



The Miner's Pick

Albuquerque, New Mexico

February 1994

1943 CLASS REUNION

Although still in the planning stages, the Dawson High School Class of 1943 Reunion is practically a certainty. Gene Scanlon reports that class members and their spouses will get together for a mixer on Thursday evening, September 1. The banquet will take place on Friday evening. Locations for both these events haven't yet been decided, but all class members can expect to hear all about it when arrangements have been finalized.

These were the graduates of 1943: Simon Andazola*, Eloyse Archuleta, Josephine Eleanor Bergamo, Frank Nick Butkovich, Ramona Garcia Calderon, Dorothy Ilene Caraglio, Celia Cordova, Beverly Mae Covert, Eliza Cruz, Paul Garcia*, James Duncan Gulley*, Harold Koelling, Helen Mary Martinez*, Gilbert Charles Martinez*, William Allen Meikle, Lena Montepara, Fred Montoya, Daniel Lawther Moore, George Lawrence O'Belmito, Manuela Pacheco, Grayce Padilla, Michael A. Palumbo, Carmen Pascetti, Sylvia Anita Peppin, Louise Primavera, Lucy Ragni, Ramona Rivera, Roy Gladnor Rork, Mary Sandoval, Eugene Paul Scanlon*, Owen Edward Scott*, Janet Thompson Shaw, Quincy Wilson Shaw, Sophia Skandale, Winfield Monroe Smock*, Angelina Starkovich.

*These graduates were in the service of their country at the time of graduation—May 21, 1943

AUTHOR TO AUTOGRAPH BOOKS

Coal Town: The Life and Times of Dawson, New Mexico will be available from the publisher in early summer of 1994. Perhaps you were one of the more than one hundred Dawsonites interviewed by author Toby Smith. Smith has spent the past two years in writing this first full-length, in-depth history of Dawson. You won't want to miss this much needed story of a town that is still special to so many of us.

Many of you will have purchased the book prior to the 1994 Picnic. Toby will be available to autograph your books at the picnic, so don't forget to bring them. Also, in case you didn't get one previously, the books will be available during the weekend and at the Picnic.

IT'S NOW A FACT!

As reported in the 1992 edition of *The Miner's Pick*, on February 14, 1992, the Cultural Properties Review Committee voted to place the Dawson Cemetery on the State Register of Cultural Properties and to nominate it to the National Register of Historic Places. The property was placed on the National Register on April 9, 1992, just a couple of months after *The Miner's Pick* reached you.

Nominations of cemeteries to the National Register are relatively uncommon—they must meet special considerations. The cemetery must derive its significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events. The Dawson Cemetery met the criteria because of its association with the broad patterns of immigration to this country, because of its importance in the history of coal mining and company towns, and specifically its association with two of the worst underground mine disasters in the history of American coal mining.

At the moment, the cemetery is in great need of a good "cleaning up." This is a project that many Dawsonites take upon themselves just prior to our picnic. Your faithfulness to this not-so-small task is greatly appreciated by all who visit, as well as the C S Cattle Ranch and Phelps Dodge Corporation.

Saturday Night Social

Two years ago we all gathered at the Elks Club in Raton for an evening of reminiscence. It remains one of the highlights of the 1992 Picnic. For that reason we are going to repeat the affair.

Mark your calendar—September 3 (the evening before the Picnic) from 7:00 p.m. to ? p.m. It will be a wonderful way to greet old friends and even make new acquaintances. See you there!



Bits of Nostalgia . . .

Despite the wonderful response to our proposal that we produce a Miner's Pick every other year (the years that we don't have a Picnic), we received not a single news item nor article. For that reason, we have gone back to some old items found in various publications. Hope you enjoy them:

"One of many well-documented facts about my family is what its members had for dinner on the ranch in northeast New Mexico on Christmas Day, 1897.

"The table in the dining room seated 21 and family and guests may have dined in shifts because my grandfather, John Barkley Dawson, wanted anyone within riding distance to eat with him. They dined that day on:

"Oxtail soup, wild turkey, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, oyster pie, chicken salad, lemon pie, mince pie, date pudding with wine sauce, ice cream, piñon-nut cake, nuts, oranges and coffee.

"I know that because I have in the family archives at my home in Coronado the menu for that meal. It is hand-written on a small white card with a pink ribbon tied in a bow at the top." —Delphine Dawson Wilson

Taken from article in the *San Diego Union*, 12-12-76

MANY WEEKEND FISHING PARTIES

With the opening of the fishing season, many parties of Dawson people spent the weekend fishing in the Cimarron and in the small streams near Eagle Nest Lake.

Most everyone enjoying the outing was rewarded with a few trout. A few of the "Class A" fishermen landed prize catches. J. B. Morrow, Sam Montgomery, Fernando Chiappetti, J. M. Francois, W. C. Holman, F. L. King and W. C. Smock were among those who landed fish weighing from three to four pounds and from nineteen to twenty-three inches long.

—*The Dawson News*, June 7, 1923

BOY SCOUT NOTES

The Boy Scout Club House was put to practical use Friday evening when it was turned over as a place in which to entertain the members of the Las Vegas football squad.

Army cots were set up in the building, and necessary bedding obtained from homes of the Scouts and the Dawson Hospital to make comfortable beds for the entire squad. With a cheerful fire in the fireplace, the boys enjoyed most of the comforts of home and expressed themselves as highly pleased with their entertainment.

—*The Dawson News*, October 25, 1923

"Dawson is noted as the home of fine athletic teams. Even as the notice of Dawson's closing was posted on the bulletin boards, the Dawson high school basketball team was fighting its way into the finals of the district high school tournament. The Dawson football team was one of the best in New Mexico for the past two years.

"Closing of Dawson will be a tremendous blow to the economy of Raton and Colfax County. Only 35 miles from Raton, Dawson was an important part of Raton's retail trade area. The closing, too, comes on the heels of the closing of mines at Brilliant and Van Houten last summer by the Rocky Mountain Company. Dawson was one of two major mines still producing in New Mexico. The only actually major coal mine in the state, after Dawson's closing, will be Koehler."

—taken from article in *Raton Daily Range*, 2-25-50

DAWSON IS MARKED FOR PASSING AVIATORS

Aviators passing over Dawson in the future will no longer have to guess as to their exact location if perchance they may be off their course.

During the past week the word "Dawson" has been painted in a large sign on the flat roof of the Phelps Dodge Mercantile Company store. The letters are 12 feet high and the entire sign is 91 feet long. While no Dawsonite has had the opportunity of observing the sign in a passing plane, it is thought that it can be seen from a very high elevation.

The painting of the sign was done to cooperate with the government in their campaign to have the names of all towns placed on top of tall buildings to serve as a guide to passing aviators.

—taken from *The Dawson News*, August 8, 1929

NOTICE TO CHICKEN OWNERS

The welfare department has received a number of complaints during the past week regarding chickens running at large.

During the winter months the chickens could do but little damage, but now that spring is approaching, the rights of those desiring to plant gardens should be respected.

Notice is therefore given that persons desiring to keep chickens must keep them within an enclosure.

— from *The Dawson News*, March 10, 1927



JUST A REMINDER . . .

Many of the niceties we have come to expect at the Dawson Picnic take quite an outlay of money. This mailing alone is going out to 675 folks.

Your Committee puts in many hours in preparing for the big day. Won't you help a bit by making a donation now? Please make your check payable to Jerry Scanlon and mail it to him at:

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