



NEWSLETTER

October 2009

President's Comments

By: George Helfrich

Dr. Rick Hendricks gave an interesting talk on Thomas Casad that also provided a sense of the effort involved in performing historical research. Next month's program concerning research into some aspects of Billy the Kid should be equally interesting (see details elsewhere in the newsletter).

Another article that I hope everyone will read concerns changes regarding the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. We need everyone's response as requested in that article.

The Fall field trip and picnic will take place on Oct. 4, 2009 and there is still room on the bus, so if you have not already made your reservation by calling George Hackler, please do so. You might want to invite a friend or neighbor. This should be an ideal time of year to head for the mountains.

Some of our members are very much involved in the effort to build a museum in Old Mesilla. I hope they have more luck than we have had with the Amador, which by next month, I hope to be able to provide a clearer picture of what is going on there.

Next month we will also announce plans for collecting items suitable for our annual Silent Auction that is always held as a part of the Annual Banquet in January. Please start looking around for items you want to donate.

Along with expressing your desires regarding distribution of the Review, Xandy is accepting membership renewals and you are requested to fill out the full renewal form to insure that your copy of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* reaches you in a timely manner. ■

Tom Sullivan, the program speaker for our October 15th meeting, grew up in Las Cruces and attended Holy Cross School, Court Jr. High and Las Cruces High School. He married his high school sweetheart Pat Alcott, Jo Anne Alcott (Buckley's) sister. Pat and Tom have three sons and 6 grandchildren. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in law enforcement from Wayland Baptist University and went to work for the Texas Dept. of Public Safety in October 1962, as a state trooper. Six years later he was promoted to a Narcotics Agent and a Supervising Agent serving from 1970 to 1978. The family then moved to Capitan, New Mexico in



TOM SULLIVAN

Lincoln County where he started a private security business and ran for and was elected sheriff in 1982 serving 2, two year terms, the limit at the time. He worked for the New Mexico Department of Corrections as a deputy warden at Camp Sierra Blanca Minimum Security Facility at Ft. Stanton, New

Mexico. In 1996 He again ran for sheriff and again was elected to 2 more terms. The terms now were 4 years each. All together he served 12 years as sheriff of Lincoln County. In 2004 he retired and as a hobby began investigating the death of Billy the Kid using modern day police technology, i.e. DNA comparison etc. A French film company made a documentary on Billy the Kid including Tom's research. Tom and Pat were invited to the Cannes Film Festival where Tom was recognized for his contribution to the film. The Topic of his talk will be "**Results of Investigation of Death of Billy the Kid & Controversy resulting from the Investigation.**" ■

Doña Ana County Historical Society

Spring Field Trip to the Magoffin House Museum in El Paso

On May 23rd, a group of us went to the Magoffin House where, after a picnic lunch under the trees there, we were given a very informative and interesting tour of the house by Leslie Berglof, former DACHS Education chairperson. Participating were the Churches, Rothenmaiers, Gamboas, Helfrichs, Judy Vaughan and Marcie Palmer (See Photos below). All agreed that the trip was worthwhile and recommend that if you have not done so, consider a visit soon. ■



Leslie Berglof, left, speaking to Society Members, right.

News concerning the SNMHR

The coeditors of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* met with the newsletter editor, the webmaster, vice president and president recently and have developed a plan to improve and increase distribution of the Review by more fully utilizing digital editing tools. Rick Hendricks and Martha Andrews will receive and edit the articles that will then be compiled

by Doyle Piland in both a low and high density format. The high density version will be used for printing by Insta-Copy and for creating a compact disc (CD) version of the Review. The low density version will be used for publication on our internet web site handled by Mary Lou Pendergrass. The next issue of the Review will be a sort of experiment to determine how best to meet the needs and desires of our membership while at the same time increasing the exposure of the publication and the Society. Publication trends are toward electronic distribution which is less expensive (printing & postage), faster, and has positive environmental consequences. However, we recognize that not all members have the capability or wish to use the electronic media. We therefore will continue to make a printed copy of the review available to those members requesting it although the size will once again go back to the 8.5 x 11 inch format. The Review will also be made available on a CD for those members requesting it in that form. The Society web site will be set up so that each article can be selected and printed, if desired. As you can see there is a significant effort by several people to make all this happen; so, for you to be able to continue to receive this outstanding publication, we need your help. As part of the membership renewal process, we need you to fill out the entire DACHS Membership Form found below, select how you wish to receive the Review (printed, CD or web) and mail that in with your dues as soon as is convenient. As in the past, the Review is included as part of your membership. ■

-----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 _____
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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
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We Welcome These
New Members

**Betty Lovelace
Terry Reynolds
Peggy & Gary Hale**

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. ■



Dr. Rick Hendricks

At our September meeting, Rick Hendricks gave a very informative talk on Thomas Casad, a little known, but significant influence on Doña Ana Country in the late 19th century. We also gained an appreciation of the research process that Rick is still pursuing on the Casad story.

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