



THE BUGLE CALL

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fort Bayard

Historic Preservation Society

January 2025

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we embark into another year, there is progress to report. 2025 promises to be the year in which electricity is finally restored to the museum building, as new wiring and fixtures continue to be installed. You will all be notified when "the lights come on," and we will have a special event to celebrate that achievement.

We also are happy to report that we are now able to use space in the neighboring structure to the south of the museum, which we will be referring to as "Building 53". With the cooperation of the Village of Santa Clara, we continue to lease space in the Santa Clara National Guard Armory building, where we maintain a research center and work offices. We



continue to host meetings and weekly film showings throughout the year in the Armory.

Visitors to our grounds will also note the replacement of a number of deteriorated interpretive signs, and a few additional ones as well. Several other initiatives will be announced throughout the year, so stay tuned, and enjoy this third edition of *The Bugle Call*.

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year, and we hope to see you at the upcoming Annual Members Dinner on February 21st.

Doug Dinwiddie, President, FBHPS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN JANUARY

All FBHPS memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. You should already have received a renewal notice with attached form in your email. You have the option of printing out the form and mailing it with your enclosed check to FBHPS, or you can fill out the online form and also pay online by visiting our website: <https://www.historicfortbayard.org/become-a-member/>

Note: FBHPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your membership in FBHPS is a tax-deductible donation. No goods or services are offered in exchange for this donation.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER SCHEDULED

The FBHPS annual membership dinner will be held on **Friday, February 21** at Cross Point Church, 11600 Silver Heights Blvd (Hwy 180), Silver City. Please plan to join us for an enjoyable evening with your fellow supporters of Fort Bayard!

Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., meal service will begin at 6:30. As soon as everyone is served, FBHPS President Doug Dinwiddie will open the meeting with an update on the Society's activities, followed by our guest speaker, historian Larry Francell. In his presentation, Larry will talk about "Songs the Soldiers Sang."



The cost of the meal (chicken or pork, sides, dessert, and beverages) is \$20 per person, payable at the door.

You should have already received the email officially announcing the dinner meeting. *Please respond to the email ASAP if you plan to attend.* The staff at Cross Point needs to plan for the number of meals to prepare. *The deadline for confirming your attendance is Friday, February 14.* We will send out an additional final email reminder notice as the date draws closer.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE QUARTER

Cecilia Bell And Dr. John Bell

Since 1999, Cecilia Bell has been a cornerstone of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society. She recalls meeting with Dr. Dale Giese while she was a graduate student in the history department at Western New Mexico University, who encouraged her to become involved with efforts to recognize the 100th anniversary of the end of Fort Bayard's service as an active military post. Over the next few years, she worked tirelessly with



Dale and Jeanette Giese, Andrea Jacquez, Tina Joslin, and many others to educate the public about the historic legacy of Fort Bayard. Those efforts paid off in a big way, when the historic property was designated as Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark in 2004.

A key activity that also resulted from those efforts was the development of Fort Bayard Days, a multi-day event that was usually held in September each year. Cecilia recalls being told that there was a budget totaling seventeen dollars available to put on the first FB Days, so fundraising became a priority. Within a few years, the event had grown to an extravaganza that

included re-enactors, craft and weapons demonstrations, and above all, educational lectures for visiting school students from the local area. It became common for over 600 students to participate in each year's event.

Cecilia has devoted years to keeping the political bureaucracy in Santa Fe aware of both the needs and the potential of Fort Bayard. This has entailed many trips to the state capital, and countless phone calls, personal conversations and letters to both elected representatives and agency personnel. There has been no stronger advocate for Fort Bayard at every level than Cecilia, and she has appeared many times in newspaper and magazine articles promoting the historic site.

Cecilia, along with her husband, Dr. John Bell, has served as a host and tour guide at the Fort Bayard Museum for many years. Cecilia has been especially active in keeping alive the stories of the women who were a major part of Fort Bayard's history, including both its days as a frontier military fort, then later as a renowned medical facility. A few years ago, her work was recognized at the state level, when she was named the recipient of the prestigious L. Bradford Prince Award for work in historic preservation, conferred on her by the Historical Society of New Mexico.

After serving as President of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society for many years, she now holds the office of Vice President, and is relied upon by the organization for her knowledge, energy, and ideas as we continue to strive to keep Fort Bayard's stories alive.



Dr. John Bell first became interested in Fort Bayard due to its reputation as a groundbreaking facility for the treatment of tuberculosis. He says that in his medical practice he came to be personally acquainted with patients who were struggling with the disease, and became fascinated with the history of medicine's attempts to control it.

Dr. Bell's warm personality has made him a natural fit for his role as a tour guide and speaker at historic Fort Bayard and its museum. He has taken on the task of portraying famed Dr. George Bushnell during Fort Bayard Days and other special events featuring historic re-enactors. His "medical tour" of the facility is enlightening and thought provoking. Of course, as Cecilia's "other half," John has been a dedicated advocate for Fort Bayard in Santa Fe and the New Mexico historical community at large. He, too, is a recipient of the L. Bradford Prince Award for achievement in historic preservation, having claimed that honor in 2024. We are pleased to feature both Cecilia and John Bell as our Volunteers of the Quarter.

Top photo: Cecilia and Dale Giese (right), with Congressman Steve Pearce holding the official notification that Fort Bayard has received the designation as a National Historic Landmark, 2004.

Bottom photo: Dr. Bell is shown at the 2024 New Mexico Historical Society Awards Ceremony, being recognized as the recipient of the L. Bradford Prince Award for outstanding service in Historic Preservation.

RECENT ACQUISITION

Toddler's Potty Chair



We are happy to feature one of many items recently donated to our Society from Piet and Mary Vandermark of Tucson, Arizona. This ***Wicker Toddler's Potty Chair*** was of a type that became popular during the Victorian era (mid-to-late 1800s). The Vandermarks delivered an entire U-Haul trailer load of furniture and other items this autumn. While most of the items are in temporary storage until exhibit space allows, this unique artifact is on display in the first floor early bathroom exhibit at our Society Museum. A special thank you to the Vandermarks for their donations!

THE FORT BAYARD STORY

Dr. George Bushnell

In 1899, a new era opened for Fort Bayard. In that year, the mission of the post was transformed from that of an active military base to becoming the site of the U.S. Army's first tuberculosis hospital. One of the most significant people in the history of Fort Bayard was Dr. (Colonel) George Bushnell, who

served as the Commanding Doctor at Fort Bayard Army Tuberculosis Hospital from 1904 to 1917.

Recognized worldwide as one of the leading authorities on the treatment of TB, Bushnell suffered from the disease himself, ultimately succumbing to the affliction in 1924, at the relatively advanced age of 70. A graduate of Yale Medical School, he applied lessons he gained from his own experience as a patient to his treatment regimens for personnel under his care. Under his leadership, Fort Bayard became known as the leading facility for the treatment of tuberculosis among service personnel.

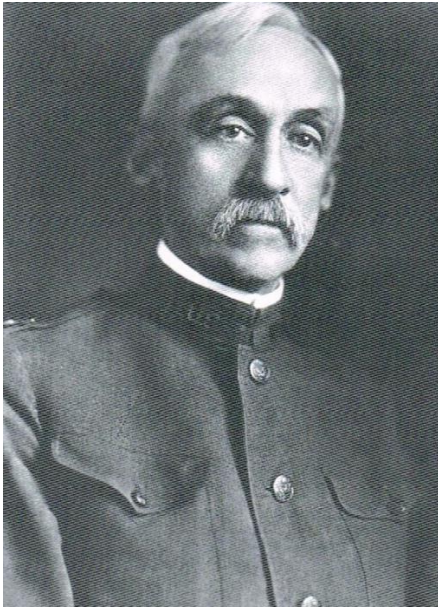
In addition to his medical expertise, Bushnell was also a trained botanist. As part of his belief that patients should be treated in as pleasant an environment as possible, he oversaw the complete overhaul of landscaping at Fort Bayard. Supervising the acquisition and planting of thousands of trees, shrubs, and bushes, he transformed Fort Bayard from a barren and dusty military post into an amazing oasis, featuring an impressive variety of plant and tree life.

Due to his international recognition and accompanying political influence, he successfully persuaded the Army to rebuild Fort Bayard as a modern medical facility. In 1912, he and his wife Ethel became the first tenants of the brand-new Commanding Doctor's house along the west side of the historic parade ground. The only single-family dwelling along "Doctors' Row," it had ample space to house visiting VIPs as guests of the Bushnells.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, the Army ordered Bushnell to move to Washington, D.C. to oversee the entire Army hospital system's plans for the treatment of tuberculosis and other respiratory injuries. Burdened by heavy responsibility, his frail health took a turn for the worse, and he was forced to retire from the service in 1919. No other individual had such a lasting influence on Fort Bayard's medical history as Dr. George Ensign Bushnell.

To learn more about Dr. Bushnell and many other figures associated with the site, visit the Fort Bayard Museum, open every Saturday from 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m., or by special appointment for groups. More information is available at historicfortbayard.org.



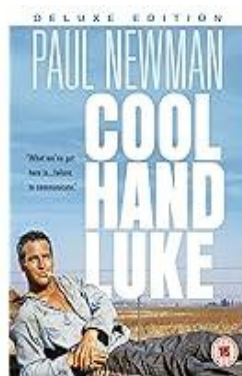
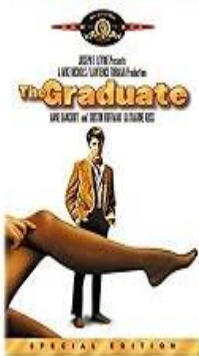
Left: Dr. (Col.) George Bushnell



Right: Dr. Bushnell with Medical Staff. Dr. Bushnell is on the extreme left in the front row. Photo taken on the steps of the Fort Bayard administration building [still standing] shortly before his departure in 1917.

SPRING MOVIE SERIES ANNOUNCED

For Winter/Spring 2025, our popular film series continues. Please join us for "Iconic Movies of the 1960s." Starting Thursday, January 23, we



begin the series with the classic Hitchcock film "Psycho."

All movies are shown on Thursday evenings at the Santa Clara Armory. Doors open at 6:00 pm, and showings begin at 6:30. Admission is free (donations

welcome) and open to the public. Bring your friends! Concessions are available at a nominal charge.

The complete list of films and dates are listed below. Please join us for this entertaining blast from the past!

Spring Movie Schedule		
January 23	<i>Psycho</i>	Hitchcock's top thriller, most famous for the "shower scene"
January 30	<i>The Apartment</i>	A classic Jack Lemmon comedy-drama about a man whose apartment becomes a place for corporate romantic shenanigans
February 13	<i>The Manchurian Candidate</i>	Classic Cold War era political thriller
February 20	<i>Dr. Strangelove</i>	Stanley Kubrick's irreverent comedy, hailed as one of the greatest ever made
February 27	<i>A Fistful of Dollars</i>	The spaghetti Western film that made Clint Eastwood a movie star
March 6	<i>The Graduate</i>	Dustin Hoffman as a recent college grad, aimless and romantically inept; it is generally regarded as one of his best films
March 13	<i>Cool Hand Luke</i>	Paul Newman as a work farm prisoner who refuses to submit to the brutality of the system
March 20	<i>The Dirty Dozen</i>	Lee Marvin and other top stars in a WWII action drama
March 27	<i>In the Heat of the Night</i>	Sidney Poitier and Rod Steiger in a groundbreaking film about race relations and law enforcement in a small Southern town
April 3	<i>Bonnie and Clyde</i>	Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway as the legendary 1930s outlaws
April 10	<i>Easy Rider</i>	Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper as a counterculture biker duo

ARTIFACT OF THE ISSUE

Corona 3 Folding Typewriter

Thanks to donor Mrs. Dixie Chandler, our museum is now the proud owner of one of the most unique and successful typewriters of the early 20th century. The Corona 3 was manufactured between 1912 and 1941, and was known for its reliability and its portability. Its unique design allowed its easy movement around a busy office by folding into an easily transported case, which was a big improvement over the heavy and awkward models previously in use.

The Smithsonian's Museum of American History saw fit to add one to its collection of significant American artifacts. Our museum's Corona 3 was purchased for use at Fort Bayard by Mrs. Minnie Lockney in 1931. It is currently on exhibit in the replica Commanding Doctor's office on the second floor of the museum.



SILVER CITY MUSEUM EXHIBIT ON WOMEN IN MEDICINE

The Silver City Museum recently opened a new exhibit, "Healers & Heroines: Women and the Shaping of Local Health Care." As you probably know, Fort Bayard Hospital played a major role in providing health care to both military personnel and civilians throughout its history. The photo shown was provided by FBHPS, and is featured on the museum's website. The exhibit will run throughout 2025. The FBHPS provided several other photos to the museum for use in its exhibit.



We encourage you to visit the Silver City Museum to learn more about the story of women in medicine in Grant County over the years, and Fort Bayard's role in this important part of our local history.

FORT BAYARD MUSEUM WINTER HOURS

Continuing through March, the museum will be open on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm. Special tours can be arranged for groups outside of those hours by calling 575-388-4862, or 575-574-2573. 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.

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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