



Hands Across History



A joint newsletter for the White Sands Historical Foundation and the White Sands Pioneer Group.

Volume IV, Letter I

March 2008

New Museum Director Shares His Thoughts

Editor's Note: The following article was the result of a request to have Darren introduce himself and talk about what he wants to do at the museum as the new director.

By Darren Court, Director
WSMR Museum

I want to thank Jim Eckles for giving me this opportunity to introduce myself and discuss a little bit of where I see the museum going over the next few years.

My name is Darren Court and I'm a graduate of New Mexico State University, with a BA and MA in History. I served in the Army from 1986 to 1994, with my last three years being at WSMR assigned to A Battery, where I worked on a number of projects including ADATS, Hawk and Patriot.

After leaving the Army and WSMR I stayed in Las Cruces to pursue my degrees, and spent a number of years as the Admissions Director for the Graduate School at NMSU. I must say, however, that it's good to be "home" – back at WSMR!

There are a number of things I would like to accomplish as museum director and curator. The first thing is to expand the Trinity Site exhibit. The Trinity events determined how the rest of the twentieth century unfolded in the post-war era, and although the museum tells the story of Trinity Site adequately, there is room for improvement.

I plan to include a brief background to the test, as well as more information on Trinity Base Camp. In addition, last year the museum received a donation of a uniform worn by a Manhattan Project soldier, Jonah Blankenship of Indiana, which will be used in the exhibit. Blankenship was stationed at Wendover, Utah, where the Army Air Corps worked on configuring the B-29's used to drop the bombs. Though ancillary to Trinity Site itself, it will be used to explain how the Trinity test was the conclusion of bomb development which involved numerous sites across the country. I hope to have the exhibit installed by the date of the Trinity Site open house this April.

New exhibits to be developed and installed include "Mapping the Range," which will tell the story of surveying and mapping WSMR, which has been called the most heavily surveyed piece of real estate in the nation. This is an idea Terrie Cornell had and I hope to "do it right" for her!

Another exhibit is tentatively called "It Really IS Rocket Science," and will focus on educating young people

on what WSMR scientists in the past have done. This exhibit will include such items as 1950's calculators, slide rules, and hand-written notes and mathematical calculations to demonstrate how the technology scientists and engineers use has changed.

In the WSPG Room, along with the V-2 materials, will be additional information on the Broomstick Scientists and the 1st Guided Missile Battalion – which the museum currently does very little with. Also in that area will be an exhibit on the social history of WSPG/WSMR. This will focus on life away from work and tell the story of what soldiers, civilians and – more importantly – their families did while living on post.

The museum archive contains materials such as a scrapbook kept by the riding club during the 1950's, as well as scrapbooks from the different Wives Clubs during the same period.

see **Director's Thoughts**, page 2



Museum Director Darren Court holds up a new mannequin he will use in the Hembrillo Battlefield display.

Director's Thoughts — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One other exhibit being planned will show the military at White Sands. This exhibit will focus on the contributions made by service members – of all four branches - during their tenures at WSMR. Current exhibits will also be expanded and interpreted as needed.

The museum is not only about exhibits, however!

The WSMR Museum will also take a more active role in education. This includes working more closely with area schools and, in particular, the White Sands School.

Programs are being developed to educate students on the role of science and technology at White Sands and its evolution from 1945 to the present.

As WSMR makes the transition to having thousands of soldiers and their families move in over the next few years, the museum will develop historical programs as appropriate for them as well. It is also my desire to see more publications developed by the museum, whether they be articles, handouts, or even books. Currently, I am working with the Historical Foundation to develop a small publication detailing the artifacts in Missile Park – it is this type of thing that visitors constantly request and, so far, we have had little available.

Did you know the museum also has a nature trail? We do, and have already received information on native plants from Dave Anderson in the WSMR Environmental Office which will be used for an informative handout for visitors to the trail. In addition, handouts on insects such as butterflies, birds, and other flora and fauna will allow our guests to understand that WSMR takes its role as a steward of the land seriously.

These are just some of the activities which the museum is undertaking. In addition, I always welcome comments and suggestions regarding exhibit ideas and new ways of looking at your history.

I would also like to remind everyone to please give the museum consideration when you decide to “deaccession” your own WSMR materials – nothing is too trivial for us to consider adding to our collection. Your photo or small item

might be just what we need to complete an exhibit, or even begin thinking about one!

Finally, I want to thank the Public Affairs Office, Jim Eckles, Dennis Dekker of MWR, the Historical Foundation, the museum volunteers, and all of you who have made me feel so welcome. We had over 76000 visitors last year and I hope to make our museum visitors proud of your contributions to our wonderful history.

Letter To The Editor

I was delighted to see the old Hal and Lena Cox ranches highlighted in the latest “Hands Across History,” and I have something to add.

My dad, Sgt. Maj. Stephen F. Crowley, was at that time the First Sergeant for the company that both Max Talley and Red Crehan were in, and Red and Mary were indeed absolute city folk! My parents went to the ranch to help them settle in and get used to roughing it – which included using kerosene lamps because the electricity was supplied from the windmill, which didn't always run.

Mom showed Mary how to clean the lamp, trim the wick, and was about to light the kerosene lamp – until Red spoke up. “Sarge, do you think kerosene would work better in there than gasoline?” he asked. The match was quickly extinguished while my folks explained the difference between a Molotov cocktail and a functioning kerosene lamp!

When the ranches were finally closed, the Organ Mountain Riding Club (our on-base horse club, headed by Gen. Laidlaw) used both ranch houses as overnight stays. We would ride up 30-strong or more, stable the horses in the corrals, and then have barbecues, riding games, and general merriment. Most of us would sleep under the stars in bedrolls or bags, but some of the less adventurous wives would bring cots and sleep in the garage at the Hal Cox ranch. Once, however, an especially squeamish wife had a large tarantula drop in on her during the night, and I believe she may be still running.

Stephanie Crowley

Statement of Purpose and Membership

The “Hands Across History” newsletter is published by the White Sands Missile Range Historical Foundation and the White Sands Pioneer Group (WSPG). Both nonprofit organizations aim to preserve the accomplishments of White Sands Missile Range.

The newsletter is intended to keep members of both groups informed about current events and share information of common interest. The edi-

tor is Jim Eckles. He can be contacted by email at nebraska1950@comcast.net or at either address below.

Membership to either organization is open to anyone who shares their goals. However, details of membership (dues, etc.) differ between the two groups. For more information, please contact the appropriate organization and we will send it via the Post Office or email.

White Sands Pioneer Group
P.O. Box 318
White Sands, N.M. 88002

White Sands Historical Foundation
P.O. Box 171
White Sands, N.M. 88002

Pioneer Group Summary For 2007

By Austin Vick

The White Sands Pioneer Group has renewed its constitution and by-laws and obtained permission from White Sands Missile Range to continue to conduct meetings and support WSMR activities at the range.

The pioneer group's activities during the past year included the following:

A luncheon meeting was held in April 2007 with the theme of "Then and Now." Clyde Treat gave a presentation summarizing the Little Joe project from the 1960s while Fil Aragon talked about NASA's Arias and Orion vehicles that will replace the space shuttle.

Some of the NASA testing will be conducted at WSMR and it will look very much like the Little Joe tests over 40 years ago. We had a good attendance and plans are to conduct more "Then and Now" luncheons this year.

Secondly, the WSPG chairs the Hall of Fame Review Committee for the WSMR Hall of Fame nominations. Every year we make a presentation to the command's selection committee and make recommendations about hall of fame selections. The WSPG also helps to sponsor the hall of fame luncheon.

Letter To The Editor

Secretary Of Defense Was Known As "Engine Charley"

Jim:

In the December 2007 issue, "The Last Page" has a photo with a typo in the caption. The subject person is not G. E. Wilson, but C. E. Wilson.

Charles Erwin Wilson was the well known "Engine Charley" from his design of the V-8 engine used in the General Motors post WW II cars. He rose to be President of General Motors and was later appointed as Secretary of Defense, his position at the time that he visited WSPG.

I was in college at the time of the photo, but Wilson was the commencement speaker at my graduation from the University of Michigan in June 1954. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree at that time.

Although he certainly looks like a good southern U. S. politician, I do not think that he was ever elected to public office. He was too smart to run. Obviously he had no dieti-

We plan to do those things again this year. The hall of fame schedule will be published by the missile range once a selection is made later this spring.

Thirdly, the WSPG continues to team with the WSMR Historical Foundation to jointly publish this newsletter. Your memberships and contributions to the WSPG will help pay for the publishing and mailing cost.

The editor of the newsletter, Jim Eckles, is always looking for photos and history stories you might have which would be of interest to the group. If you have any historical items you can send them to the WSPG at P.O. Box 318, White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002. Or you can send them to him by email - which he prefers (less typing he says) - at nebraska1950@comcast.net

Thomas Chavez, WSPG President, moved to Hawaii and that office is vacant (any volunteers?). Dolores Archuleta is Vice-President, and Doug Messer moved to Amarillo, TX, and Austin L. Vick has assumed the Secretary/Treasure office.

Your membership dues of \$10.00 and any other gifts will also be appreciated. Hope to see you at our next function, the WSMR Hall of Fame luncheon at WSMR.

cian and his haberdasher and tailor, if any, left much to be desired.

I have really enjoyed your publication. It is the only connection that Tina and I have with our days at WSPG.

I will have to do some more research, but I recall that we had to mobilize from the Officers' Club sometime in 1958 to send a 5-ton wrecker to the Cox Ranch, or one nearby, to get a prize bull out of the water tank.

Jim Prior

PS: I have no idea who the other folks in the photo are, but I have a lot of sympathy for the poor guy in the distant right corner who is wondering what happened to his presentation.

Editor's Note: Jim is absolutely right about Wilson's name. Captions on the backs of old White Sands photos are often smeared and difficult to read. Our apologies for the error.

Hall of Fame Nominations Only Accepted Until March 31

There is still time to get a nomination in for the White Sands Missile Range Hall of Fame but you are going to have to hurry. The deadline is March 31.

The hall of fame was created in 1980 to honor the people who have made lasting contributions of an outstanding nature to the missile range. The selection criteria states the inductee must have been responsible for significant and lasting deeds or achievements in support of the range mission. The contributions may be in various areas such as research, cost savings, technological advances, safety, public

relations, equal opportunity or heroic deeds -- just to name a few. If you are in doubt, send in the nomination.

Induction into the hall of fame is the most important honor the range can bestow on an individual who has worked there. All personnel - military, civilian and contractor - who have served at the range sometime since 1945 are eligible.

For more information about the required forms and how to submit a nomination you can contact Terry Garcia at the range. Her phone number is (575) 678-3221. Her email address is: terry.garcia@us.army.mil

Pat Garrett Killed 100 Years Ago

By Jim Eckles

Anniversaries of events falling on February 29 often get a bit lost since they only surface once every four years. The death of sheriff Pat Garrett, one of those true “Wild West” characters, is one example.

Garrett was shot and killed on Feb. 29, 1908 while on his way into Las Cruces. The site is just south of U.S. Highway 70 in the Alameda Arroyo.

Garrett’s ties to the Las Cruces area and the land now occupied by White Sands Missile Range are very strong. In fact, at the time of his death, Garrett was making a rather unsuccessful stab at ranching and lived northeast of San Augustin Pass, only a few hundred yards from the route the Bataan Memorial Death March takes around Mineral Hill on White Sands.

Theories about the shooting are many and varied. Some say it was an argument while others claim it was an outright assassination.

Of course, Garrett made a name for himself in July 1881 when, acting as sheriff of Lincoln County, he shot and killed Billy the Kid. It brought him national fame but the easy successful life he thought he deserved afterwards always eluded him.

Garrett was elected sheriff of Lincoln County in 1880 to bring in various outlaws that sprang from the Lincoln County War. He captured Billy the Kid in December 1880 and was hailed by many as a hero. In late March 1881, the Kid was moved to Mesilla and stood trial for the murder of Garrett’s predecessor in Lincoln, Sheriff William Brady.

Coincidentally, Albert Fountain, a leading politician, lawyer and newspaper publisher, was appointed to defend Billy in the proceedings. It didn’t do much good as the jury, on April 10, found him guilty of murder. On April 15 the judge ordered the Kid to be returned to Lincoln and be hanged on May 13.

Signs around the Mesilla plaza testify that some buildings there were used in this legal process.

Back in Lincoln it didn’t take long before Billy made his famous escape from jail while killing two of Garrett’s deputies. Garrett caught up with the Kid in July and put a bullet in his chest.

It wasn’t a gunfight at high noon in the main street. Instead, the Kid walked into Pete Maxwell’s bedroom at midnight asking who was there. Garrett was there and shot without answering. It was really pretty typical of “gunfights” in the Wild West.

At once Garrett became a bigger than life Western hero for many. Others labeled him as a sneaky killer. For whatever reason Garrett was never able to take advantage of his newfound fame. It wasn’t long before Billy the Kid’s star shone much brighter than Pat Garrett’s and continues to do so today.

Pat Garrett resurfaced in the local area after the

disappearance of Albert Fountain and his eight-year-old son Henry on Feb. 1, 1896. Their buckboard and horses along with lots of footprints and some blood were found near the old road at Chalk Hill. There is a state historical marker noting the spot at a missile range roadblock a bit west of Chalk Hill on U.S. Highway 70 at the Dona Ana / Otero County line.

By the end of April locals managed to get Garrett made the Dona Ana sheriff so he could investigate Fountain’s disappearance and presumed murder. As part of his job as sheriff, Garrett managed to make a lasting impression on W.W. Cox’s family – the folks who controlled the area the missile range’s main post now sits on.

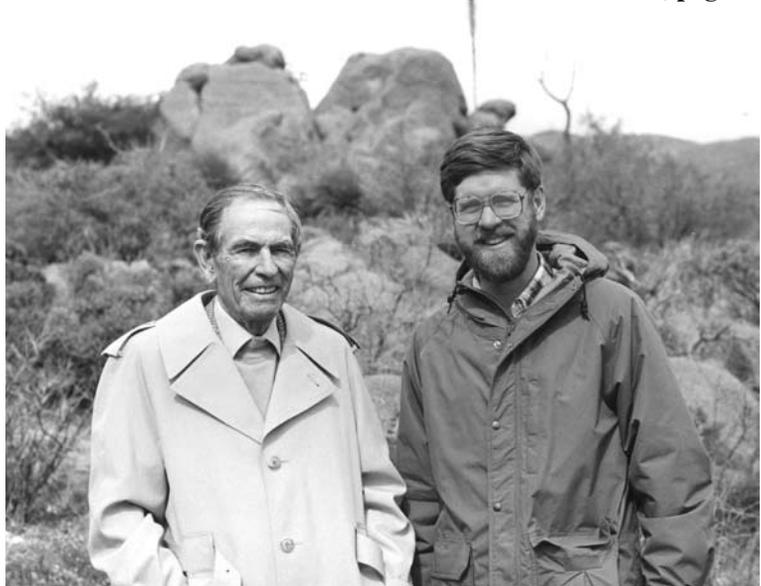
In 1899 Garrett and a deputy responded to a request from an Oklahoma lawman tracking a murder suspect named Billy Reed, originally called Norman Newman. They followed a lead to the Cox ranch where Reed was supposed to be working.

Rob Cox, the current owner of the San Augustin ranch and grandson of W. W. Cox, reports that Garrett and the deputy burst into the house and confronted Reed. They had waited up the hill for all the cowboys to head out to work before they made their move.

When Reed made a run for it, both lawmen shot at Reed and killed him. They then hauled his body to Las Cruces.

To the Cox’s it didn’t matter if Reed was a criminal or not. According to Rob, the only other adult in the house when Garrett broke in was Rob’s grandmother and she was pregnant. Also there would have been Rob’s father Jim who was four-years old and A.B., Jim’s younger brother.

see [Garrett’s Death](#), page 5



Jarvis Garrett (left), Sheriff Pat Garrett’s youngest son, poses with the author at the old Garrett ranch in a Feb. 1985 visit.

Garrett's Death — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Garrett's audacity in sneaking up on the house, bursting in and then firing shots indoors with women and children present has colored the Cox family's view of the sheriff.

Two bullets passed through Reed and lodged in one of the house's adobe walls. Rob Cox still has those bullets and shows them to his visitors. He says he heard the story from his father Jim and that he always told the story the same, without embellishment. Rob thinks that is probably just how it happened.

After failing to get a conviction in the murder of Albert Fountain, Garrett took an appointment from President Teddy Roosevelt as customs collector in El Paso. This was a pretty good job until he was fired for not showing up to work and associating with gamblers and saloon owners.

By 1908 Garrett must have felt some pressure from the world around him. He owed lots of money, he was noted for drinking, he wasn't making much money and he had a large family on the ranch.

On Feb. 29, Garrett left his ranch and headed into Las Cruces to try to work out a deal for investors to buy the north end of his ranch. On the same morning Wayne Brazel was selected by W.W. Cox to run an errand in Las Cruces.

Coincidentally, Brazel was the cowboy blocking Garrett's ability to sell the land immediately because he was leasing it and running goats there. Garrett and Brazel were bickering about details and what it would take to get Brazel off the land.

According to Rob, Brazel was an easy going young man and he was picked to go because he was the least likely Cox cowboy to get into a violent confrontation with Garrett if they crossed paths. Rob says his father and the other Cox children were warned away from Garrett for fear he might kill one of them.

According to Leon Metz, Garrett's biographer, Garrett seemed to be looking for Brazel on the ride and they met for the final time east of Las Cruces, south of what is now the Jornada housing development in the Alameda Arroyo.

They argued again and Rob says Garrett announced he would get Brazel off the property once and for all. Accord-

ing to Brazel, Garrett went for his shotgun and Brazel was forced to draw his pistol. He fired twice, hitting Garrett in the back of the head. He must have died almost instantly.

Brazel went on into Las Cruces and turned himself into deputy sheriff Felipe Lucero fully admitting he had killed Pat Garrett. That would be the same Felipe Lucero whose old ranch is located about seven miles north of the Small Missile Range, between Range Roads 7 and 21. The adobe walls to the ranch house are melting and the orchard he once tended using water from San Nicholas Spring is dead and gone.

Brazel was tried in Las Cruces for the killing in April 1909. The jury came back in 15 minutes ruling it was self defense. Following Brazel's release, the Coxes held a large barbeque to celebrate the verdict.

There are some people who do not believe Brazel killed Garrett. They say he was assassinated by Jim Miller, a known gun-for-hire.

Maybe the weirdest theory is that Garrett was killed so a group of smugglers bringing Chinese laborers into the states could use his Bear Canyon place as a hideout for the emigrants. Supposedly the Chinese were moved from Juarez and were headed north to Colorado.

Garrett is buried in Las Cruces.

When Garrett was killed his youngest son Jarvis was almost three years old. In Feb. 1985 I got to meet Jarvis as a group of historians, including Leon Metz, wanted to take him to the old ranch. I acted as the Public Affairs escort and took photos as well.

Jarvis did not have much insight into the ranch. After his father's death, the family moved into town. In fact, that day in 1985 was the first time Jarvis had visited the ranch since his mother moved out. He did not remember it.

The ranch house is long gone but there are still artifacts on the site such as crockery shards, pieces of a wood burning stove and small fragments of glass and tin.

It could be that Garrett's legacy will evolve. WSMR still regularly receives requests from the public to visit Pat Garrett's ranch because he is the guy who killed Billy the Kid. Maybe the rest of it won't matter in another century.



The Garrett Bear Canyon house that was supposedly needed to smuggle Chinese north. The house walls are still standing but many years ago WSMR paid Human Systems Research to stabilize and put a new roof on it. The photo was taken sometime after Pat Garrett owned the place.

Way Back When

Secret of LC-33 Building Revealed

By Doyle Piland

From the WSMR Museum Archives

Out Nike Avenue, at historic Launch Complex 33, everyone knows about the Army Blockhouse and the V-2 Gantry Crane. But, if one goes a couple hundred yards on down the road to the west, you come to the last complex of buildings. If you look to the north, you will see the building shown below. Just looking at it, it looks to be a fairly new building, which compared to the Blockhouse it is. If you go to the building, it appears to be unused. Seemingly there has been no traffic in or around it, and it actually hasn't been in use, for several years. Well, that's not the way it was Way Back When.....



The Dynamics Building at LC-33 - in 2007

If you know the right people to talk to, and you talk nice enough, you just might get to see the place. The building has a long external tunnel type hallway along the north side of the building with personnel doors at both ends, plus large sliding doors on the east side. Inside one finds a strange configuration. Just inside the northwest personnel doors the hallway has a wide section on the left then there are three heavy doors leading off the hallway to the right as you proceed along. If you check inside these doors, you will find that they go into three large cubicles with concrete walls about 10 feet or so high, extending to the south wall. To the right at the east end of the hallway is an open bay just inside the sliding doors. To the left near the east end of the hallway, there is a small room, now used for storage.

Located throughout the building are several items, which are referred to as "Shaker Tables." The building was placed there and used by the Dynamics Branch of what was then ARMTE, now MTD, and used for many years to provide simulated lifetime shock and vibration for missiles and various items of missile systems

equipment. The building and equipment inside are now "Mothballed" and await any future requirements.

But, even that is not the way it was Way, Way Back When.....

Digging a little deeper into the history of this building, one can see where the odd configuration of the inside came from. The photo below shows what was there before they did some modifications and then built the building over it. This facility was a Nike Cellular Launcher facility. You can see the three Cells which had doors that opened down to the sides, as seen in the Cell to the right, which is the west side. The doors on the other two Cells are closed. All the way to the left is the overhead crane which, moves along tracks, first elevated above ground then along the north and south edges of the Cells. Each Cell had a launcher inside and missiles would be mated on the launch rail, using the overhead crane, and elevated when ready to launch.

You can see the ends of the concrete tunnel that is now the hallway at the near side of the Cells. At either end is where the personnel doors for the building are located. The rails for the crane were removed to the left of the end of the tunnel and is now only inside the building. The dirt was removed from the area to the left of the Cells between the crane rails and is where the open bay is now. At the upper left in the photo you can see a mound. This was the control and power room for the facility. The right half of the underground room held three large diesel generators. The big box shape on the right side of the mound is the air intake for the generators. On top of the mound are escape hatches and generator exhaust outlets. Although we don't know at this time when this facility was built, it would have most likely have been sometime in the last half of the 1950s. It is not believed that this configuration of Nike launchers was ever deployed.

And, that's the way it was Way Back When...



Nike cellular launchers at LC-33 - circa 1950s

Why The WSMR Main Post Is Where It Is

Editor's Note: The following is taken from a transcript of Col. Harold Turner, first commander, describing how he got to White Sands and his first days on the job.

July 4 or 5, 1945: the place, a point on U.S. Highway 70 in New Mexico, approximately one and a half miles east of the summit of St. Augustin Pass.

I am Harold R. Turner, colonel, U.S. Army, now retired and at that time I had just driven across the United States from Washington, D.C. through Roswell, N.M., and arrived at the point on Highway 70 near the pass.

A little background information is necessary to make this story clear. I had just returned from overseas where I had the privilege of conducting a very highly classified mission involving the installation of Army rockets on airplanes with the hope of greatly improving the accuracy of these rockets.

On my return from the overseas assignment, I was called into the office of the Chief of Research and Development, in the Ordnance Department, Maj. Gen. G.M. Barnes for a conference concerning my future. The general prefaced his remarks with the question, "What do you propose to do?" And as any soldier would answer, "Whatever you say, sir."

Following this, the general discussed at great length a plan to build and operate a guided missile test facility on the desert in New Mexico and he completed this very interesting discussion with this statement: "I want you to command it." Needless to say, this was a great thrill for me and a tremendous challenge.

He then informed me where the temporary type buildings were available that could be moved to the potential site and instructed me to lay out the post in its entirety, anticipating the ultimate construction.

This was done and so now the story of what is now the White Sands Missile Range begins. On arriving at the point mentioned, close to St. Augustin Pass in New Mexico, I stopped and started down an old ranch road, toward the area in which it was thought we would erect this new facility. I was challenged by a young lieutenant who had apparently been tremendously impressed with the proposed new installation. He stopped me and said, "This is a highly classified area here and you may not come in." I then produced my orders and suggested to him as the commanding officer of this projected installation, I might just go down and have a look. With this, he was quite willing and accompanied me while we made a very brief look at the area.

Having come from the East and having been raised primarily as an Easterner, the view was, to put it mildly, startling. As we walked south on this road, on my right hand, I could see the majestic Organ Mountains. At that time I did not know the name. And on my left, the broad expanse of the desert known as the Tularosa Basin. At this time, this was in fact a broad expanse of mesquite humps as far as the eye could see, sand and apparently nothing but sand.

I then proceeded to the town of Las Cruces where I had

a room reserved in the Amador Hotel. Here I enjoyed the first encounter with a citizen of this community. The owner and operator of the Amador Hotel at the time was a Mr. Campbell of a long standing New Mexico family in that area and he was in truth a very colorful and interesting character.

I had been in the hotel only a few minutes when I was questioned: "Who are you?" I told him. "And why are you here?" I told him.

With this I immediately sensed the attitude of the people in Las Cruces at that time - "We don't like you here." Well, being somewhat quick on the trigger on occasion, I said, "Well, now this is mutual. I don't like you, but I've got to stay here and there's not much we can do about it."

As time went on, this animosity was eliminated and we proceeded with our business.

I had been instructed to get in touch with certain members of the Corps of Engineers who were based in Albuquerque, but who had a small office in Las Cruces in anticipation of this project. In due course we got together and with the assurance that the buildings that were in transit from Sandia Base in Albuquerque would be available before long and that plans were all ready based on the line sketches I was permitted to make. We then proceeded to a site in the desert at a point some miles or more east of the very famous Cox Ranch. We explored the terrain in this area rather carefully, and then I noticed in anticipation of our work a ditch had been dug from a point somewhat east of the area we were examining, out to a point some seven miles where it was anticipated the launching facilities would be built. This was all included in the original sketches which we produce in Washington.

With the arrival of some of the buildings and so forth, immediately the problem arose as to precisely where this facility would be located. This had not been studied and called for an immediate decision. There being no background information and to avoid any discussion of this subject and remembering the famous comments of one of our early presidents when a discussion of the location of the treasury building would be placed in Washington, I looked around, made a cross on the ground with my foot, and said, "This will be the headquarters site." It can be seen immediately, this was a very scientific decision, and actually, as years went by, it was clear it was precisely the optimum but nevertheless very adequate. (*Editor: I think a "not" is missing from just before "precisely" in the last sentence for it to make sense*)

Mark Your Calendars For These

The annual Bataan Memorial Death March will take place at White Sands on March 30. You can register on line until March 23 for either the long or short event.

The next Trinity Site open house will be April 5. The easiest way to get there is through the Stallion Gate which will be open from 8 a.m. til 2 p.m. for entry. For more information call the WSMR Public Affairs Office at 678-1134.

**Hands Across History
P.O. Box 171
White Sands, NM 88002**

The Back Page



ON TOP OF THE WORLD: Clyde Tombaugh, Virginia Farquhar and Maj. Lloyd Smith pose at the new optical site at the tippy top (8,235 feet) of San Andres Peak - circa 1949. Photographers rode a tram up the mountain to get there. The building stored the camera, generator and radio. The site was Clyde's idea because from there you could track the launch, flight and impact of a V-2 with just one camera. It was abandoned after a few years because it was hard to get to and a real treat during spring winds and summer thunderstorms. The building is still there but the roof has blown off. The only visitors it now sees are bighorn sheep since it is inside the San Andres Wildlife Refuge.