



NEWSLETTER

September 2016

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dr. Jon Hunner

Greetings from your absentee president. I am still on the road visiting our national parks during their centennial year. Since the middle of May, I have driven about 10,000 miles and visited around fifty parks and historic sites. Google my blog (drivinbyhistory.blogspot.com) to follow my travels.

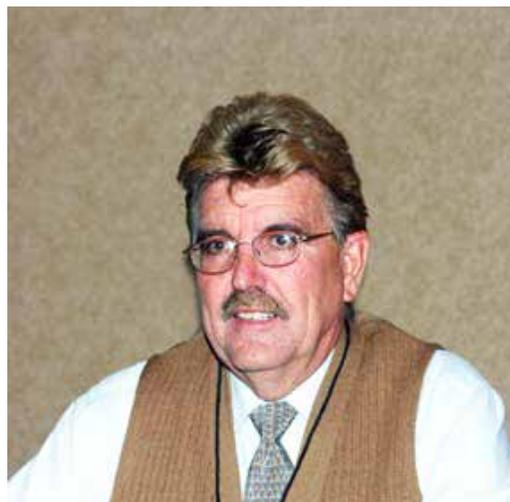
I had some incredible visits with parks and peoples. Here's an example. On August 25-- the actual 100th birthday of the National Park Service-- I was at the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. I wished all the park rangers that I ran into a Happy Birthday which they appreciated. Then a Girl Scout troop sang "This Land is Your Land" under Lady Liberty's watchful eyes, and rangers held up cue cards with the lyrics on it. Many of us sang along. I asked later why they chose that song and was told that the parks are all our lands. Then I spent the rest of the day at Ellis Island, marveling at the stories of the immigrants who passed through there. Enjoy the fall, and I will see you all in November. ■

From the Vice-President

Kimberly Miller

Welcome back to DACHS! This year will again be filled with appealing programs, fun and educational field-trips, and a delicious awards banquet. Our fall presenters include Elephant Butte Irrigation District Manager Gary Esslinger speaking in honor of the Elephant Butte dam, and Sally Kading, a great genealogy researcher who will present information on how to do your own family research. I encourage you to check out Jon's blog, drivinbyhistory.blogspot.com, in which he presents history and his adventures as he explores our National Park System in honor of its 100th anniversary (1916 was a busy year!) Mark your calendars for 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of September, October, and November for our interesting meetings. I look forward to seeing you there! ■

The Doña Ana County Historical Society's fall program series will begin at 7:00 pm. on September 15, 2016, at the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces.



Gary L. Esslinger, the Treasurer-Manager of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), will be the presenter, speaking in celebration of the 100 birthday of the Elephant Butte Dam and Reservoir.

Gary is a third generation member of a pioneer farming family, who grew up in the Mesilla Valley and who has maintained his roots in farming and agricultural based industries. After receiving a bachelor's degree in business administration from Northern Arizona University in 1973, he worked for six years in Los Angeles for a large west coast flour milling corporation as the officer manager. Tiring of city life, Gary returned to the Mesilla Valley and began working for EBID in 1978. He began his District career as Purchasing Agent. He has also served as Maintenance Chief and Assistant Manager, taking on his current position in 1987. He served

See Presentation on page 2

Presentation from page 1

on the Doña Ana County Flood Commission from 2002 to 2006 and has been involved with the Family Farm Alliance and the Natural Water Resource Association. Gary lives in La Mesa on the family farm with his wife and children.

Elephant Butte Dam and Reservoir

Elephant Butte Dam and Reservoir, originally called Engle Dam, is on the Rio Grande, seventy miles north of Las Cruces. It can store over 2 million acre feet of water to provide irrigation and year round power generation. Construction of the Dam was authorized by the United States Congress on February 25, 1905. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation built the dam. Construction began in 1908 but was delayed because of difficulty in obtaining reservoir land. Construction began again in 1912 and was completed in 1916. It is a concrete gravity dam 301 feet high and 1,674 feet long with a maximum irrigation capability of 178,000 acres of land.



Elephant Butte Dam and Reservoir



Various scenes from around Elephant Butte Irrigation District

- DACHS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**
SEPTEMBER 2016 THROUGH JANUARY 2017
- September 15, 2016: Gary Esslinger, Treasurer-Manager, Elephant Butte Irrigation District, speaking on the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Elephant Butte Dam. Good Samaritan Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
 - October 20, 2016: Mara Weisenberger, Wildlife Biologist, San Andres National Wildlife Refuge, speaking on Ropes Springs, the old CCC Camp located at the Refuge. Good Samaritan Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. A field trip to the camp is planned in the weeks following the talk. More information to follow.
 - November 17, 2016: Sally Kading, DACHS Historian and Board member, speaking on genealogy and history. Good Samaritan Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
 - January 28, 2017: DACHS Annual Awards Banquet, Double Eagle Restaurant on the Mesilla Plaza, 12:00 noon.
- For more information, contact Susan Krueger 525-0654.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Doña Ana County Historical Society is looking for original articles concerning Southern New Mexico history for its next annual Review (Volume XXIV, January 2017). 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.

We prefer submissions electronically as Word or simple text documents. Other formats can be negotiated. To submit an article or to ask questions, contact Jim Eckles by email at nebraska1950@comcast.net or by phone at 575-521-8771.



Elephant Butte Dam

ANNUAL AWARDS

The next Doña Ana County Historical Society Annual Awards Luncheon will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at noon at the Double Eagle Restaurant. The DACHS Board is asking for your help in the form of suggestions for people, places and things to receive awards. Full details on each of the awards and past recipients appear at the DACHS website: www.donaanacountyhist-soc.org.

What follows here is a list of awards with brief explanations to jog your thoughts about possible recipients. All suggestions are welcome and appreciated. Please send them to the Society's email address: 19dach63@gmail.com, and for more information, contact Susan Krueger 525-0654.

Object, Phenomena or Tradition:

Old Timers Award, an object, natural phenomena or cultural tradition prominent in the heritage and physical character of Doña Ana County.

People Awards:

1. Hall of Fame Award recognizes a person known for an exceptional contribution to the preservation of the history and culture of the Mesilla Valley.

2. Heritage Award recognizes a person whose actions have contributed to the historical or cultural heritage of Doña Ana County and who is not a professional historian.

Author Awards:

1. Pasajero del Camino Real Award is given to the author(s) of a significant historical publication about events, persons or places in Dona Ana County.

2. The Gemoets Prize is awarded to the author of the "outstanding article" in the current year's Southern New Mexico Historical Review (SN-MHR).

3. The Katherine B. Stoes Prize recognizes outstanding writing and editing in the current issue of the SNMHR.

4. The Hiram Hadley Prize recognizes the best article on pioneer history in the current issue of the SNMHR.

Architectural Awards:

1. Building Worthy of Preservation recognizes a building in Doña Ana County that is significant for its age, historical character or architectural style.

2. Building Adhering to Regional Architecture recognizes a recently built building that follows the historic style characteristic of Doña Ana County architecture.

3. Noteworthy Renovation recognizes a renovation of an historic building in Doña Ana County.

4. An Endangered Building with a Noteworthy History recognizes an historically important building considered to be endangered.

-----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 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 the Past President, Susan Krueger, at 575-525-0654.

Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates

Individual \$20 Family \$25 Student \$8 Contributor \$40 Benefactor \$150 Life \$300
Southern New Mexico Historical Review Sponsorship \$50

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

Name(s) _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____ Newsletter via E-mail Yes No

How would you like to receive your copy of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* (SNMHR)?
Printed Version Society Website Version PDF on CD Version

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association, or CARTA, is hosting a speaker series starting September 11, 2016. !Escucha! True Stories of el Camino Real will highlight three major stops along one of America's oldest roads — Doña Ana, Las Cruces, and Mesilla.

On Sunday September 11, 2016 at 3 pm the series kicks off with a presentation by former state Senator Mary Jane Garcia at Nopalitos Galeria. She will describe the restoration process of one of the most critical and historic stops along El Camino Real, Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria, or Our Lady of Purification. Built in the 1800s, the church was restored in the 1980s, a process spearheaded by Senator Garcia. She formed the Doña Ana Conservation Committee which recruited 40 at-risk youths to assist in the restoration. Come and hear how the restoration process connected these youths to their heritage and their community.

On Sunday, October 9, 2016 at 3 pm in La Casa Camino Real, local author and storyteller Denise Chavez will weave La Llorona and Dia de los Muertos stories with local family histories and traditions at her bookstore, La Casa Camino Real.

Lastly, on Sunday November 13 local author and restaurateur Buddy Ritter will talk about his new book Mesilla Comes Alive which will be available for sign-

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro — the Royal Road of the Interior Lands — is one of the longest, oldest, and most historic trails in the Americas. It was built along Native American footpaths, became a primary transportation corridor for the Spanish colonies, linked the American territory with the new nation of México, and continues to be a thriving international highway of commerce, culture, and people. CARTA was established in 2003 to help promote, educate, and preserve the cultural and historic trail corridor.

September 11, 2016 3 pm Senator Mary Jane Garcia Nopalitos Galleria, 310 S. Mesquite St.

October 9, 2015, 3 pm, Denise Chavez, Casa Camino Real, 314 S. Tornillo St.

November 13, 2016 3 pm, Buddy Ritter, Double Eagle Restaurant on the plaza in Mesilla.

Thanks to our 2016 Corporate Sponsors

We encourage our Members to patronize their businesses

Double Eagle Restaurant & Peppers Cafe
On The Mesilla Plaza
C. W. "Buddy" Ritter, Owner

Insta-Copy Imaging
Main Street Las Cruces Downtown
Parry & Diana Lyon, Owners

2016 Board Members
President: Dr. Jon Hunner
Past President: Dr. Susan Krueger
Vice President: Kimberly Miller
Secretary & Website: Jim Eckles
Treasurer: Rebecca Slaughter
Historian: Sally Kading
At-Large Board Members:
Garland Courts
Bob Gamboa
George Helfrich
Doyle Piland, Newsletter Editor
C. W. "Buddy" Ritter
Sara Wagner
SNMHR Editor: Keith Whelpley
Dr. Jon Hunner, Education and Scholarship
Committees
Carl Eichstaedt, Book Sales
Leah Tookey, Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum
NMSU History Department Liaison: Kyle Mery
www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org

