



NEWSLETTER

April 2017

Doña Ana County Historical Society

NMSU Archives & Special Collections

By Kimberly Miller
DACHS Vice President

Archives and Special Collections is a department within the New Mexico State University Library. Within this department, there are several units, each with their own concentration.

Special Collections contains published items such as books, maps, and newspapers that are germane to the culture and history of New Mexico and the Southwest. These include the Dave DeWitt Chile Pepper Research Institute Collection, the Dime Novel Collection, and the Southwestern Children's Book Collection, among many others.

The University Archivist handles all University records that must be retained and collections that originated from the University

or its personnel. One example is the collection of letters exchanged between Dean Jett of the engineering department and his former students while they were serving during WWII.

The Rio Grande Historical Collection contains personal papers and organization records which record the cultural heritage and history of New Mexico and the borderlands. The Elephant Butte Irrigation District records and the Amador Trade Catalogs are just two of the collections in the RGHC.

Political Papers is a relatively new unit within Archives, having been formed when Senator Pete V. Domenici donated his extensive political records and memorabilia to NMSU. It now contains numerous political collections, including the Senator Albert B.

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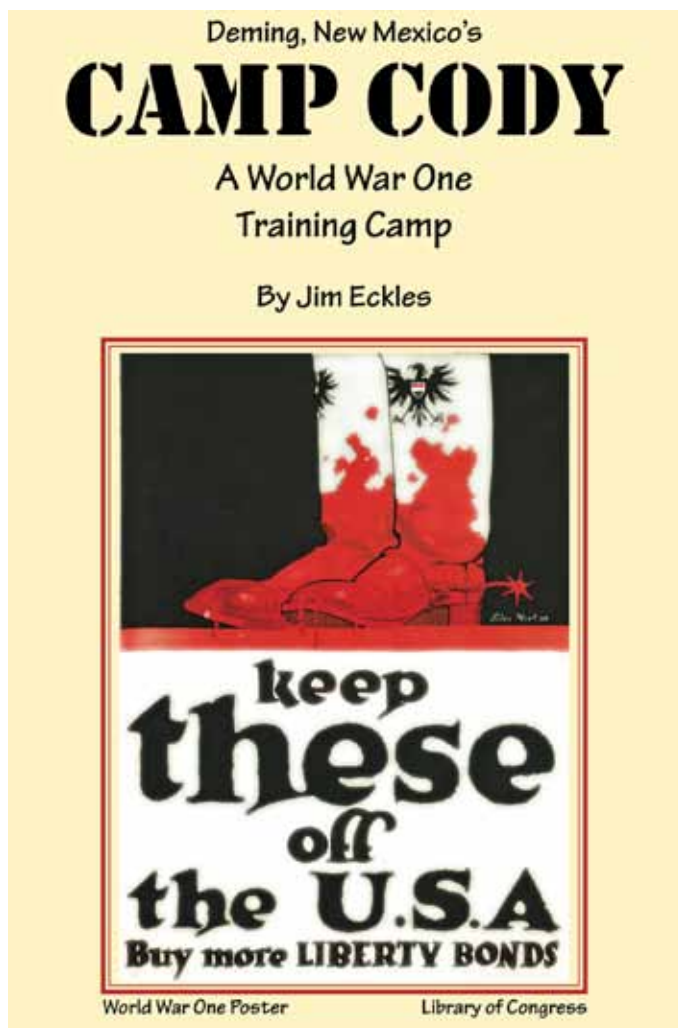


Dennis Daily, Department Head for NMSU's Archives and Special Collections, checks the collection's catalog on the computerized system. Photo by Kimberly Miller

Calendar Of Upcoming Events For Members

April 20 --- Monthly Members Meeting at Good Samaritan, 7 p.m. April marks the 100 year anniversary of America entering World War I. Jim Eckles will present the story of Deming's Camp Cody. In order to train a new Army of over 2,000,000 men, the military established 32 training camps across the country. Deming was the site of a tent and crude-timber camp built to house 30,000 men when Deming itself was only 2,000 people. In many ways the camp was just like a western mining boom town. It was built in a matter of months and then, poof, a few months after the war, it was gone.

In doing his research, Jim discovered a treasure trove of World War I posters at the Library of Congress. He has downloaded about 80 of them and arranged them into a slide presentation. ***This slide show will be running in the auditorium from 6:45 to 7 p.m.*** Some of the artwork is fabulous. Eckles used the bloody boots poster for the cover of his book.



May 18 --- Monthly Members Meeting at Good Samaritan, 7 p.m. Mark Santiago, Director of the Farm and Ranch Museum, will present *Into Lands Totally Unknown: Spanish Military Campaigns into Central New Mexico, 1750 -1800.*

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NMSU Archives Are Special

Fall papers and those of John Lemmon, a Territorial Magistrate.

Overseeing the entire department is Dennis Daily. He worked in NMSU Archives from 1997-2007 and then moved to Colorado Springs to manage the Special Collections at Pike's Peak Library District. In August 2016 Dennis returned to NMSU to head Archives and Special Collections.

Items from Archives and Special Collections may not be checked out; they must be used on-site. This is done in the Caroline E. Stras Research Room (commonly referred to as the Archives Reading Room) on the 4th floor of Branson Library.

The staff is very friendly and will be glad to help you. You must sign in and provide identification in order to use these items, but you do not need to have a library card. The general hours of the Reading Room are 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, though they vary when classes are not in session.



*Tintype from the archive's Blazer Papers Collection.
Photo by Kimberly Miller*



Lutisha and Doyle Piland enjoy their last DACHS program before moving to California. Doyle served for years on the Society's board of directors, edited this newsletter for years and digitized much of the content now on the DACHS website. Also in March, Doyle was honored at White Sands Missile Range for his work in setting up and running the facility's museum archive. For almost two decades, Doyle led a small group of volunteers that have been cataloging material and posting it online.

Paula Moore, March's program speaker, autographs a copy of her book "Matinee and Evening: The Story of Actors Abby Lewis and John Seymour" for a customer. Moore also had copies of her earlier book, "Cricket in the Web: The 1949 Unsolved Murder that Unraveled Politics in New Mexico." Moore is the former executive assistant to the president of New Mexico State University which is probably another book if she wants to pursue it.



N.M. Farm And Ranch Museum Happenings

If you haven't seen the Elephant Butte Dam exhibit, it is still up. The display tells the story of the dam's construction a hundred years ago with great photographs. Did you know the cost of the dam was paid off years ago by farmers using the water?

Culture Series: "A River Thirsting for Itself: An Environmental History of the Rio Grande" on Thursday, April 13, from 7 to 8 p.m.

The speaker for this look at the Rio Grande's environmental history is Steve Harris, who has over two decades of experience as a wilderness guide. He is founder and president of Far-Flung Adventures and executive director of Rio Grande Restoration.

Exhibit Opening: "A Movable Feast: Foods of New Mexico" on Friday, April 14, from 5 to 8 p.m.

"A Movable Feast: Foods of New Mexico" is an

art show presented by the New Mexico Watercolor Society, Southern Chapter. The opening reception is free and includes refreshments.

From Puebloan times to the present, agriculture and farming have played a very important role in making the Chihuahuan Desert and all of New Mexico a place where people could live. Indian, Spanish and modern farmers have always accepted the challenges of limited water and harsh terrain as they planted and plowed to produce the foods we eat today. With hard work and dedication, they have given us such foods as chile, nuts, wine, honey and fruit; along with things like squash, corn, beans, sunflowers and yuccas. In this exhibit, NMWS members have created works based on their own visions and inspirations.

Another Reason For A Family Name Change

By Jim Eckles

I imagine most of you are familiar with the situation a century ago when immigrants flooded into the United States, many with names that were difficult for English speaking officials to pronounce and spell. Very often the government officials put down what they thought the name should be and sometimes the immigrants anglicized the name themselves. It led to folks spreading out across America with slight variations of their native names or with completely unrecognizable new ones.

Recently I learned of another way for a name to change. A FaceBook friend commented on my book about Camp Cody and World War One. She said her grandfather lived in Nebraska and he served in the Army during the war. She wondered if he trained at Camp Cody, outside of Deming.

She said his name was Henry Martin Hanson and provided an image of his discharge papers. Right away I noticed that the document listed him as a "Hansen." Hmmm. Off I went. I found Henry

Martin Hanson all over the place in online records but no "Hansen."

I sent her an email jokingly saying that her grandfather was never really discharged. Then she gave me the rest of the story. Apparently there were many Danes living around Davey, Nebraska and the postmaster asked Henry Martin's father if he would change it to the Swedish spelling with an "o." Being an easy-going Dane he agreed.

It was done informally so it has caused confusion for several generations of the family. My friend said her aunt was always having "to explain that she was Danish/Irish, NOT Swedish/Irish."

I did find out that Henry Martin did not train at Camp Cody. He was drafted into the Army at the age of 29 and went to Camp Funston in Kansas to become a soldier. Probably because of his farming experience, he was discharged at the end of the war as a stable sergeant. It means he would have been caring for the huge numbers of horses and mules still being used at the time of World War One.

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