



NEWSLETTER

February 2012

28th DACHS President

Marcie Palmer's Message

The Holidays are over and the new Board is ready for the New Year. Hold on to your hats we are excited. I do appreciate your Vote for all of us to continue. We have great returning members and



Marcie Palmer

grand new additions. I want you to meet the Board this year and know what they will do. In future Newsletters, you will discover where they come from, something about them, how they got involved with DACHS and what they do for the Society. I will start this month and others will follow thru the months ahead.

I am a true New Mexican. I woke up in Roswell as a teenager in 1948. I say the Aliens left me. I Spent a stint at T.C.U. and a few years in Amarillo, then back to Roswell in 1973. My youngest was at NMSU and I had two other children living in El Paso. So I came to the west side of New Mexico in 1991. I lived in Santa Teresa, New Mexico almost 7 years. I did not like going to El Paso to shop for everything. I then bought a house and moved to Las Cruces in 1997. I am retired after my last position as a realtor. I have five children and they all have spouses eight grand children and four are adults, the other four are 17, 6, 6, and 3 so I also have 3 great grand's. I volunteer about everyday somewhere, Farm & Ranch Museum, Doña Ana Arts Council, Branigan Culture Center, Art Center, Symphony, DACHS and only occasionally I stay home.

At Bob Hart's urging and Beverly Pirtle's prodding I joined DACHS in 1998. At first I was in People Awards with Archie Becket; Barbara Jean Neal and others were on that committee. In 2004 I was ask to be on the Board and was then on the Architectural Awards. Somewhere along the way, the Board decided to choose the People Awards. It

has been an adventure working with people like Dr. Donna Eichstaedt, Dr. Jon Hunner, Dr. Susan Krueger and others-way too many to mention here. Others like J Paul Taylor, Christine Meyers, and Ruth Brown giving encouragement. I want to thank the Presidents whom I have had the chance to know for keeping everything going so well; Jane Matson 1998, Roger Walker 1999, Beverly Pirtle 2000 & 2001, Bob Hart 2002, Austin Hoover 2003, Donna Eichstaedt 2004, Chuck Murrell 2005 & 2006, Roger Rothenmaier 2007 & 1/2 2008, George Helfrich 1/2 2008 & 2009, George Hackler 2010 & 2011. All of the Board Member work very hard to keep DACHS going every year. They certainly are to be commended, this is all on a volunteer basis.

I want to pay tribute and honor all of our past presidents in the newsletters to let you know who has kept the society going since 1963, be on the lookout for more information on our history.

My Proudest moment with DACHS was receiving the "Hall of Fame Award" in 2010. I am a volunteer and have been all my life. After much discussion and many e-mails, people were saying there would be no Society without a president this New Year. So, Susan Krueger and I agreed to step up and the remaining members said "OK" we will be there too. We have managed to get a terrific group to round out the complete Board.

All members of the Society are encouraged and welcome to attend a Board meeting. The next Board meeting will be on February 7, 2012 3:00 PM in the conference room next door to the Auditorium at Good Sam. If all goes well we will be at our old home in the Historical Branigan Culture Center starting in March on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:00 PM. We have a file Cabinet to keep records there and our new Historian just happens to be employed as the Director. I am so excited about our Board this year and HOORAY we have a full board— "no vacancies." You will find their names in another section of this and every Newsletter.

We hope you will enjoy our doings all year and will be seeing you. ■

Calendar

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Irene Oliver Lewis;

speaking on the History of the Las Cruces Public Schools System. You may remember that several years ago she presented a program on “Dichos de Mi Madre”

All meetings of the Society are normally at 7:00pm on the third Thursday of the months of Feb. - May and Sept - Nov. in the Good Samaritan Auditorium at 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

Our February Program

According to Irene Oliver-Lewis, founder of Alma d’arte Charter High School, the face of education in Las Cruces has changed considerably over the last century. She will be showing the literal changes in student faces with archival photographs that demonstrated that early area classrooms were almost all-white.



Irene Oliver-Lewis, seen here speaking at the Railroad Museum, will be the speaker for our 16 February meeting

Oliver Lewis says access has become more universal and respectful of diverse cultures. She will show archival photos, that show a gradual increase in the number of “brown, Latino faces,” though segregation of blacks continued until the 1950s in public schools.

She is expected to show photos of several long-gone schools and buildings, such as “the original Holy Cross, Loretto Academy, St. Genevieve’s and early public schools including Lucero School, now the site of the library, and Union High School, which is now the district court-house. ■

**If you haven’t already,
Renew your Membership Today!!
Form on Page 3**

PAST President of DACHS 1963 - 1997

1st Oct 1963 - Nov 1964 Lewis E Freudenthal Born 1895 in Las Cruces Died 1971

2nd Nov 1964 - Nov 1965 Gorge Adlai Feather Born 1892 in Perry, Iowa Died 1976

3rd Nov 1965 – Nov 1966 J Paul Taylor Born 1920 in Chamberino, NM - Is a Life Member

4th Nov 1966 – Jan 1969 Charlotte K Priestley Born 1934 in Albuquerque, NM - first one to serve two years and is a Life Member

5th JAN 1969 – Feb 1971 Calvin (Cal) Traylor Born 1924 in Melrose, NM Is a Life Member

6th Feb 1971 – Fall 1974 Louise Garrett She had terminal illness and retired from NMSU and DACHS. She died in Dallas Texas.

7th FALL 1974 – Feb 1977 James Mc Neil Born 1909 in Dexter, NM Died 1993.

8th Feb 1977 – March 1979 J Paul Taylor was also 3rd Pres. See above.

9th March 1979 – April 1981 Opal Lee Priestley Born in Iola, Kansas & attended school in Kansas. Bought their 1st News Paper in 1930 in Louisiana, 1945 Artesia NM, & 1947 Sun News Las Cruces NM .

10th April 1981 – Oct 1983 Austin Hoover BA in Arkansas 1963 in 1974 Archivist and Director at NMSU many years.

11th Oct 1983 - Jan 1987 Christine Buder Myers Born 1924 St Louis, Missouri. Died June 2011 Las Cruces NM.

12th Jan 1987 – Jan 1989 James H. Powell Born 1941 in Sinton, Texas was raised in the Pecos Valley – Graduated NMSU 1966 became Contracting Officer with NASA at WSTF.

13th Jan 1989 – Jan 1991 Paxton P Price - Spent youth in Rincon & Hatch, NM - Attended NMMI Roswell – Lives in Las Vegas, NM.

14th Jan 1991 – Jan 1993 Calvin L (Cal) Traylor was also 5th Pres. See Above.

15th Jan 1993 – Jan 1995 Linda Harris Born in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Lived as a Child in Puerto Rico, California, Missouri & Texas, attended high school in El Paso.

16th Jan 1995 – Jan 1997 Charles (Chuck) Miles Continued efforts begun by Linda Harris when he was Vice President. Raising Society visibility, advocated sponsorship of public events, an aggressive recruiting new members.

The first 15 is from the history of DACHS written by Madeline Vessel. Afterword report on Miles by Robert L (Bob) Hart. ■

Father Albert Braun

(Continued from January 2012 Newsletter)

By George Hackler

On April 21st of last year Dorothy Cave, author of "God's Warrior" the biography of of Father Albert Braun, Order of Franciscan Monks (OFM), talked about Father Braun at our regular membership meeting. George's book review continues:

Priests that disobeyed were arrested and many were taken before firing squads and executed. Father Braun made a number of clandestine and dangerous trips into the interior of Mexico to aid and rescue Franciscan brethren who were being hunted down jailed or executed.

During the great depression the government established the Civilian Conservation Corps(CCC) to create jobs for young men and at the same time build infrastructure across the west. Many of these camps sprang up across New Mexico. Father Braun volunteered, calling on his military status and experience, to serve as a Chaplin to these young men. All his pay in WWI and from this service would go to building the church and helping the people on the Reservation . It was during these years he would meet and form lasting friendships with the young men destined to form the bulk of the New Mexico National Guard.

In 1940 the dogs of war were again unleashed. Before the year was out Father Albert Braun received or-

ders to report for active duty. Padre was also ordered to assemble a contingent of six catholic priests to go to the Philippines. All though not required ,he included himself in the six and by the 25th of April, 1941 all were on their way. Several months after arriving, the first of two New Mexico battalions began to arrive. Father Albert knew many of these boys from his CCC days.

It was Sunday the 7th of December, and the chaplains were preparing for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a day of obligation and a Philippine national holiday on Monday. It was 0230 hours in Manila when the naval operators intercepted the message "AIR RAID PEARL HARBOR, THIS IS NO DRILL." By 12:35pm the next day bombs began to fall,obliterating Clark's Field as well the neat lines of B17s and P40s awaiting orders. Amphibious troop landings soon followed. The bombardment of Corregidor started on the 29th. Its impossible to convey the utter devastation wrought by the incessant bombing, shelling and strafing of the small island fortress of Corregidor. What must be told is that Father Albert was smack dab in the middle of the whole wreck cutting off the leg of a dead soldier to free a wounded artilleryman pinned under the concrete rubble. He raced back and forth dogging falling bombs and flying bullets using his enormous strength to move the wounded and dying to the shelter of the concrete tunnel.

Father made many a dangerous boat trip across the narrow inlet to Bataan to support and encourage the New Mexico boys fighting there only to have to watch the fall of Bataan from Corregidor.

To be continued Next Month

-----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, Marcie Palmer, at 496-4736.

Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates

Individual \$20 Family \$25 Student \$8 Contributor \$40 Benefactor \$150 Life \$300
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This is a change of information Yes No A check for \$ _____ is enclosed. Date _____
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Doña Ana County Historical Society

In 1963 the foremost desire of concerned citizens was to preserve the Ft. Selden adobe ruins, so they founded the Doña Ana County Historical Society. Their goals were to encourage in every way possible a greater application of New Mexico history, especially that of Doña Ana County. Since that time, members have worked on many projects and activities to build awareness of the historical significance of Doña Ana county.

Our monthly newsletter keeps everyone informed of upcoming programs and activities. At the annual Awards Banquet, the Society recognizes historically significant structures, new structures conforming to regional architectural standards, and individuals who make historical contributions.

The original home of our Society was the Historical Branigan Culture Center. There we held meetings, displayed awards, and kept current records of the Society. Members and visitors found information about DACHS..

Our accomplishments include: establishing collections that help preserve historical documents and artifacts; sponsoring and sup-

porting historic buildings' preservation, research, education, and field trips to historic sites: placing interpretive plaques and markers at historic sites: presenting interesting and informative regular monthly programs, publishing a monthly newsletter and the annual *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*, sponsoring historical symposia and symposia papers: and supporting and participating with other historical institutions and activities in New Mexico. ■



The Historic Branigan Cultural Center

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