PRESIDENT’S STUFF

ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER pm SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
CHUCK MURRELL’S HOUSE 5265 REDMAN

We hope to help the annual rain fall totals by having our outdoor dinner in my back yard and dare the rain to come. Actually, we can move inside if necessary, and with a little “Double-Dog Dare” to the rain gods we may do the County some good. Bring a food dish, family, friends, and potential members. The Society will furnish drinks, plates, and plastic ware. Directions: Go south on Las Alturas past the University Golf Course to Tellbrook. Turn left towards the mountains. Turn right on Remmington. Turn right on Superstition and then left on Redman.

You will find a full page dedicated to the Amador Hotel CALL YOUR COUNCILOR AND COMMISSIONER project in this newsletter. George Helfrich, Buddy Ritter, and I have had numerous meetings with those concerned with the Amador. The bottom line seems to be that the County and the City managers are still trying to negotiate the best deal for the respective governmental entities. The County would prefer to sell the Amador for some cash. If the City accepts the Amador they want the building transferred to them at no cost and money raised to renovate, repair, or replace various aging parts of the building. For the City to take on the expense of staffing and ongoing maintenance there needs to be public support. The elected Councilors and Commissioners have, in general, been supportive (some have been fantastic). But they will need to know how this will be paid for and that there is a perceived need on the part of the citizens for a dedicated history museum.

Overriding all this is also the preservation of one of the few remaining historic buildings in Las Cruces. We feel it will be more secure and safe in the hands of the City and a professional museum staff rather than private ownership.

It looks like there will be renovation money available for a history museum through various sources such as public gifts, State and Federal appropriations, and miscellaneous grants. We just have to convince the County and City that we can raise the money and that there is support for this effort. That is where you, our membership, come in. We will meet with the City Council on this issue on the 7th of August. We need you to contact your City Councilor and County Commissioner before that and let them know you are for this project; that a history museum is a major need for the area and that preserving the Amador is the responsibility of all who are concerned with the history and heritage of Las Cruces.

Find contact numbers and email addresses in this issue.

The summer is winding down and soon we will be back to the regular schedule of meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Check out what Roger Rothenmaier has in store.

Also remember to look for the guided trip to Dripping Springs in the fall.  Chuck
Additional Authors

In last month’s newsletter we listed the names and titles of books authored by some of DACHS members. Here are additional names and titles. Please submit further names to the editor if we have forgotten anyone.

Jim Hurst - “Villista Prisoners of 1916 – 1917”
Walter Hines – “Aggies of the Pacific War.”
Frank Parrish – “Pancho and the Power”

Congratulations to Becky Beckett on receiving the NAMI’s Family to Family Award at their national convention in Washington DC.

REPORT ON THE SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW
Rick Hendricks, Editor of the SNMHR, relates that the Review is coming along nicely with some articles almost ready for proofreading. There is a good selection of subjects and basically enough material to complete this year’s edition. However, Rick says there is always a need for articles and if the fit is right, he might be able to use more in this issue. Also, Rick would like to have some volunteers to contact him to do some book reviews. If you can do this or have an article for him to look at, call Rick at 505 521-3385.

Planning Meetings for the Centennial of New Mexico Statehood

On July 12, 2006, Las Cruces was one of the six communities in the state to hold preliminary community meetings to plan for the Centennial of the statehood of New Mexico. On August 8th, we will hold a follow-up meeting to continue the discussions. Come and exchange your ideas on how Las Cruces can collect, preserve, and exhibit the culture and heritage of our ancestors and our community. The 100th Anniversary of statehood will be in 2012. In order to prepare for how Las Cruces can get involved in the statewide celebration, now is the time for brainstorming and planning. We welcome educators, heritage and religious organizations, community leaders, and interested residents.

AUGUST 8TH, 2006, 6:00-7:30 P.M.
N.M. FARM AND RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM

For more information please contact Frankie Miller or Dr. Jon Hunner, Director of the Public History Program at NMSU. Frankie Miller can be reached at 505/646-766 or Frankie@nmsu.edu, and Jon Hunner can be reached at 505/646-2490 or jhunner@nmsu.edu.

Would you like to know more about people and living conditions in Southern New Mexico between 1905 and 1955? Dr. Jerry Cox, a retired scientist and currently a high school teacher in Carlsbad, has spent 6 years researching and writing a book entitled, “Ghosts of the Guadalupes”. This book is a factual history of agriculture, families and violence in the area around the Guadalupe Mountains (primarily Chaves, Doña Ana, Eddy, Lincoln and Otero Counties). In the book Dr. Cox documents the impacts of intimidation, bank foreclosures, bank failures, bank robberies, stealing money from banks by owners and falling livestock markets on ranchers in Southern New Mexico. If you enjoy reading about Old Timers, murder, mayhem, and how life was in “The Good Old Days” the “Ghosts of the Guadalupes” is the book for you.

Dr. Cox will be talking about the “Ghosts of the Guadalupes” in our DACHS monthly meeting on October 26th at 7pm. (see our announcement on page 3.) A Book review on Dr. Cox, important work will be presented in next month’s newsletter.
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CITY COUNCILOR AND COUNTY COMMISSIONER!!!

BEFORE THE AUGUST 7th COUNCIL MEETING
We believe the Amador should be transferred to the City at no cost and entered into their museum system as a historic museum. We are in the process of writing a Memorandum of Understanding to the City that will be presented to the City Council on Monday, August 7, 2006 at 1 PM. The Memorandum states that we intend to help form a stand-alone foundation that will be responsible for raising money to refurbish and ready the Amador for its role as a historic museum. The City will continue to provide staff, maintenance, and other ongoing expenses.

WE ALSO ASK YOU TO ATTEND THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 7 AT 9AM IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND BE COUNTED AS SUPPORTERS.

Doña Ana County Commissioners:
COUNTY RECEPTIONIST: ACCESS TO VOICE MAIL 505 647-7200
District 2 Commissioner Chairperson Dolores Saldana-Caviness
District 1 Commissioner Oscar Vasquez Butler
District 3 Commissioner Paul Curry
District 4 Commissioner D. Kent Evans
District 5 Commissioner William J. “Bill” McCamley

Las Cruces City Councilors: CITY RECEPTIONIST:
ACCESS TO VOICE MAIL 505 541-2000
Mayor Bill M. Mattice
District 1 Councilor Jose Frietze
District 2 Mayor Pro-Tem Dolores Connor
District 3 Councilor Dolores C. Archuleta
District 4 Councilor Steven Trowbridge
District 5 Councilor Gil Jones
District 6 Councilor Ken Miyagishima

SEE YOU ON AUGUST 7th at 9AM
UPCOMING PROGRAMS
DOÑA ANA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
All presentations are at the Stucky Auditorium downstairs in the main activities building of University Terrace Good Samaritan Village at 7 pm.

Thursday, September 21, 2006
Dr. Ben Brown will speak on Leon Trousset, an itinerant French painter that traveled through the Southwest in 1885. His paintings reflect the changes brought about by the introduction of the railroad and record how the west began evolving as the industrial revolution appeared on the scene. An electronic version of his book: Leon Trousset: An Itinerant Painter in New Mexico can be found at www.leontrousset.com

Thursday, October 26, 2006
Dr. Jerry Cox will present a program entitled “Unknown Ranchers of Southern New Mexico and West Texas”. He will discuss family histories and the difficulties encountered by early New Mexicans. Dr. Cox is the author of Ghosts of the Guadalupes: A Factual History of Agriculture, Families and Violence Between 1905 and 1955 in Southern New Mexico.

The Oral History Society asked us to publicize their programs and in turn they will announce our programs at their dinner meetings as well. You could call them a sister organization in the sense we are all involved in celebrating and preserving our historic legacies and heritage.

The Oral History Society meets for dinner in the Columbus Room of the Mesilla Valley Inn on Avenida de Mesilla on the 1st Thursday of the month at 5pm. Reservations must be made 3 days in advance (by Monday) by calling their Queso Grande, Charlotte Priestly, 523-1137.

August 3rd Dorothy Rivera will speak on the Jose and Marie Rivera family history
September 7th Al Tombaugh will speak about his father Dr. Clyde Tombaugh, astronomer and discoverer of the planet Pluto.

October 5th John Hawley will talk on “Ground Water Resources of the Mesilla Basin; a New Point of View”
Welcome New Contributing Members:
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Majestic

The members of our society note with sadness the death of long time members:
Elizabeth McNew
Len Sugerman
Marjorie Day

If you have not yet received your copy of the SNMHR Volume XIII, it can be picked up at the Branigan Cultural Center or call 522-3477 to make other arrangements.

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
Las Cruces, NM 88004
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
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Marcie Palmer
Felix Pfaeffle
Buddy Ritter
Wanda Tourney
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