



Newsletter

February 2006

Dona Ana Historical Society

PRESIDENT'S STUFF

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 16TH, 7pm at GOOD SAM'S
AUDITORIUM**

**DAVID FIERRO, MAYORDOMO
OF TORTUGAS PUEBLO**

*THE CHALLENGES OF GUARDING
NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITIONS
IN A CHANGING SOCIETY*

Please read the description of Mr. Fierro's presentation in this newsletter. It will be a very informative and exciting evening!

Thanks to all of you who attended and helped to celebrate the past year at our annual meeting and dinner on January 28th.

The food was wonderful, the attendance was fantastic (160) and Representative J. Paul Taylor's presentation was great. We also raised \$1,752 through the silent auction! All of the Board worked hard to make the banquet a success. The Annual Award winners were announced in the last (January) newsletter with the exception of the Gemoets Prize for the best article in the Southern New Mexico Historical Review. The winner was Donna Eichstaedt for her oral history article "J. Paul Taylor: True Son of the Mesilla Valley". Some of the behind the scenes achievers were: Donna Eichstaedt who compiled the program, edited it and got it published. Donna was also Chairperson for all of the Annual Awards Committees. George Helfrich took many calls and reservations for the dinner and handled

registration for the evening. Bob Pick along with Carl Eichstaedt and I handled the auction. Wanda Tourney helped with the sales of our publications and Dr. Gordon Owen autographed his book on Las Cruces history. Felix Pfaeffle worked many hours with Representative Taylor to format and edit the DVD presentation on the Taylor's



home in La Mesilla.

I thanked the Board for their support throughout the year and welcomed all of them back as well as our newest member, Buddy Ritter. Buddy has had 5 generations of New Mexicans in his heritage and will bring much experience and competence to our Society's board.

The January 2006 edition of the Historical Review was distributed to those who attended

the Annual Meeting, and will be available at all meetings starting with the February 16th program. For those members who live out of the local metropolitan area we will mail copies in the coming month. Those local members who want their copy now may pick it up at the Branigan Cultural Center. We are trying to keep the mailings to a minimum due to the costs involved.

We still need and would very much appreciate volunteers to help the Board on various projects. Call me (521-7833) and we will see where you might be interested in serving. Thanks for your continued interest in area history and in the preservation of our varied cultures and heritage. Chuck

“Challenges of Guarding Native American Traditions in a Changing Society”

Mr. David Fierro, a member of a Corporacion de Los Indigenes de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe, Tortugas Pueblo will present a talk to the Las Cruces Historical Society on 16 Feb 06 at 7:00 p.m. at the Good Sam’s auditorium on the challenges faced by the Pueblo in modern times. His presentation will provide an overview of the December Fiesta held in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the challenges of continuing the traditions.



David Fierro Bio

David Fierro was born and raised in the village of Tortugas. He attended the first two grades at the Tortugas Elementary School and continued his education in the Las Cruces Public Schools. He graduated from NMSU with a Bachelor of Accountancy in 1978. He retired in 2005, from Civil Service where he served in

a variety of Financial and Resource Management positions, which included auditing with the IRS and Budget Officer at WSMR with the Dept of Army.

In his career, he has lived in Texas, England, Italy, and in New Mexico.

David has been actively involved with the Guadalupe Fiesta for many years. He has served in the Corporation of Our Lady of Guadalupe in a variety of positions.

He started as a dancer at a young age and is now a Mayordomo for the coming year.

He has extensive knowledge of the customs and traditions of the three day fiesta and is proud to continue the traditions of the Tigua tribe.

He is a proud follower of the local sports teams, specifically the Las Cruces High Bulldogs and the NMSU Aggies. He is also a proud supporter of the New York Yankees and the Oakland Raiders.

In his life he tries to follow the philosophy that states: “in order to know where you are going, you must know where you came from”.

Doña Ana County Historic Building Advisory Committee (DACHBAC) Update

Chuck Murrell and I were invited on Jan. 13th to participate in a meeting to prepare for the County's advertisement for Sealed Bid/Request For Proposals for the County properties which will be vacated later this year when the new County complex is completed. Included in the request are the Courthouse and what was formerly the Amador Hotel. It was the intention of the County to place covenants associated with both buildings that would preserve their external appearance.

The Notice did in fact appear in the Legal Notices section of the Las Cruces Sun-News on Sunday, January 29, 2006. Copies of the specifications for the Bid/Request are available from the County and will be reviewed by the Committee which has been asked by the County Manager to review the responses related to the two historic buildings. Bid/Proposal opening date is March 1, 2006, at 2:00PM.

REMINDERS

If you have not already renewed your membership, it is time to do so. Your copy of the latest SNMHR, Volume XIII is now available to members that did not receive their copy at the Banquet. The cost for extra copies is \$6.00 to members and \$7.00 to nonmembers.

January 2006 Banquet Picture Gallery



J. Paul Taylor answers questions after his presentation



Drs. John and Jo Bloom accept the Hall of Fame nomination from DACHS President Chuck Murrell

J. Paul Taylor converses with George Hackler, recipient of the Pasajero del Camino Real award



Buddy Ritter is a welcome addition to the DACHS Board

Important information for our Membership!

Some Silent Auction items that were donated this year didn't get out on the tables. The main reason for this was that we had about 70 spaces on the tables and to have displayed some 90 items would have made the accounting and gathering payments a major problem. We will use these items next year. We really do appreciate your help in making this major part of the dinner so successful! We raised a record \$1,752.00!

Your Board needs input on the type of programs our members want. Especially important is the recommendations on programs you have actually seen or heard about and feel the membership will enjoy.

We need two levels of volunteers to step forward:

There are a few areas where we require ongoing support. These folks might well be ad-hoc members of the board and help us plan our activities.

The other level would be of a more temporary nature when we need help for a specific function or short term project. If you would like to talk about this -please call. 521-7833

New Members:

Herb & Cici Gross, Guy W. & Carla Floyd, Daniel Smith, Murry Kugler, and Monte Sarvo

SPECIAL THANKS TO CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS - Norman Todd, Barbara Stevens, Len Sugerman, Chuck Murrell, George & Patsy Hackler, Marci Palmer, Lorraine & Morris Southward, and Walter & Bettie Hines

THANKS - To Jim Hulse for printing the name tags for the Banquet. Banquet Summary - 156 attended and the Silent Auction raised \$1,752.00

Apologies to Wolfgang and Barbara Schlauch whose names were omitted from the list of SNMHR sponsors.

Please renew/enroll my/our membership in the Doña Ana Historical Society. A check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name _____

Phone/Fax _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Membership Fees:

Individual \$ 15 Student \$ 8 Benefactor \$ 150

Family \$ 20 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, please call Membership Chairman, George Helfrich, at 522-3477.

Doña Ana County Historical Society
P.O.Box 16045
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www..zianet.com/dachs

2005 Officers:

President - Dr. Chuck Murrell

Past President – Austin Hoover

Vice President – Roger Rothenmaier

Secretary – Donna Eichstaedt

Treasurer – George Helfrich

Historian – Karen George

Board Members-at-Large -

Marcie Palmer

Felix Pfaeffle

Buddy Ritter

Wanda Tourney

Newsletter Editor – Felix Pfaeffle

Public Relations – Mary Lou Pendergrass

We wish to thank
our Corporate Sponsors:
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