



THE BUGLE CALL

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society

July 2024

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society, I would like to welcome everyone to the inaugural issue of our organization's quarterly newsletter, *The Bugle Call*. I especially would like to thank Denise Singleton for offering to head up the effort, and I hope that it will help everyone feel more connected to the organization's work at historic Fort Bayard. We welcome suggestions, and look forward to your feedback.

Doug Dinwiddie, President, FBHPS

HISTORIAN TO SPEAK AT FORT BAYARD BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION



Historian John Langellier will be the featured speaker at the Fort Bayard birthday celebration on August 17th. Mr. Langellier will offer insights into his newest book, a history of Buffalo Soldiers, that he produced as part of his work for the National Park Service.

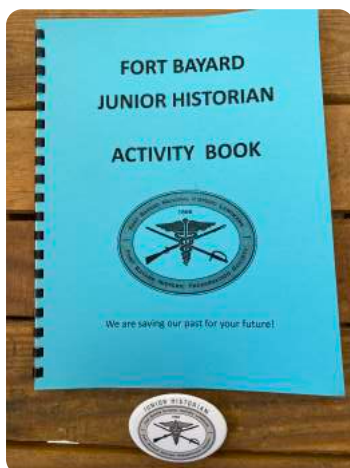
The event will take place at 6 pm on Saturday, August 17th, at the New Deal Theater at Fort Bayard, located across the parade grounds across from the museum. This will be the highlight of our efforts to commemorate the 158th birthday of historic Fort Bayard. Birthday cake and refreshments will be served after Mr. Langellier's talk.

THE JUNIOR HISTORIAN PROGRAM

The FBHPS is happy to announce the addition of a Junior Historian Program to our public programming. Funded with assistance from the Covid Relief program through the New Mexico Humanities Council, volunteers Becky Dinwiddie, Cecilia Bell, Kathryn McCarroll and Doug Dinwiddie brainstormed an activity book for youngsters who visit the museum.

By completing an Artifact Scavenger Hunt during their museum visit, participating students can affix ink stamps in the book while viewing the artifacts, which then entitles them to earn a signed certificate and a badge designating them as "Junior Historians" for FBHPS. The book also contains crossword puzzles, word finds, mazes, etc. for later enjoyment.

The first Junior Historians were a group of students from Calvary Academy, who toured the museum on May 16th. We hope that this program will help us in our efforts to instill an interest in history in our youngest patrons. We are happy to report that the response so far from the participants has been enthusiastic.

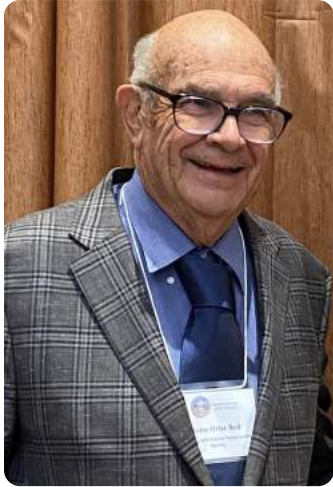


The Junior Historian Activity
Book and Badge

Bill Kupke leads the new Junior
Historians from Calvary
Academy on a tour of the
theater

The Calvary Academy Junior
Historians in the Fort Bayard
school room at the museum

DR. JOHN BELL RECEIVES AWARD



In a ceremony at the annual meeting of the Historical Society of New Mexico in Albuquerque, FBHPS Board member Dr. John O. Bell was presented with the 2024 L. Bradford Prince Award for outstanding service in the field of Historic Preservation. Dr. Bell was recognized for his many years of service as a tour guide, researcher, officer, and supporter of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society.

As a physician, Dr. Bell has been particularly dedicated to telling the medical story of Fort Bayard, and frequently portrays Dr. George Bushnell in “living history” presentations at historic Fort Bayard. With this award, Dr. Bell joins his wife Cecilia, and Mr. Bill Kupke as winners of this prestigious honor bestowed by the statewide historical society.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

William "Bill" Kupke



Bill Kupke

In each edition of *The Bugle Call*, we will be featuring a profile of one of our volunteers. For this inaugural issue, we are happy to spotlight one of our founding members, Mr. Bill Kupke. Visitors to Fort Bayard over the last 30 plus years have often been treated to lectures and guided tours presented by Bill, covering the frontier Army days of the fort's history. Recognized for his encyclopedic knowledge of frontier firearms and other Army equipment, Bill has enthralled generations of visitors with his presentations about the Army and its role in the Apache Wars of the late 1800s.

Bill says that while he has always been interested in firearms, his interests in the frontier Army developed only after his mother became a patient at the Fort Bayard Medical Center in the 1980s. A voracious



**Replica Mountain
Howitzer**

reader, Bill is noted for his attention to detail and his dedication to the accuracy of our interpretive efforts at the fort. Among his many contributions to FBHPS is the donation of a replica Mountain Howitzer, which he researched and built himself. It is currently on exhibit in the Fort Bayard Theater building.

Bill was honored as the recipient of the L. Bradford Prince Award by the Historical Society of New Mexico, which is given annually to an outstanding figure in Historic Preservation in New Mexico. In addition, FBHPS makes an annual donation to the National History Day program in the local schools, known as the William Kupke Excellence in Historical Research Award.

Please drop by the museum any Saturday to meet Bill and his friendly dog Sugar, as they greet visitors.



RECENT ACQUISITION

Each edition of *The Bugle Call* will highlight a recently received artifact or document as we continue to grow our collections. Our selected artifact this quarter is a large photograph donated by Jarrett Attel, on behalf of his parents, FBHPS members Patrick and Patricia Attel of El Paso.

The photo captures a boxing match on Memorial Day 1921, being held on the baseball grounds at Fort Bayard. It documents how sporting events were an important part of the social life at the Fort Bayard Hospital, over a century ago. We would like to thank the Attel family for their foresight and generosity in preserving this important piece of Fort Bayard history.

The photograph is now on exhibit at the museum, located in the Commanding Doctor's home.

MORE INTERPRETIVE SIGNS IN PROGRESS

Visitors to the grounds at historic Fort Bayard will soon notice the addition of more interpretive signs, featuring recently acquired photographs and information. In addition, replacements for some of the most damaged and weathered signs are gradually being installed. Anyone wishing to make donations toward the expansion and repair of the signage is encouraged to do so.

FALL VIDEO MINI-SERIES EVENT



Decades before the “Yellowstone” television series gripped the imagination of viewers about the struggles involved in the settlement of the West, an epic miniseries based on James Michener’s novel *Centennial*, was broadcast to an enthralled American audience. The FBHPS is excited to announce the showing of the entire *Centennial* series this fall, on Thursday evenings at the Santa Clara National Guard Armory building.

Every Thursday from September 5 through November 21, the epic story will be told in 12 installments, totaling over 26 hours of video. Although it is set in northern Colorado, the series examines the saga that played out all over the American West, as the forces of Manifest Destiny collided with the centuries-old Native cultures for dominance in the breathtaking landscape of western America.

Plan on joining us (admission is free) for the series, with doors opening at 6 pm, followed by the showings at 6:30. Popcorn and beverages are available for purchase.

ARTIFACT OF THE ISSUE

The Heliograph



Visitors to our museum at Fort Bayard will discover a remarkable artifact in the “soldier’s room” on the second floor. This is a device known as a “*heliograph*,” which was devised by a British engineer in the late nineteenth century for use in India, Kashmir, and Afghanistan. Its success as a signaling device caught the attention of the American army, and was put into use in the American West in the latter days of the Indian Wars.

Mounted on a tripod, the device uses mirrors to reflect sunlight through an aiming mechanism. By use of knobs and a lens cover, flashes of sunlight can be sent in “dots and dashes” utilizing Morse Code, and aimed toward a receiving station on a distant mountaintop.

The record distance for a heliograph signal is well over 100 miles, between stations in Utah and Colorado.

General Nelson A. Miles ordered the installation of dozens of heliograph stations in Arizona and New Mexico in the mid-1880s. Young 2nd Lieutenant John J. Pershing, after his deployment to Fort Bayard in 1886, was involved in setting up some of the stations. The heliograph solved the problem of telegraph wires being cut by renegade Apaches, and was part of the technology employed to force Geronimo to surrender.

FORT BAYARD MUSEUM HOURS

The Fort Bayard Museum is open from 10 am-2 pm every Saturday and Sunday during the warm weather months. Admission is free to all members of the public; however, donations are always welcome.

The museum is a great place to bring your family and out-of-town visitors. And remember—all gift shop items are available for purchase at a 10% discount when you present your FBHPS membership card.

Group tours can be arranged on weekdays by appointment—just email your request to info@historicfortbayard.org and we will do our best to accommodate you.

MONTHLY MEETING AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The FBHPS meets the second Wednesday of every month from 10 am-12 pm at the Santa Clara Armory. Please join us! We welcome ideas from all members.

You can also actively engage in our operation by volunteering your time as a tour guide, collections curator, living history performer, building and grounds worker, or records keeper and researcher. Training will be provided as needed.

FBHPS Officers:

Dr. Doug Dinwiddie, President

Cecilia Bell, Vice President

Becky Dinwiddie, Treasurer

Denise Singleton, Secretary

Dr. John O. Bell, Village of Santa Clara Liaison

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