Our March Program

Our March 20th meeting will begin at 7:00 PM at the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. The program will feature Dwight Pitcaithley with a presentation titled “Did Southern New Mexico Really Secede in 1861?: A Comparative Analysis.”

The presentation will examine the alleged 1861 secession of southern New Mexico from northern New Mexico and the United States in light of secession movements in the eleven Confederate states. It will examine the available evidence and a comparison of the players involved.

Dwight T. Pitcaithley

Dwight T. Pitcaithley is College Professor of History at New Mexico State University. He retired from the National Park Service in 2005.
At The Historical Society’s Annual Awards Luncheon on January 25, 2014, several awards were presented. This month we will feature the following award:

**Old Timers Award:**

**Fabian Garcia Science Center**

The Fabian Garcia Science Center has been an integral part of the land grant mission of New Mexico State University for over 100 years. Experimental agricultural research has occurred here dating back to 1906 when Fabian Garcia worked at the site. Garcia, a professor of Horticulture from 1906-1945, was named the first director of the State Agricultural Experiment Station in 1913. As a horticulturist, Garcia was hailed as the “Luther Burbank of the Southwest”, when he produced the first reliable chile pod. This standardized the plant for easier harvest and was the beginning of the hot “Sandia” pepper. Garcia provided rooms on this farm to house Mexican-American students during their studies at New Mexico College of Agriculture & Mechanical Arts. The Garcia Center has played an important role in the development of agriculture in the Mesilla Valley and indeed, all of New Mexico, it continues to be a vibrant station for the experimentation and development of crops from chile to cotton, from grapes to pecans, and from onions to shrimp.

The Fabian Garcia Science Center is an important part of the Mesilla Park neighborhood and is recognized with an Old Timer Award. Accepting the award was Dr. Tracey Carrillo, Assistant Director of Campus Farms Operations, NMSU Ag Experiment Station.
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website is www.aaslh.org and their phone number is 615-320-3203. We are too late to submit this year, but it is something to keep in mind.

The DACHS Board meets on the second Friday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Branigan Cultural Center. You are welcome to join us.

THANKS TO TONI AND KARL

Together, Karl Lumbach, who is a principal archeological investigator for Human Systems Research Inc., and Toni Lumbach, the Chief Curator and Programs Director for the Farm and Ranch Museum, gave the Society’s February presentation on the Cañada Alamosa project. The project exhibit continues at the Farm and Ranch Museum through May 4, 2014, so there is time to see it for the first time, or second or even a third time, since it is one of those ongoing learning experiences. Our many thanks to Karl for the site visit, complete with maps and history, and to Toni for a tour of the physical tools of archeology.

NEW LIAISONS JOIN THE BOARD

Two new liaisons have joined the DACHS Board, one from the Farm and Ranch Museum and the other from NMSU: Leah Tookey, Curator of History at the Farm and Ranch Museum, and Julie Wojtka, NMSU History Department student working with Jon Hunner on the project to nominate Mesilla Park as an historic district. Welcome to both.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

This month, on March 20, Dr. Dwight Pitcaithley, NMSU Department of History, will present a historical look at the alleged secession in 1861 of southern NM from northern NM. On April 17, Richard Sims, Director of the NM Department of Cultural Affairs, will share with the Society what part we can play in the effort to save Fort Seldon. Then on May 15, Buddy Ritter will expand on his research into how the Town of Mesilla came to be.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Dona Ana County Historical Society is looking for original articles concerning Southern New Mexico history for its next annual Review (Volume XXII, January 2015). Biography, local and family histories, oral history, student papers and articles focusing on the history of the Southwest and Northern Mexico will be considered. Small monetary awards are available for some pieces.

The editors are Becky Young and Mary Kay Shannon. They prefer submissions electronically as Word or simple text documents. Other formats can be negotiated. To submit an article or to ask questions, contact them by email at snmhistory@gmail.com or by phone at 915-539-3381.

The deadline for final articles is October 1.
“Team Laumbach,” Karl in left photo sharing a laugh with Society Member Bob Pick and Toni chatting with Bob on the right, gave a very interesting and informative presentation on the Cañada Alamosa Project. Karl covered mostly the geographics and findings while Toni talked about the Project Exhibit at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. Toni also gave a talk on the tools and techniques used by Archeologists. A very enjoyable program.