



NEWSLETTER

January 2021

Doña Ana County Historical Society

Annual Awards To Be Given Out On January 28

Your historical society will be trying for another first on Jan. 28 when we hold a virtual awards event in place of the annual awards banquet. The DACHS board of directors feels that recognizing individuals who make significant contributions to preserving our regional history is a very important organizational function and needs to continue, even if there is a pandemic.

So, on Jan. 28 at 7 p.m., please join us by attending the awards ceremony through the Zoom platform using your computer or portable device. It is your chance to show your support of the historical society's mission. We will send out the electronic invitation by email a few days prior. The arrangements are basically the same as those for our monthly talks this past fall. Non-members, and there are many on our list of helpers for the cemetery work, can send a request for the Zoom invitation to the

Society's email box at: 19dachs63@gmail.com

We understand this eliminates rubbing shoulders with old friends and a good meal. On the other hand, there will be no cost to you, it will be much shorter, you don't have to drive anywhere and you can attend in your pajamas if you want. ☺ Please join us in honoring these people.

2021 Awards

- ☞ **Hall of Fame Induction:** Susan Krueger
- ☞ **Old Timers Award:** Fort Filmore
- ☞ **Two Pasajero Del Camino Real Awards:** David Thomas and James (Pete) Drexler
- ☞ **Gemoets Prize:** Dennis Daily
- ☞ **Heritage Award:** To the group, led by Sally Kading, that acquired, cleaned up and restored the old Picacho Village Cemetery - The Campo Santo de la Sagrada Familia.

DACHS Historian Given Prestigious DAR Medal

In December, Sally Kading was presented the DAR Historic Preservation Medal, the most prestigious preservation award given by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Her leadership in restoring the Picacho Cemetery is just part of the story. Also she has led efforts to record names, dates and locations on all inscriptions in the San Albino Cemetery and published the information. She accomplished the same thing, along with biographies, for the Slumbering Mountain Cemetery in Organ. Her group typed up early handwritten records of Dona Ana County civil mar-

riages from 1869 to 1926 so those thousands of records are now readily available. They also translated and recorded baptismal, marriage and burial records for San Albino Basilica and St. Genevieve Church. Another effort

was working with the Dona Ana County Genealogical Society in updating county cemetery records and placing information on Find-A-Grave along with photos and GPS locations.

DAR officials said Sally's "commitment to the preservation of the history of Doña Ana County and tireless efforts on numerous preservation projects over many years are truly outstanding."



The Mesilla Valley Came Together To Restore Cemetery

Reclaiming the Picacho cemetery was not simply going out and removing the weeds and brush. It turned out to be quite a large community effort. There was research to be done, land documents to be filed, improvements to the site and donations of money and time.

The process began on Dec. 15, 2017 when DACHS purchased the property for back taxes. So, here it is three years later and the historical society is preparing to return the property to the community.

Sally Kading was the DACHS project leader from the very beginning and has been assisted by Bob Gamboa. Both are on the DACHS board of directors.

To the best of our knowledge these are the organizations and individuals who helped.

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- ★Knights of Columbus Councils
 - St. Genevieve led by Jaime Flores
 - San Albino led by Danny Duffeld
 - ★CSTI Ground Penetrating Radar - David Acosta
 - ★Serra Club - Herb Torrez
 - ★Historical Society of New Mexico
 - ★Dona Ana County Genealogical Society
 - Trica Wiley Hazelton
 - Eva Nevarez St. John
 - Larry Taylor
 - Valice Raffi
 - ★Individuals
 - Dorothy Webb
 - Christi Compton

- Patsy Sperry
- Robert Bolton
- Lonnie West
- Bruce Kading
- Carol McIntyre
- David Moeller
- Olivia McDonald
- Karen George
- Maxine Wyman
- Lonnie Sanchez
- Olivia McDonald
- Karla Steen
- Bob Gamboa
- Luis Rios
- Jim Eckles
- Dennis Daily
- Susan Krueger
- Frank Parrish
- Celine Rottenmaler
- Glennis Adam
- Dr. Robert McComas
- John Bloom
- Gary Hoxworth
- Jim Grisi
- Gerry Veara
- Jacobo (Jack) Chavez, who graciously allowed the DACHS to step in and purchase the property.

If we have missed anyone, we apologize. We can list your name in a future newsletter if you send in your name to 19dachs63@gmail.com.

Miscellaneous News

✂ Our museum representatives on the DACHS board of directors both indicate their institutions remain closed and await further direction from the governor. They do indicate that both the city facilities and the Farm and Ranch are putting exhibits online and conducting presentations online.

Garland Courts represents the city of Las Cruces Museums and Daniel Aguilera works at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum.

✂ Luis Rios chairs our committee on education and scholarships. He asked for and received an extension of the deadline for applications for the DACHS Research Grant. The new deadline is now March 31. Details about the grant can be found on

our website: <http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org/>

✂ Copies of the 2021 *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* will be mailed out this year. Normally we distribute a lot of copies at the annual awards banquet but since it isn't happening, we'll be using the Postal Service to get them to you. The online version of the *Review* should be up by the end of the month.

✂ UPDATE: Jon Hunner, former NMSU history professor and former president of the DACHS, has an article in the *Review* about his early days as a juggler and entertainer. Jon now lives in France in the little community of Gounray-sur-Aronde. The easiest way to find it is by searching on Google Maps.

Last Notice - DACHS Dues Are Due.....

If you haven't already renewed your membership in the DACHS, please take some time, clip this form and mail it to our P.O. Box along with your check. If you wish an easier way, you can go to the DACHS website at <http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org> and pay online with your credit card or PayPal account.

It is easy and dozens of members have already done so. On the DACHS homepage, access the renewal page by clicking on the "Membership" link near the top of the page or scroll down to "Quick Links" under the calendar and use the "Join Us" link. Please fill in your personal data so we know who you are.

✂ 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 fees 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 Susan Krueger, at 575 525-0654.

Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates

Individual \$25 Family \$30 Student \$10 Contributor \$40
Benefactor \$150 Life \$300

Is this a change of information? Yes No A check for \$ _____ is enclosed.
Date _____ Check # _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone # _____

You will automatically receive the Monthly Newsletter in your email as a PDF. Would you also like a printed copy mailed later to the above postal address? Yes No

Your membership includes a copy of the annual *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*(SNMHR). Are you willing to download the version on the DACHS website or would you like to receive a printed copy?

Normally, many members pick up their copies of the Review at the annual awards banquet. Because that will be a virtual event this year, we will be mailing out the Reviews.

Back Page Notes -----

SPEAKERS.....DACHS vice-president Garland Courts is still busy putting together a speaker's schedule for 2021. He has been hampered by the holidays and the fact that many people on the "possibles" list are reluctant to conduct a Zoom virtual meeting.

Jim Eckles will be first in 2021 (Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.) with a talk on the history of wildlife at White Sands Missile Range - why are there thousands of African oryx on a military post; what happened to all the horses; how bighorn sheep disappeared and are now back and the 10-year mountain lion study that was conducted on the missile range, plus pupfish, bears and mule deer.

If you have someone to suggest, please let Garland know. He can be reached by email at: gcourts@las-cruces.org.



Jim Eckles photo of a mountain lion or cougar pictograph found in Hembrillo Canyon on White Sands Missile Range. Note all the pointy claws. It is part of a larger panel with many images. They are believed to have been created by the Mogollon people which means they could be three to four hundred years old. From 1985 to 1995 the state of New Mexico's Game and Fish Department sponsored a mountain lion study on White Sands.

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