



The Miner's Pick

Albuquerque, New Mexico

February 2004

CLEANUP DAY!

We will be in Dawson at 9:00 a.m. on the Friday before the Picnic (September 3, 2004) to do some cleanup work at the cemetery and at the Picnic site. We will welcome anyone who wishes to help with this work – it's important!

BUSINESS & FINANCE

After all expenses were met for the 2002 reunion, we have on hand \$1,534.00. This will cover the printing, paper and postage for this announcement and other information furnished here. So please help with your donations to cover the other expenses for our 2004 reunion, the Saturday night social, and a reserve for the next reunion. Send donations to:

**Dawson New Mexico Association
6644 Ruby Street NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109**

There will also be a donation box at the information table in the picnic grounds. Please help as much as you can.

CARLOS CERVANTES

Carlos was born in 1913 in Coahuila in northern Mexico to Maria Quintero and Carlos (Sr.) Cervantes. His father was a rider with Pancho Villa and his mother "rode the rails" with her husband. Carlos Sr. was killed while fighting with Pancho Villa's army in Mexico in 1915. By 1920 Carlos and his mother had moved to Dawson, NM, where he attended school until 1927. He had to quit school about age 14 to help support his family. He worked at the Dawson Dairy, where he herded and milked cows.

Because of his obvious talent for art, he won a scholarship to the Cincinnati Art Academy, where he studied for three years, after which he won a national scholarship to the Art Student's League in New York City. After a year in New York, he enrolled again in the Cincinnati Art Academy, where he continued his studies and was a teacher.

During the summers, Carlos would return to Dawson. On one of these trips he rode his bicycle from Ohio to New Mexico. While in Dawson he painted scenes of the coal mines and many landscapes in the area. In 1940 his work was featured in the Coronado Cuarto Centennial exhibition in Albuquerque. Carlos is considered to be an important Hispano artist in the "New Deal" era; his works were shown in both WPA and the Federal Art Project exhibits.

Carlos became a U.S. citizen in 1940 and in that year he enlisted in the U.S. Army. During World War II, he landed on Omaha Beach and was eventually severely wounded in

France. Upon his discharge in 1945, he returned to Cincinnati, where he married and had four children.

Carlos died in Cincinnati in 1993. We will have copies of a more complete biography of Carlos Cervantes available at the Dawson Reunion.

IN MEMORY OF THE DAWSONITES KILLED IN WORLD WAR II

Fred Archuleta

John Blazevich

Mike Carlini

Delbert Covert

Bennie Diaz

John Di Benedetti

James Gully

Emery King

Fidel (Lito) Padilla

Bernardo Robles

Vincent VanDersarl

Raúl Zavala

SATURDAY NIGHT SOCIAL . . .

We'll once again be at the Elks Lodge in Raton for the Saturday Night Social – that's September 4, 2004. This has become a very popular get-together over the years. If you haven't been attending, you are really missing out! It always seems easier to find old friends in this more confined space than it is on the picnic grounds in Dawson. The doors will be open for this gathering at 7:00 p.m. Dress up or dress down, and enjoy an evening of wonderful memories with your old friends. See all of you there!

BOOKS, CDs AND VIDEOTAPES . . .

There are a few copies still available of Toby Smith's *COAL TOWN* (\$18.00), the videotape of the 2000 Picnic (\$20.00), and the CD that contains the entire run of *The Dawson News* (\$12.00). This will probably be the last chance you will have to buy these. Get them at the picnic! We'll have a sales table for all three.

HONORING THE VANDERSARL BROTHERS

Dr. Jules V. VanDersarl of Colorado Springs, CO, has recently established an endowed fund for the music department at New Mexico State University, in memory of his father, Jules John, and his uncle, Vincent. This fund will support master classes in the department.

Dr. VanDersarl's father, a tenor, earned a music scholarship to what was then New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, after placing second in the Atwater Kent auditions in 1931. A year later, as a college freshman, he placed first place in that competition.

Going to school during the Depression, the elder VanDersarl worked part time as a janitor, and was forced to withdraw for a year to earn money to finish his education. While studying music, he also played football, golf, track, and basketball, earning two letters in basketball. He was president of his fraternity, leader of the Vagabonds dance band, and sang in a church choir.

Following his graduation in 1937, he taught music and coached at Las Cruces High School, until entering the Army Air Corps in 1939. He was an instructor pilot and earned his senior pilot wings by war's end and was qualified to fly B-24s, B-17s, and B-29s. After the war ended, he and his wife and four children settled briefly in Texas and then moved back to Las Cruces. He was re-activated during the Korean conflict and remained on active duty until he retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1965.

Throughout his life he remained active in local choirs and theater productions.

His brother Vincent was an engineering student at New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, who excelled in sports, music, and art. At the beginning of World War II, he left school and followed his brother into the Army Air Corps, training with the Troop Carrier Command at Bergstrom Field in Texas. He was transferred overseas to fly in the China-Burma-India theater and was killed in action in December 1944.

What a wonderful remembrance of two very talented Dawsonites!

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL IN RATON

We have been asked to announce that a memorial is planned in a Raton park to honor those who served in World War II. This is a major and worthwhile project and will include not only Raton men and women but also those from the surrounding area, which will include Dawson. More information will be available at the reunion.

DID YOU KNOW?

That the Dawson Miners basketball team beat the Raton Tigers the last five times they played?

WELCOME NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER . . .

Anna Salvo Weybrew of Raton is our newest Committee member. We hope to recruit more new blood for the next reunion. Some of us are getting old and tired. Help!



SCOUT HOUSE

Home of Boy Scout Troop No. 70, this building was on the top of "Scout Hill" right in the middle of downtown Dawson. The building was erected by Phelps Dodge Corporation as a gift to the community.