



THE BUGLE CALL

Quarterly Newsletter of the Fort Bayard

Historic Preservation Society

January 2026

Happy New Year!



2026 will be a busy year for the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society! In addition to the 250th U.S. anniversary celebrations being planned, which are discussed in Doug Dinwiddie's message below, we are looking forward to providing ongoing input to the state's plans to revitalize Fort Bayard. Please stay tuned to future emails, our website (historicfortbayard.org), and upcoming editions of *The Bugle Call* for information about these exciting events.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The FBHPS will be participating in events to mark our nation's 250th anniversary throughout 2026. We are partnering with the local chapter of the Daughters of the



American Revolution to offer a film series highlighting the Revolution and its leaders. Among the award-winning films that we will offer are episodes from the PBS series "John Adams," the musical "1776", and the docudrama "A More Perfect Union." Other events honoring



the anniversary are being planned, so stay vigilant for more notices about our celebration schedule.

Doug Dinwiddie
President, FBHPS

SAVE THE DATE – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FEBRUARY 7TH



The FBHPS will hold its annual membership meeting on Saturday, February 7th. We are doing something a bit different this year. Instead of the usual dinner meeting, we will convene at the New Deal Theatre on the Fort Bayard campus (southeast corner of the parade grounds) at 6:00 p.m. for finger foods and sweet treats, as well as hot and cold beverages. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. *There is no charge for this event.*

The New Deal Theatre at Fort Bayard

Please stay tuned to your email for a reminder notice and any updates. The program is still being finalized, but you can be sure it will be interesting and entertaining. See you there!

COMMUNITY MEETING ON FORT BAYARD REVITALIZATION PLAN

On Wednesday, January 7th, a public meeting was held at the Grant County Conference Center to present three proposed plans for the revitalization of Fort Bayard. The plans were developed by Stantec, LLC, which was awarded the contract for the project by the State of New Mexico.

Lt. Gov. Howie Morales, Rep. Luis Terrazas, and Anna Silva, Secretary of the NM General Services Department, were in attendance, as well as representatives from Stantec. A master plan will be developed from public feedback on the three options presented at the meeting. After an initial presentation by Stantec to review the three options, the attendees broke into smaller working groups to provide input.



Meeting attendees discuss ideas at a breakout session

The three options were named "Fort Bayard Village," "Fort Bayard Trailhead," and "Fort Bayard Resort." Each option emphasizes a different approach to how the property could be developed, but at this phase of the project it is likely that elements from each option will be incorporated into the final plan. These elements include a boutique hotel, housing, a retail area, a learning center, a bike shop/terrain park, an RV park, and a visitors' center. However, the majority of those in attendance seemed to agree that the historic aspects of Fort Bayard, especially the parade ground and the buildings around it, must be restored and preserved regardless of what is done with the rest of the property.

The next public meeting will be held in approximately three months. Please stay tuned for notice of this meeting, so that your voice can be heard.

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

Lorie Hildebrand

We are happy to announce Lorie Hildebrand as our Volunteer of the Issue for this edition of the Bugle. Lorie is a long-time member of the FBHPS, having joined around 2005. Her late husband Rocky had begun volunteering after his retirement from the Forest Service, and Lorie gradually became involved as well. Lorie's background includes having served as a firefighter and dispatcher with the US Forest Service, and several years as a stay-at-home mom.



Everyone in our organization recognizes how valuable she is to our efforts, as she is willing to assist with almost everything the FBHPS does. She is a mainstay in our Thursday night movie series, assisting with the preparation and sale of concessions, and making sure that our patrons are taken care of in whatever way she can. She is a dependable and energetic volunteer and makes all our efforts easier by her participation. She also serves on our

Board of Directors, and although she avoids the limelight, she is a vital part of the Society. Thank you, Lorie, for everything you do!

WINTER MOVIE SERIES UNDERWAY

The next FBHPS movie series kicked off on January 8th with the first showing of the classic comedy "Some Like It Hot." The theme of the 2026 winter series is "Time to Laugh: Classic Hollywood Comedies 1959-1993." Please join us at the Santa Clara Armory every Thursday evening for a very funny film, and bring your friends and family members. All movies are free and open to the public.

FORT BAYARD HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY
2026 Time to Laugh: Classic Hollywood Comedies 1959-1993

at the
Santa Clara Armory/Doors Open at 6:00 pm, Showings at 6:30
THURSDAY EVENINGS, January 8, 2026 thru April 2, 2026

FREE ADMISSION/DONATIONS WELCOME
CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE, ONLY \$1 EACH



Some Like it Hot
Jan. 8



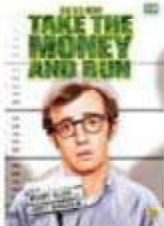
It's a Mad, Mad,
Mad, Mad World
Jan. 15



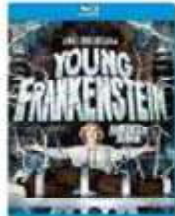
The Pink Panther
Jan. 22



The Odd Couple
Jan. 29



Take the Money
and Run
Feb. 5



Young Frankenstein
Feb. 12



Monty Python and
the Holy Grail
Feb. 19



The Gods Must
Be Crazy
Feb. 26



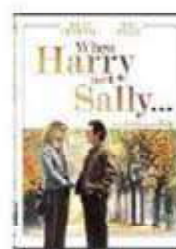
Caddyshack
Mar. 5



Airplane
Mar. 12



Planes, Trains,
and Automobiles
Mar. 19



When Harry
Met Sally
Mar. 26



Groundhog
Day
Apr. 2

THE FORT BAYARD STORY

Dr. John Bell is leading a project to collect oral histories of persons who worked and/or lived at Fort Bayard during the hospital era. We will publish one of these interviews in each issue of *The Bugle Call*. (Stories are edited for space and clarity.)

SARA SMYTHE

As told to Dr. John Bell

Sara (more commonly called Sally) was born in 1934 in Michigan but lived with her maternal grandparents in Syracuse, New York until she was about seven. Her father was sick at the time of her birth, and her mother was unable to support her.

Her father, Kenneth Vanderbosch, was born in 1903. He entered the Marine Corps in WW I at age fifteen. When his father discovered where he was, his father had him removed from the service, but by this time he was already in France. Kenneth later joined the Coast Guard and was rather bitter that his dad had removed him from the military even though he was underaged. He went on to complete his college undergraduate studies.



Sara (Sally) Smythe

By the 1930s he was severely ill with tuberculosis. He suffered from mustard gas exposure during WW I, but there was no evidence he suffered from tuberculosis in the years immediately after WW I. He was sick for two years with tuberculosis in a hospital in Michigan. He later described himself as "flat on his back."

Fort Bayard was well known as an outstanding veterans' hospital to treat tuberculosis. Sara's father requested a transfer to Fort Bayard for treatment. His physician resisted, saying that he would not survive the trip. Mr. Vanderbosch insisted, his thinking being that he was going to die anyway if he stayed in Michigan.

He eventually arrived by train in Silver City with another patient and a nurse. He was transported to Fort Bayard from the train station in a motorized vehicle. Mr. Vanderbosch was hospitalized for five years at Fort Bayard. He never had any type of surgery for his disease, and antibiotics for tuberculosis had not been developed at that time.

Sara's mother arrived at Fort Bayard later. She found employment as a librarian and had a mobile library that she transported to the patients. Her father was included because he could not walk to the library. There were also precautions against allowing infectious patients into other parts of the hospital.

Sara came to Fort Bayard by car with her grandparents from Syracuse, NY when she was about seven. The trip to Fort Bayard took about five days. Sara knows she arrived at Fort Bayard on November 1, and she thinks the year was 1941. She remembers listening to the attack on Pearl Harbor while in someone else's car at Fort Bayard.

Upon Sara's arrival at Fort Bayard, her father had already completed his five-year hospitalization and was receiving care as an outpatient. His disease was not considered "arrested" at this time and he was not released for full-time work outside the hospital area. He worked in the post office part time. He also had an area the size of about three large lawns that he "farmed" and was able to grow vegetables, fruit, and berries.

Sara's mother continued to work in the library. She was allowed to visit her mother in the library area but was not allowed in the patient area and therefore not allowed to accompany her mother when she made her mobile library rounds on the wards.

Sara started school at Fort Bayard. The school was a two-teacher school. One teacher taught grades one through four and the principal taught grades five through eight. She states that the school was located one block north of Doctor's Row. The school was excellent due to the outstanding teachers. There were about three to five children per grade but four grades per class.

She said the school was constructed of some type of stone. There were two stories, but they were not allowed to go upstairs and she never did. Sara was told that the school burned in the 1960s.

Pottery pieces were abundant. When the kids played hopscotch, they used pottery pieces to make rectangles that separated their jump spots. She does not remember entire pieces of pottery, with one exception. The boys dug out one complete pottery bowl. One boy, eager to show the finished bowl to the principal, ran, tripped, and broke it.

A rough guess of the number of people that lived at Fort Bayard at that time was about 100. The Hispanics lived in the smaller quarters south of the steam plant. The Anglos lived north of the hospital. All attended the same school, but the social segregation was severe. According to Sara's memory, the Hispanics did not visit the Anglos socially and likewise the Anglos did not socially mix with the Hispanics after work hours. However, at school, the children all played together.

In 1945 there were about 100 German prisoners of war (POWs) assigned to Fort Bayard. Because of the war there was a shortage of civilian American workers. There was a POW camp near Lordsburg, and these POWs came to work in 1945 and stayed until late 1946. They did not return to Germany immediately after the war because conditions in Germany were so terrible. The schoolhouse was converted into a dormitory or camp for the German POWs. There was a very secure fence described as a hurricane fence that was erected. The POWs had some space to roam outside.

Fort Bayard personnel were not allowed to mingle with the soldiers in any way socially. The POWs had different kinds of jobs. Some worked in the hospital, but many worked outside the hospital. Their breakfast and evening meals were served in the compound. The noon meal was often taken where they were working. Her best memory of the prisoners was their singing outside but within their compound in the evening after work. One of the prisoners played an instrument, either a harmonica or accordion. She thinks they were allowed passes with supervision to Silver City at times on the weekend. They were paid for their work, but she does not know the amount.

(Editor's Note: The FBHPS has been attempting to locate photos of the German POWs that were living and working at Fort Bayard. As of now, we have not found any. If any of our readers are aware of any existing POW photos, please let us know.)

When the prisoners "took over" the school, the school was moved to the Sojourner's Club. The Sojourner's Club was originally built in the early 1920s as a recreational facility. The Sojourner's Club was under the Masonic umbrella. It was located at the south end of Doctor's Row, to the west and up the hill. The Sojourner's Club burned in the 1970s, but the location is still marked by some very tall cedars. Sara never attended school at Fort Bayard after it was moved to the Sojourner's Club.



*The Fort Bayard Sojourner's Club
(circa 1929)*

Eventually Sara's father moved temporarily to Tucson to further his education. Her father found employment in Silver City teaching at New Mexico Western College when Sara was in the third grade. They initially continued to live at Fort Bayard, and her mother continued her job there.

Their house was in the first row of houses west of Doctor's Row, second from the north end close to the water tower and nurses' quarters. They never had television when she lived at Fort Bayard, but they did have a telephone.

The theater was a big favorite for the children. The New Deal Theater showed movies, and as a child she thought movies were the most important function of the theater.

Movies were free. Patients watched movies, too, but at different times than employees. Different groups watched movies on a rotating basis.

Doctors wore military uniforms during the war years and lived on Doctor's Row. Dr. Zausner was one of several Jewish physicians. He was her favorite, and she babysat his children. Dr. Walker was the "head" doctor and lived in the big house. (The house where the museum is today.) He was the managing (head) physician from 1939 to 1945. Sara remembers that the doctors smoked heavily, as did her father until aged 40.

Her father completed his education and earned a master's degree in Tucson at the University of Arizona. This enabled him to be hired at New Mexico Western College in Silver City where he taught physics, chemistry, geology, and photography. He retired in 1967 after more than 20 years of teaching.

When Sara reached the fifth grade, her father transferred her to Silver City to attend school because he thought her math courses at the Fort Bayard school were not adequate. There was a small school bus that went to Silver City, and she either rode that bus or rode with her father. She went to the Normal School (teacher training school) at Western. Classes were still small, and in the eighth grade there were about eight students in her class.

Her mother left employment at Fort Bayard in 1947 due to disability. Her parents were not permitted to continue to live at Fort Bayard after that because no one in the family was employed there. Her mother later returned to work at Fort Bayard part-time.

Sara lived in Silver City and attended Western High School on the college campus until she graduated. There were about sixty in her graduating class.

Her father moved to Tucson after retirement. He was never short of breath until after his retirement, despite his extended tuberculosis history and mustard gas exposure in WW I. He was eventually diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease with emphysema. He died at the age of 83. Her mother lived to the age of 86 before dying of cancer. Her mother never had tuberculosis or any pulmonary symptoms.

Sara was born in 1934 and is currently 92. She has never had tuberculosis. She did have annual skin tests as required. For many years her skin tests were negative. After she was an adult, her skin test converted from negative to positive, which meant that she had had exposure to tuberculosis, but that exposure occurred after her last negative skin test and was not related to any exposure she had as a child. She never had symptoms of tuberculosis or x-ray changes. Positive skin tests without symptoms, or x-ray changes and negative sputum exams (if the patient is producing sputum) are referred to as latent tuberculosis.

Sara studied at the University of Colorado for one year, stayed home for one year, and then returned to the University of Colorado. She eventually graduated from San Jose State in California. She was married for 67 years, and her husband passed recently. She had two children, one of whom died of heart disease. She taught elementary school for a number of years before retiring. She remains alert and active.

Sudie Wygant Kennedy initially made me aware of Sara and has been of much assistance in obtaining this information. Sudie's father came to Grant County when he was a teenager because he had tuberculosis. He lived on a ranch in the area and had a plentiful diet, rest, and fresh air. Most of the people in Grant County in the early 1900s were here because they or a family member had tuberculosis, or they were caring for people with tuberculosis.

After one year Mr. Wygant recovered and returned to his home in Indiana. He later returned to Silver City and established Wygant's furniture in 1937. This is now called Home Furniture and is still under the Wygant family management.

Although Sudie never lived at Fort Bayard, she visited often. She sang in the Methodist Girl's Choir under the direction of Becky Gamblin. As part of the Methodist Choir, she sang several times for the patients Fort Bayard in the solarium.

Sudie and Sara (Sally) attended high school at Western together. In recent years they renewed a close friendship after Sudie moved part-time near Sara in California.

Thank you, Sara, for you and your parents' contribution to Fort Bayard Hospital, Southwestern New Mexico, and to Western New Mexico College (now New Mexico Western University).

Thank you, Dr. Mary Cowan, and Betty Hines for editing this information.

--John Bell



*Sudie Wygant Kennedy and
Sara (Sally) Smythe*

HISTORIC CHARACTERS OF OLD FORT BAYARD

CHAPLAIN ALLEN ALLENSWORTH

From 1888 to 1896 Fort Bayard was home to one of the most accomplished military officers in its history, Chaplain Allen Allensworth. His biography has been the focus of entire books, and a State Park is named for him in California. We are happy to honor him as the featured historic character of this issue of the Bugle.



Chaplain Allensworth was born into slavery in Kentucky in 1842. Escaping slavery as a young man, he served in the Union Navy. After the Civil War, he returned to Kentucky and eventually enrolled in a theology program, earning his degrees. In the meantime, he met the talented musician Josephine Leavell and they married in 1877. He was appointed as a U.S. Army Chaplain in 1886, and in 1888 he, Josephine, and their two young daughters arrived at Fort Bayard. Rev. Allensworth was assigned as the Chaplain to the 24th Infantry stationed at Fort Bayard. He

soon showed his talents as a teacher, and wrote a guide for military post schools that was adopted by the Army as its standard manual for post schools. Josephine played the organ and piano for church services, and soon became a well-liked and respected part of the fort community.

Rev. Allensworth was recognized as a national leader in the struggle for acceptance of African Americans in not only the Army, but society in general. Following his retirement from the Army in 1908, the Allensworths moved to California where they established a community of black entrepreneurs and founded the community of Allensworth. Allen died as the result of a tragic accident after being struck by a motorcycle while crossing a street in Monrovia, CA, in 1914. Josephine lived into the late 1930s and remained an active participant in Civil Rights causes. A state park honoring their achievements was established in California in 1973, and it was updated in the 1980s. The Allensworths

are an embodiment of the saying that “A teacher never knows how far their influence extends.” The Allensworths’ accomplishments affected generations of people, and it is our honor to help keep their memory alive.

ARTIFACT OF THE ISSUE

SIBLEY STOVE

Our featured museum artifact for this issue of the *Bugle* is our Sibley Stove, which is on exhibit in our second story military display. It was donated by the Mogollon Museum after FBHPS member Ansel Walters made a visit to that facility several years ago, and commented that our museum did not yet have one, and the Mogollon Museum was in possession of several.



The stove takes its name from Henry Hopkins Sibley, who is credited with the invention of both the stove and a conical shaped tent, which also bears his name. The stove was designed to be in the center of the tent, with a chimney pipe that extended through the peak of the shelter. Up to eight soldiers could sleep in the tent, arranged in a circle reminiscent of wagon wheel spokes.

Sibley was an officer in the US Army, and was assigned to New Mexico Territory prior to the Civil War. When the Confederacy was formed, Sibley joined the Confederate Army, and was placed in command of an invasion force tasked with seizing the territory for the South. Leading his army up the Rio Grande from El Paso in early 1862, he was victorious at the Battle of Valverde, fought near Fort Craig south of Socorro in February 1862. His success was short lived, however, and the invasion was turned back at the Battle of Glorieta Pass near Santa Fe in March. The New Mexico Territory remained in Union control for the duration of the war. Ironically, Sibley is remembered today mostly for his tent and stove, and not his military career.



Henry Hopkins Sibley



Sibley tents in a military encampment

MUSEUM HOURS

The museum is continuing with winter hours until the arrival of warm weather in spring. It is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



New artifacts have been added to our growing collection, so please be sure to stop by our museum any weekend and bring your family, friends, and out-of-town guests. Admission is always free, although donations are gratefully accepted. And remember, members who present their membership card will receive a 10% discount on all gift shop purchases.

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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