large position is due for election and Mr. Buddy Ritter has indicated that he is willing to be reelected. The Board therefore nominates him for reelection. The position of Historian and Vice President will be vacant and no one has yet been nominated and agreed to serve in those positions. An election will be held at the next regular monthly meeting. If you wish to nominate someone for any of the three positions, please contact George Helfrich at 522-3477 or George Hackler at 521-4458 with your recommendation. ■

## Banquet

Our Annual Banquet and Awards Program will be held at El Encanto on January 30, 2010 so please mark your calendars and plan to attend this special annual event. Next month's newsletter will include the reservation form, meal selection, and details concerning schedule, location and awards. We will be entertained by La Cella Bella, a group of very talented ladies who have performed locally and have developed their own cello arrangements. If you have not heard the varied arrangements of this group you are in for a surprising treat.

Our awards committee has been very busy selecting people and properties to be recognized and have an interesting program planned, As usual, there will be a silent auction, so this is a good time to think about donating any appropriate items you may have and no longer want to keep.



The group listening to Lynda at the old German prisoner of war camp

-----Cut along dotted line-----

Doña Ana County Historical Society, P. O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004-6045

### DACHS Membership Form

Please renew/enroll my/our membership in the Doña Ana County Historical Society. Memberships are active for the calendar year of enrollment and are 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 (May-Sept. 575-536-9728) or the President, George Helfrich, at 522-3477.

### Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates

Individual \$20  Family \$25  Student \$8  Contributor \$40  Benefactor \$150  Life \$300   
*Southern New Mexico Historical Review Sponsorship \$50*

**This is a change of information** Yes  No  A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter via E-mail Yes  No

How would you like to receive your copy of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* (SNMHR)?

Printed Version  Society Website Version  PDF on CD Version  No Preference

We wish to thank our  
Corporate Sponsors

**Bank of the Rio Grande  
Double Eagle Restaurant  
Insta-Copy**

We Welcome These  
New Members

**Linda Galloway**

*Don't throw history away!!  
Make sure it has a home in a Museum or Archive. Relatives don't always hold your historical items in as high regard as you do.*

## Scholarship Endowment Donors

The Society and the Education Committee wish to thank the following donors to the *Mary and J. Paul Taylor Scholarship Endowment Fund*. This scholarship, for \$1,200, is given annually to a NMSU History student.

Roger & Celine Rothenmaier and (Matching Funds) from Johnson Controls Foundation; J. Paul Taylor; Morris & Lorraine Southward In Memoriam for Meli Duran; Morris & Lorraine Southward In Memoriam for Nancy Pfaeffle; Xandy and Bob Church In Memoriam for Jim Wright; Xandy and Bob Church In Memoriam for Nicole Cagle; Morris & Lorraine Southward In Memoriam for William Schumacher; Chuck and Zita Murrell. ■



Tom Sullivan, above, former Sheriff of Lincoln County, gave a very interesting talk on the research he has done on the controversy that still raises questions about the killing and burial of Billy the Kid. It seems safe to say that the controversy is not over in spite of his research.

**2009 Board Members**  
President: George Helfrich  
Past President: Roger Rothenmaier  
Vice President: George Hackler  
Secretary: Judy Vaughan  
Treasurer: Xandy 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: Jim Eckles  
Website: Mary Lou Pendergrass  
Newsletter Editor: Doyle Piland  
SNMHR Co-chair: Rick Hendricks  
SNMHR Co-chair: Martha Shipman  
Andrews  
BCC Liaison: Garland Courts  
Education Chair: Frankie Miller  
www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org

